

NRM UPDATE



For NSW Local Government

5 JUNE 2015
ISSUE 97

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

Excellence in the Environment Awards

The [2015 Environment Awards](#) are open. Start thinking about what your council has achieved over the last 12 months and set some time aside to apply. We look **forward to celebrating councils'** achievements in environmental management and sustainability. Nominations will close Monday 3 August 2015.

Local Government Case Studies

Protection and Restoration of Roadside Populations of *Diuris bracteata*, Gosford City Council

Gosford City Council received a Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP) grant funded by the NSW Environmental Trust to undertake this project in partnership with the Hunter Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (HCCREMS) team. The [project](#) identified orchid locations, undertook bush regeneration at seven key sites across the council area to protect *Diuris bracteata* populations, established protocols for on-going site monitoring, trained staff to increase awareness and capacity to manage the species and the sites into the future. Other resources developed include:

- field identification card for the species;
- field guide for managing sites containing ground orchids; and
- colour-coded roadside marker to assist road crews in identifying orchid site locations.

All these outcomes have strengthened the council's capacity to manage the species into the future, and improve the quality of these sites over time.

NSW Government

Technical Guidelines for Urban Green Cover

These OEH [guidelines](#) aim to increase the resilience of NSW communities to climate change by addressing increasing temperatures in urban settings. This resource outlines strategies for increasing vegetation and permeable and reflective surfaces in urban environments, which can ameliorate urban heat and provide co-benefits such as reduced energy use for cooling, stormwater management, cleaner air, biodiversity habitat and increased amenity.



Local Intelligence Strategy

LPI is now providing spatial data as web services through the [NSW Location Intelligence Strategy](#). The web services have been released under open access licences as part of the NSW Government Open Data Policy to support new and innovative uses of NSW Government information. The web services allow users to access the most up to date information without having to store and maintain it in their own systems or applications. The web services can be used in multiple ways e.g. direct use, mashups, mobile apps and spatial systems. This resource may be of interest to councils.



Green Globe awards now open

Nominations for the NSW Government's Green Globe Awards are now being received. The Awards celebrate outstanding environmental achievements across New South Wales.

Councils may have a particular interest in the following categories:

- Local Government Sustainability
- Natural Environment Sustainability
- Sustainability Champion
- Climate Change Leadership
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Efficiency
- Waste and Recycling

Nominations close on 13 July.

Australian Government

Beekeeping on public land

A new RIRDC report on beekeeping access to public land in Australia calls for development of a decision framework to help land managers and beekeepers identify when and where access impacts are likely to be significant. Such a framework would also increase the capacity of individual beekeepers to demonstrate compatibility with management objectives for public lands on a site by site basis and hence negotiate access.

Feral Cats

The Australian Government Department of the Environment has released a new draft Threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats for public comment until 8 July 2015.

The plan establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to the impacts of feral cats on threatened species. The plan focuses on effective control of feral cats in different environments, developing alternative strategies for threatened species recovery, and increasing public support for feral cat management.

Biodiversity

Bush Connect program – call for applications

The Environmental Trust is now inviting applications from eligible groups for grant funding under the Bush Connect program. This one-off round will close to applications on 19 June 2015.

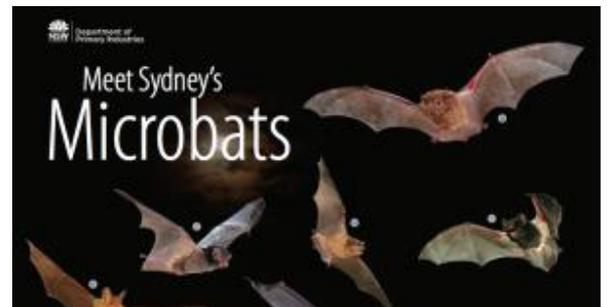
Bush Connect is a contestable grants program seeking to achieve long-term outcomes for the NSW environment within the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) corridor. Funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, the

program encourages partnerships between community and government organisations to protect, conserve and restore the natural environment within the GER corridor.

Copies of Microbats of Sydney poster available

Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society, with support from the Paddy Pallin Foundation, has reprinted the Microbats of Sydney poster. The first 1000 have been distributed through Local Government, community organisations and others. Poster can be viewed and copies ordered online.

You can preview a local quality version of the poster here too.



Soils

Soils communications kit

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has produced a communications kit for the International Year of Soils, to help engage the public in soil-related activities. Materials include videos, key messages, soil facts, social media tips, information resources and outreach suggestions.

Landcare / Bushcare

Landcare review recommends continued funding

A Federal Government review of landcare programs has made 15 recommendations including that Government continue funding the National Landcare Program and reinstate funding for facilitators and community support staff.

The review also recommends that landscape scale projects continue, with collaboration on long-term landscape scale strategic planning and action; that reporting be proportionate to the size of a project or grant; and that reporting should focus on outcomes, including social outcomes, rather than outputs.



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Climate Change

Natural resources planning for extreme climate events

UTS workshops with residents in NSW's south-east region found that improving the protection of natural resources is a critical pathway in local adaptation strategies, and there is considerable scope in enhancing management of local ecosystems to prepare for extreme weather events.

Funding

Building Resilience to Climate Change

Building Resilience to Climate Change is now open. Round 2 invites projects that improve resilience of water supply and/or quality management, or adapt priority infrastructure. Applications close Tuesday 4 August 2015.

Grants of between \$80,000 to \$15,000 are available. Further information is available on the [LGNSW website](#).

Events and Training

LGNSW Water Management Conference, 24 – 26 August, Peppers Craigieburn, Bowral.

Bushcare's Major Day Out, 13 September 2015

18th NSW Weeds Conference, 12 – 15 October, Cooma.

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