



NSW Environmental Trust ANNUAL REPORT 2014–15

Cover photographs:

1. River oak along Nowendoc River in Barakee National Park. Image courtesy of Michael Thomas OEH.
2. The regent honeyeater – a species that will benefit from funding provided by the 'Saving our Species' Partnership Grants program. Image courtesy of OEH.
3. Surveillance, search and control of weeds in remote areas of Lord Howe Island. Image courtesy of Lord Howe Island Board.
4. Background image: Endangered *Zieria citriodora* (close-up). Image courtesy of OEH.

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The Honourable Mark Speakman MP
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 2014–15 Annual Report for the NSW Environmental Trust. The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* for your presentation to the NSW Parliament.

This year, the Trust provided more than \$85 million for the delivery of environmental projects by a broad range of community groups, research facilities, Aboriginal organisations, schools and government agencies across the state.

More than \$13 million in contestable grants was awarded through the Restoration and Rehabilitation, Saving our Species, Environmental Education, Environmental Research, Protecting our Places, Eco Schools, Food Gardens in Schools and Lead Environmental Community Groups programs. In its second year the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative awarded more than \$74 million in grants for a range of projects that support new community recycling centres, local government organics programs, major resource recovery infrastructure and landfill consolidation.

The \$10 million Saving our Species Partnerships grants program commenced this year, awarding almost \$4.2 million in funding to target 25 site-managed species and 20 co-occurring species from other Saving our Species management streams.

Environmental outcomes this year include the establishment of biobank sites resulting in additional protection for sites within seven local government areas, and the acquisition of approximately 3292 hectares to be included in new and existing national parks.

Yours sincerely

Terry Bailey
Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust
October 2015

About the NSW Environmental Trust

Functions of the Trust

The NSW Environmental Trust (the Trust) was established by the NSW Government as an independent statutory body to support projects that enhance the environment of New South Wales. Established under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust funds and administers grants across a diverse range of programs, including contestable grants, major projects and various NSW Government initiatives. The Trust is administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for the Environment. Members of the Trust are the Chief Executive of OEH, representatives from local government, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and NSW Treasury. The Trust generally meets four times annually. Further information on administration of the Trust and its membership is provided in the appendices of this report.

The Trust is established under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. The objectives of the Environmental Trust are to:

1. encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects in both the public and 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
2. promote research in both the public and private sectors into environmental problems of any kind and, in particular, to encourage and support:
 - research into and development of local solutions to environmental problems

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

The Trust's staff are employed within the grants section of the Regional Operations Group of OEH. For issues of compliance (such as disability inclusion action plans, workforce diversity, multicultural policies and services, work health and safety etc.) refer to the OEH Annual Report for 2014–15.

A tribute to John Lennis

John Lennis, a Dharawal man and long-time member of the Protecting our Places (POP) program Technical Committee, sadly passed away in January 2015. John was a great supporter of the Trust, the NSW environment and Aboriginal communities across the state. He was also a friend to many who work at the Trust.

Throughout his career, John was the Aboriginal Education Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Aboriginal Environment and Cultural Education Officer at Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council, and later Aboriginal Community Support Officer at Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

During this time he was appointed to the POP Technical Committee, on which he served for over 11 years. After leaving the CMA he continued to serve as a community representative. John also served on many other committees for NSW Environmental Trust programs, and was known for his rigour, his wealth of experience in the environmental field, his humour and his extensive networks within the Aboriginal community.

John passed away on 23 January 2015 after a short illness. Instead of flowers, mourners made donations to plant trees in John's honour, a fitting tribute to his passion for the conservation of our natural environment. He is missed.

Highlights of 2014–15



In 2014–15, the Trust spent more than \$85 million on the delivery of environmental projects. Projects were delivered by community groups, research organisations, Aboriginal organisations, schools, and state and local government agencies.

Protecting threatened species

The Saving our Species Partnerships grants program received an overwhelming response in its first year of operation, with 36 expressions of interest submitted. The Trust funded five projects, worth approximately \$4.2 million, with consortium contributions of approximately \$8.2 million. These projects will use strategic partnerships to save the regent honeyeater, protect freshwater plants and animals, conserve and manage endangered orchids, protect the plants of the Shoalhaven, and explore the use of fire to secure site-managed flora species at priority sites.

This round of the partnership grants program is targeting 25 site-managed species and 20 co-occurring species from other Saving our Species management streams.

Acquiring and managing land for conservation

In 2014–15, the Land Acquisition project supported \$5.03 million worth of strategic high conservation value land purchases. Seventeen properties, covering more than 3292 hectares, were acquired through a voluntary acquisition process. This will help deliver conservation outcomes in this important corridor.

The Linking Landscapes program has included additional protection, via the establishment of biobanking agreements, for seven sites owned by Shoalhaven, Lake Macquarie, Ku-ring-gai, Gosford, Wollongong, Hornsby and Bankstown councils. Ongoing management funding is provided for 345 hectares of native bushland and wetlands, including 119 hectares of threatened ecological communities located within existing or potentially new biodiversity corridors.

Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program

The Flying-fox Netting Subsidy program provides funding for netting on commercial orchards to eliminate the need for licenced shooting as a crop protection measure for flying-foxes. The Trust has extended its \$5 million program to include the installation of throw-over netting as an alternative to full canopy netting, as well as extending the program across the state. As a result, substantially more applications for funding were received and 82 were approved in 2014–15 for a total amount of \$4.3 million. Based on the program's increased uptake, the Trust made an additional \$1 million in provisional funding available. Since the beginning of the scheme, 446 hectares of orchards have been netted.

Supporting ecological restoration

The Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream is now into its third year and approximately 3400 volunteers have given more than 52,000 hours of their time to restoration projects under this program.

In 2014–15, a total of 3011 hectares of degraded bushland began regenerating and naturally recovering. Given that initial estimates for bush regeneration were 3774 hectares by the end of year six, exceeding 3000 hectares at this mid-point represents significant progress. In addition, more than 61,000 grass, shrub and tree tubestock have been planted through this program, helping to establish 59,046 hectares of connected vegetation across terrestrial, riparian and wetland vegetation communities.

A survey of Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream grantees in April 2014 found that the extended time frame and funding provided by the program is enabling community groups to deliver longer term outcomes, more comprehensive weed control and better volunteer management practices.

UV Tanning Units Disposal Scheme

Under this scheme, 63 tanning units were collected, containing between 24 and 36 tanning tubes each. Approximately 400 additional used tubes, weighing 191 kilograms, were collected. The scheme has recovered approximately 46,000 milligrams of mercury from the tubes and recycled an estimated 20,000 kilograms of materials, including phosphors, aluminium, electronic ballasts, cables and wire.

Lead Environmental Community Groups

The objectives of the Lead Environmental Community Groups program were refocussed towards supporting community education and capacity building, and away from providing administrative assistance.

The program is now addressing the different needs of large and small organisations with two funding streams. Stream 1, for larger peak non-government organisations (NGOs), is now offering funding of \$20,000 to \$80,000, while smaller peak groups now have the option to apply for grants of less than \$20,000.

In 2014–15, 22 applications were received, demonstrating strong and continuing interest from the NGO sector. A total of 15 grants were funded, with a total value of \$600,000.

Bush Connect

In 2014–15, the Trust announced the new Bush Connect contestable grants program, which will provide up to \$8 million over six years. The program will fund 10-year long, community-driven and consortium-based projects along the Great Eastern Ranges corridor. The Trust and applicants jointly fund 80 per cent of the project cost for the first six years, with the applicants committing 20 per cent via cash and/or in-kind contributions over the remaining life of the project. Grants will be awarded in 2015–16.

Promoting waste avoidance and sustainability

The Trust approved a range of contestable grants worth more than \$74 million this year across a variety of programs:

- under the Community Recycling Centres program, 36 grants worth approximately \$5.2 million were awarded
- the Local Government Organics Collection Systems program saw 10 projects worth approximately \$5.8 million funded
- in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) program, 23 grants were funded worth approximately \$20.2 million
- the Love Food Hate Waste program funded seven projects to the value of \$218,764
- the new Shredder Floc Management program funded two grants worth approximately \$3.2 million
- under the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvement program, 34 grants worth approximately \$3.8 million were awarded
- through the Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure program, the Trust funded 13 projects to the value of approximately \$36.2 million

Contestable programs

In 2014-15, 232 contestable grants related to the Restoration and Rehabilitation, Saving our Species, Environmental Education, Environmental Research, Protecting our Places, Eco Schools, Food Gardens in Schools and Lead Environmental Community Groups programs were awarded to the value of \$13.1 million.



Endangered Zieria citriodora in the Kybeyan Nature Reserve

Trust Programs and Achievements



Land Acquisition

The NSW Environmental Trust funds the acquisition of land for national parks and other categories of dedicated and reserved land for the national parks estate through section 7(d) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*.

In 2014–15, the Land Acquisition program supported \$5.03 million worth of strategic high conservation value land purchases administered by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). These acquisitions focused on important conservation themes, including: improving the *resilience and effectiveness of parks and protecting critical corridors and landscapes and Aboriginal culture and heritage*. This contributed to the final year of the NSW Government's four-year Green Corridors program.

Seventeen properties covering more than 3292 hectares were acquired through a voluntary acquisition process. All of the properties that were acquired this year adjoin or are within existing national parks and reserves. This makes land management more efficient, facilitating implementation of conservation actions and especially on-ground management of wildfire and the control of pest and weed species. The seventeen properties are described below.

Improving the resilience and effectiveness of parks

This year, nine properties totalling 692.9 hectares were purchased to specifically improve park conservation management effectiveness or efficiency. Largely naturally vegetated and providing important habitat, these acquisitions support park management outcomes and optimise associated costs by securing legal or practical access to parks. This allows a more holistic approach to pest and weed management and provides clearer park boundaries to foster better relations with neighbours.

Private inholdings were acquired from within Cumbebin Swamp Nature Reserve (0.6 hectares), Morton National Park (16.2 hectares), South East Forest National Park (246.4 hectares), Kanangra-Boyd National Park (129.4 hectares), Nattai National Park (97.1 hectares across two properties), Gardens of Stone National Park (142.5 hectares) and Yellomundee Regional Park (60.7 hectares across two properties).

Yellomundee Regional Park contains a broad diversity of natural, cultural and recreational values and is nestled between the western banks of the Nepean/Hawkesbury River and the Blue Mountains eastern sandstone escarpment. Trust funds were used to acquire two properties comprising 60.7 hectares inside the park to consolidate its boundary and, importantly, link two separate park sections. This consolidation will assist with vehicular management in sensitive lands while better enabling targeted weed control within three special endangered ecological communities. The acquisition will conserve the park's impressive scenic value as part of the visually prominent sandstone escarpment which forms the backdrop of western Sydney. Some modified areas may be used to improve popular recreational



South East Forest National Park, Nungatta Creek, Nungatta Station

trails for bushwalkers, horse riders and mountain bike riders, and the acquisition will enhance opportunities for organisations such as the Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group, which is helping to strengthen environmental and cultural connections in the newly declared Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place in the northern section of the park.

Protecting critical corridors and landscapes and Aboriginal culture and heritage

This conservation theme contributes to the NSW Government's Green Corridor Reserves commitment to preserve green open spaces and corridors. This year, eight properties totalling 2599.6 hectares were acquired. These areas support the conservation of biodiversity, landscape connection and cultural associations. Land was acquired for addition to Brisbane Water National Park (53.4 hectares across three properties), Barakee National Park (1093.1 hectares), Kybayan Nature Reserve (1012.9 hectares), Yabba National Park (98 hectares), Curracabundi National Park (316 hectares) and Jervis Bay National Park (26.2 hectares). Three acquisitions are summarised below.

Brisbane Water National Park is on the central coast, north of Sydney. Several bushland holdings within the national park, comprising 53.4 hectares across three properties, were acquired for their significant Aboriginal cultural and natural values. The government previously promised the local community to protect this land, which contains important Aboriginal sites and provides habitat for two threatened flora species: *Hibbertia procumbens* and *Darwinia glaucophylla*; and 10 threatened fauna species, including the giant burrowing frog, powerful owl, spotted-tailed quoll, eastern freetail bat and the eastern chestnut mouse. The acquisition provides Aboriginal people with an opportunity to access Country and create and maintain cultural landscape connections.

Barakee National Park is located about 35 kilometres north-west of Gloucester on the Nowendoc River. This 1093.1 hectare acquisition improves the overall design and sustainability of Barakee National Park and preserves the strategic link to Bretti Nature Reserve, which, along with Barakee State Conservation Area, forms part of a vegetated corridor extending from the Manning River floodplain to the Great Dividing Range. Approximately 55 per cent of the property is considered old growth forest. These habitats support a range of threatened species known to occur locally, such as the glossy black cockatoo, masked owl, powerful owl, scarlet robin, yellow-bellied glider, parma wallaby and eastern false pipistrelle.

Kybeyan Nature Reserve is located about 40 kilometres east of Cooma. The 1012.9 hectare property adjoins Kybeyan Nature Reserve to the north and Kybeyan State Conservation Area to the west. It contains critical habitat and refuge for the southern tablelands koala population, and importantly supports preferred feeding trees. It also supports one of only three known NSW populations of the shrub *Zieria citriodora*, which is listed as endangered in New South Wales and vulnerable nationally. Only about 600 plants grow in the wild and this species is restricted in New South Wales to the Kybeyan Range. This land lies within two critical landscape corridors: the north-south corridor from the Border Ranges to the Australian Alps, known as the Great Eastern Ranges; and the Kosciuszko to Coast corridor which runs east-west. Retaining habitat within these corridors is a key strategy for maintaining species dispersal capacity and viability in the context of climate change.

Environmental Management and Restoration

This suite of programs is designed to enhance and restore the environment and reduce pollution and environmental degradation by funding relevant community and government projects.

Each year the contestable restoration and rehabilitation grants streams offer a total of \$2 million in funding to community groups, \$2 million in funding to government organisations and up to \$500,000 in funding to Aboriginal organisations (Protecting our Places). Other Environmental Management and Restoration initiatives include the new Saving our Species Partnership grants, Community Bush Regeneration grants, Restoration and Rehabilitation grants for State Heritage Register listed properties and Major Restoration and Rehabilitation projects.

The Trust is increasingly investing in a range of ecological restoration programs with 10-year time frames for completion or minimal continued intervention, with approximately 80 per cent of resources needed within the first six years. This new funding model is leading practice and places the Trust on the cutting edge of environmental grants program design.

Achievements

Here are just a few of the notable outcomes that have been achieved this year:

- Local Aboriginal communities contributed to riparian bush regeneration works over 14.5 hectares on the Nymboida River. Awareness of threatened species and riparian management among landholders and the community was increased. More threatened species were found and protected than anticipated, and were reported to the Atlas of NSW Wildlife. Habitat for threatened and nationally endangered flora and fauna was protected, including the eastern fresh water cod, brush sauropus, rufous bettong and masked owl.
- After the discovery of cane toads in the Sutherland Shire, steps were taken to locate breeding sites, destroy any toads found and prevent more toads from entering Sydney. Post-mortem analysis was conducted to establish breeding status, chytrid infection and the presence of parasites posing a threat to native amphibians. The booklet *Best Practice Guidelines for the Eradication of Cane Toads in NSW* was produced to better inform responses to any future infestations.
- Degraded patches of vegetation along the Little River near Wellington were restored, protecting this important ecosystem and preventing future environmental damage by weeds. A strong feature of this project was the collaboration between Little River Landcare; Wellington, Dubbo and Cabonne councils; and the Department of Primary Industries to remove weeds including osage orange tree, peppercorn tree, devil's rope pear and willow.

The project successfully engaged stakeholders and shared knowledge about the river and the impact of weeds on native fish habitat, including that of the Murray cod.

- Scalded areas of remnant Riverine Chenopod Shrubland, Riverine Sandhill Woodland, Inland Floodplain Woodland and Riverine Plains Woodland were rehabilitated using the latest technology in direct seeding. Direct seeding has come to the forefront of revegetation techniques in the Murrumbidgee area during the three-year project, and the knowledge and experience gained has been invaluable in developing the technique for use in semi-arid regions. The community of Hay now has a firmly established self-sustaining revegetation program that can be used well into the future to further improve rangeland management and sustainable grazing.

Restoration and Rehabilitation outcomes

Of the 48 contestable projects that were funded during the 2010 grants round, all but two are now complete. Through these projects, more than 93,000 native trees, shrubs and groundcovers have been planted, contributing to the establishment of almost 800 hectares of vegetation corridors. More than 2100 hectares of land have been regenerated, including removal of weeds of national significance. The outcomes of these grants have supported habitat for species such as the swamp lily, lady finger orchid, flesh-footed shearwater, beach stone curlew, pied oystercatcher and the koala. A total of 307 stakeholders have adopted improved agricultural land management practices and 3415 volunteers contributed more than 72,000 hours of their time.

Grant projects awarded in 2011 have so far planted more than 103,000 native plants and regenerated 1644 hectares of land, including targeting lantana, African olive and salvinia. Among the species benefiting from these projects are the weeping myall, tuckeroo, coast banksia, eastern freshwater cod, squirrel glider, yellow-bellied glider, sooty owl, superb parrot and the koala. So far, 1495 volunteers have contributed more than 81,600 hours of their time, and 157 stakeholders have adopted improved agricultural land management practices.

Progress reports received from the 2012 funding round so far indicate that 71,421 native trees, shrubs and grasses have already been planted, and signs of regeneration are reported on 729 hectares of land, following weeding. More than 125 stakeholders have adopted improved land management practices and 1210 volunteers have given approximately 31,000 hours of their time, helping enhance habitat for endangered species such as the spiny gardenia and hairy quondong (*Elaeocarpus williamsianus*).

Table 1

Restoration and Rehabilitation grant outcomes 2010–2012

Project measures	2010 Projected*	2010 Actual	2011 Projected*	2011 Actual	2012 Projected*	2012 Actual
Area of vegetation corridors (hectares)	620	798	157	122	154	115
Area of vegetation connected due to establishment of corridors (hectares)	1,883	2,719	324	162	2,955	786
Organisations or stakeholders adopting improved land management practices	266	307	66	157	239	126
Area regenerated (hectares)	2,061	2,113	1,376	1,644	1,172	729
Area revegetated (hectares)	210	490	72	75	851	133
Number of new plantings	103,619	93,352	140,069	103,382	180,910	71,421
Number of volunteers	2,527	3,415	1,324	1,495	1,548	1,210
Number of volunteer hours	70,251	72,474	71,746	81,626	55,802	31,176
Percentage of projects completed	96%		33%		10%	

* Some projections may vary from those previously published due to projects withdrawing, reserve projects being funded and/or variations resulting from adaptive management during project lifecycles. Restoration and rehabilitation grants run for up to three years.

Outcomes for 2013 will be reported in subsequent annual reports.

■ CASE STUDY

Koala Connections

Winner of a Green Globe award in 2014, this project has enhanced more than 2000 hectares of wildlife corridors for koalas and other threatened species in NSW.

Tweed Shire Council aimed to engage private landholders to restore and connect fragmented koala habitat, and while this gained momentum they focused on public land improvements. Importantly, Tweed Shire Council's actions were based on their Plan of Management, and their regional approach was linked to the Tweed Coast Koala Habitat Study. The council developed quality governance procedures and educational materials. They divided each private property into zones while gathering baseline information; developed formal land management agreements; and personalised materials to help landholders plan, monitor and evaluate works.

Working within landholders' constraints did result in the area of treatment and number of trees planted being less than originally projected; however, the council successfully negotiated six landholder agreements and enhanced more than 2000 hectares of regionally significant wildlife corridors. Investing in habitat restoration works that were within landholders' capacity to maintain has provided longer term benefits, including establishing habitat in some of the most significant locations for the Tweed Coast koala population.

Six training workshops and numerous resources have equipped land managers and community members to identify tree species, collect seed, assess koala habitat, undertake restoration works and reduce threats to koalas. Highly successful media and community engagement has resulted in the community becoming more invested in the welfare of this iconic and threatened species.

This Tweed Shire Council project won the Green Globes Natural Environmental Sustainability Award, in partnership



Tweed Coast koalas: mother and offspring

with Byron Shire Council. Building on the success of this grant-funded project, the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund later awarded a \$2.1 million grant to Tweed and Byron shire councils for a large, integrated project to protect the northern rivers koala population into the future.

'Based on the preparatory work of the Trust-funded project, Tweed Byron Koala Connections is oversubscribed with willing landholders and has planted more than 2000 trees over the 63,000 tree target.'

Scott Hetherington, Senior Program Leader - Biodiversity Community and Natural Resources, Tweed Shire Council

Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

Ordinarily, the Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program offers grants of up to \$100,000 to community organisations (total of \$2 million) and government agencies (total of \$2 million) for projects that enhance and restore the environment. Due to high demand and many strong applications, the program has allocated more funding for restoration and rehabilitation projects this year.

This was also the first year that the Trust awarded grants under its Restoration and Rehabilitation Heritage grants stream. This stream focuses on sites listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and aims to build the capacity of land managers to maintain and restore natural heritage values on their properties.

In 2014–15, the Trust received 170 applications for the government and community contestable grants, requesting a total of \$13,081,485. Nine applications for the new heritage funding stream were received, requesting \$476,285.

The Trust approved funding for 27 community projects to the value of \$2,259,840 (Table 2) and 26 projects in the government stream, totalling \$2,210,964 (Table 3). The Trust approved four grants in the heritage stream, with a total funding amount of \$155,214 (Table 4).

Table 2

Restoration and Rehabilitation community grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council	Save the Severn	Inverell	\$99,620
Australian River Restoration Centre	Rivers of carbon – upper Murrumbidgee River	Cooma-Monaro	\$99,520
Ballina Coast Care Inc.	Chickiba Wetland – WoNS control in coast cypress Endangered Ecological Community remnant	Ballina	\$19,822
Bungonia Park Trust	Woodwards Creek rehabilitation for water quality and habitat repair	Goulburn-Mulwaree	\$100,000
Central Tablelands Landcare Inc.	Stepping stones through our endangered grassy woodlands	Cabonne	\$99,535
Chalkies Landcare	Restoring Chalky Beach ecosystems and improving volunteer capacity	Lake Macquarie	\$68,090
Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc.	Quality koala corridors and questions	Armidale Dumaresq	\$96,004
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Conserving koala corridors – Sydney to the Southern Highlands	Wollondilly	\$83,575
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Restoration of migratory shorebird habitat – Hunter Wetlands NP	Newcastle City	\$97,800
EnviTE Inc.	Bega Valley coastal habitats restoration and educational walking track	Bega Valley	\$100,000
EnviTE Inc.	Partnership coastal habitat restoration at Bundjalung NP and Iluka NR	Clarence Valley	\$100,000
EnviTE Inc.	Community based Emu conservation in the Bungawalbin catchment	Richmond Valley	\$100,000
Grassy Head Dune Care	Rehabilitating significant coastal vegetation at Grassy Head	Kempsey	\$93,280
Greening Australia – National Office	Revegetating threatened Riverina Sandhill woodland communities	Hay	\$100,000
Hastings Landcare Inc.	Post fire recovery and gaps littoral rainforests – Dunbogan to Crowdy	Port Macquarie-Hastings	\$97,660
Hat Head Dune Care	Managing vegetation interface of Crown and private land (Hat Head)	Kempsey	\$98,024
Molonglo Catchment Group Inc.	Stringybark to Environs Landscape link for small bush birds	Queanbeyan	\$38,553
Nature Conservation Trust of NSW	Restoring threatened species habitats and corridors in the Tweed	Tweed	\$100,000

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium	Protecting the high ecological and cultural values of Busby's Flat	Richmond Valley	\$99,475
Pikapene and Cherry Tree Environment Centre	Lower Dulgiggin Creek restoration	Clarence Valley	\$5,500
Riverhaven Reserve and Farrer Place Bushcare	Enhancing the coastal saltmarsh and SOFF of Coronation Bay	Sutherland	\$10,000
South West Rocks (SWR) Community Dune Care Group	Restoration of two fragmented littoral rainforest communities at South West Rocks	Kempsey	\$99,450
Tweed Landcare	Filling the biodiversity gaps connecting Tweed Coast to Border Ranges	Tweed	\$99,750
Tweed Landcare	Mid Oxley River riparian restoration and connectivity – Stage 1	Tweed	\$99,650
Upper Molong Creek Landcare Group	Riparian restoration of Upper Molong Creek – Stage 2	Cabonne	\$55,250
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	Restoring connected protected koala habitat and wetland, Cudgen Lake	Tweed	\$99,875
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	Protecting and enhancing critical wetland EECs, Nambucca Estuary	Nambucca	\$99,407
Total			\$2,259,840

Table 3

Restoration and Rehabilitation state and local government grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bathurst Regional Council	Rehabilitation of Sawpit Creek	Bathurst	\$67,970
Coffs Harbour City Council	Roberts Hill koala corridor restoration	Coffs Harbour	\$91,250
CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship	Community-based biological control program for crofton weed in NSW	Statewide	\$99,535
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Removing threats and improving resilience of Eurobodalla dunes	Eurobodalla	\$99,981
Great Lakes Council	Managing grassy headlands and littoral rainforest at Cellito Beach	Great Lakes	\$79,850
Greater Taree City Council	Dawson River coastal wetland rehabilitation project, Taree	Greater Taree	\$52,103
Hurstville City Council	Lime Kiln Bay Wetlands – bank restoration	Hurstville	\$83,270
Inverell Shire Council	Controlling cats claw creeper in the Dumaresq Catchment NSW	Inverell	\$34,930
Kyogle Council	Kyogle fish habitat rehabilitation fish passage	Kyogle	\$100,000
Murray Local Land Services	Restoring biodiversity assets for connectivity: TSR in the S2S area	Various	\$89,900
Nambucca Shire Council	Coastal habitat management for endangered population at Scotts Head	Nambucca	\$86,106
Newcastle City Council	Reconnecting and restoring Ironbark Creek corridor	Newcastle City	\$99,850
North Coast Local Land Services	Beating Byron's bitou bush – the Stage 3 extension of a NNCZ	Byron	\$100,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	Everlasting Swamp wetland restoration, Lawrence, North Coast NSW	Clarence Valley	\$99,500

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Office of Environment and Heritage	Historic precinct and EEC headland rehabilitation	Great Lakes	\$95,000
Office of Environment and Heritage, NPWS	Rehabilitation of a Coolibah woodland in the Macquarie Marshes	Coonamble	\$33,486
Pittwater Council	Cannes Reserve coastal littoral rainforest restoration project	Pittwater	\$52,100
Port Stephens Council	Tomaree Peninsula urban koala corridor enhancement planting project	Port Stephens	\$100,000
Rous Water	Wilsons River tidal pool riparian restoration	Lismore	\$99,960
Shoalhaven City Council	Bomaderry zieria recovery	Shoalhaven	\$97,361
Southern Councils Group	Milton Rocks – restoring connectivity between escarpment and sea	Shoalhaven	\$77,910
Tumut Shire Council	Tumut Common – joint protection–rehabilitation Werebolders SCA	Tumut	\$83,500
Tweed Shire Council	Numinbah nature links	Tweed	\$99,951
Tweed Shire Council	Restoring the waterways of the Cudgen Plateau	Tweed	\$99,964
Tweed Shire Council	Working together to protect threatened fauna on Fingal Peninsula	Tweed	\$99,987
Warringah Council	Dee Why Lagoon wildlife refuge habitat restoration project	Warringah	\$87,500
Total			\$2,210,964

Table 4

Restoration and Rehabilitation heritage grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Centennial Parklands Foundation	For our flying friends: protecting grey-headed flying fox habitat	Statewide	\$37,111
Centennial Parklands Foundation	Centennial Park Ponds – improving the wetland environment	Randwick	\$48,853
Maitland City Council	Weed control within a historical cemetery and quarry in Maitland	Maitland	\$29,750
The Hills Shire Council	Restoration of Cumberland Plain Woodland at Bella Vista Farm Park	The Hills	\$39,500
Total			\$155,214

Community Bush Regeneration Grants

Since commencing in 2012, the Community Bush Regeneration program has been helping community groups work together to strategically tackle restoration programs at a regional scale. This \$10 million program funds direct community action in the conservation and rehabilitation of priority natural areas.

The Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream provides long-term funding over six years for the regeneration of degraded bushland, including riverbanks, urban bushland and degraded waterways. The program allows community groups to achieve enduring environmental outcomes over a longer time frame than is possible under the Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program, where funding is awarded for a maximum of three years.

A second component of the program provides funding to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife to encourage bush regeneration and conservation on private land covered by conservation agreements.

Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream

The objectives of the Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream are to:

- regenerate degraded natural areas, including bushland, riverbanks, degraded waterways and rare and endangered ecosystems
- improve the health and resilience of important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered plants and animals
- improve ecological connectivity within and between natural areas
- improve the capacity of local community groups to protect, restore and enhance the environment by strengthening those organisations whose primary purpose is to undertake environmental works in their local area.

The Trust awarded competitive grants of between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to 33 large-scale community projects in 2011–12, and one further project in early 2012–13. All projects are now three years into their six-year life span.

During this third year of funding, grantees have continued their weeding efforts, with a total of 3011 hectares of degraded bushland now regenerating and starting to naturally recover. Grantees initially estimated that they would achieve bush regeneration across 3774 hectares by the end of year six. Achieving 3011 hectares at the project mid-point has exceeded expectations. In areas where a viable native seed bank was not present, more than 61,000 grass, shrub and tree tubestock have so far been planted to restore native habitat through this program. Collectively these activities have now helped to establish 59,046 hectares of connected vegetation across terrestrial, riparian and wetland vegetation communities.

The on-ground achievements during this third year of the program have been supported by the efforts of more than 3400 volunteers, who have given over 52,000 hours of their time to restoration projects. Funding through this program

has also enabled grantees to employ 239 professional contractors, who have provided over 24,000 hours toward bush regeneration-related activities within this third year. Consistent with the objective of bolstering community capacity, to date more than 1600 primary and secondary school students as well as tertiary students have been involved in the program and they have so far contributed a total 3792 hours.

A survey of Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream grantees in April 2014 found that the extended time frame and funding provided by the program is enabling community groups to focus on a range of longer term regeneration outcomes, including an increase in the scale of areas worked, adequate follow-up to primary weed control, increased capacity to attract and retain volunteers, improved strategic planning of activities at a regional scale and potential for better long-term maintenance of sites beyond the life of the grant funding.

Some program achievements are highlighted in the Jiggi Catchment Landcare project case study overleaf.

Private Land Conservation Grants Program

The Trust has provided the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW) with \$2 million to enhance its existing Private Land Conservation Grants (PLCG) program. This conservation program is designed to complement the national park system by supporting wildlife corridors between national parks and other protected areas, to improve their resilience and integrity.

This is the fourth year of funding from the Trust. The 2015 funding round attracted 75 applications, seeking \$584,526 to improve and protect the biodiversity of their land.

Grants were awarded for 51 projects, totalling \$346,366. These grants were made up of the following:

- funding of up to \$5000 per year for three years for 32 grantees with in-perpetuity conservation protection agreements on their land
- up to \$1000 per year for three years for 14 grantees with less binding conservation agreements
- funding for training, education and field days in land conservation for five grantees.

Of the funds requested, approximately 85 per cent will be used for weed management and eradication. Details of the projects can be found on the FNPW's website: www.fnpw.org.au

The FNPW is highly efficient in delivering the PLCG program, reaching many stakeholders who are protecting and restoring the environment and in turn achieving important on-ground conservation outcomes. The program is a new concept for the Trust, and to increase its reach and outcomes the Trust has established a funding model that enables it to allocate additional funds to the program of up to \$500,000 in any year, if funds are available. This also allows the Trust to target the additional funds to specific environmental priorities. In 2014–15, the Trust awarded \$500,000 to the FNPW, which will be incorporated into the 2016 round of funding (Table 5).

Table 5

Community Bush Regeneration: Private Land Conservation grant awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	Community Bush Regeneration Private Land Conservation grants	Various	\$500,000
Total			\$500,000

As part of the Trust's expansion into longer term ecological restoration projects, it announced the new Bush Connect contestable grants program in 2014–15. This program builds on the previous achievements of the Community Bush Regeneration program and Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative by funding connectivity conservation projects within the GER corridor, which will run for 10 years. Applications were invited between April and June 2015, offering individual

grants of between \$250,000 and \$500,000 for community led, partnership projects. In total, the program will provide up to \$8 million over six years, with the Trust and applicants jointly funding 80 per cent of the project during that period, and the rest via cash and/or in-kind contributions from the applicant. The announcement of successful applications is expected in November 2015.

■ CASE STUDY

Rehabilitating high conservation value habitats and corridors – Jiggi Catchment Landcare

The Jiggi (pronounced 'Jig-eye') catchment is located between Lismore and Kyogle, draining an area of 6407 hectares as part of the broader Richmond River catchment. Jiggi Catchment Landcare Inc. formed in 1992 and currently has 26 active members.

In 2011, the group was awarded a Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream grant of \$250,000 over six years to control environmental weeds across several private properties and two local schools. The sites selected are of high conservation value, supporting habitat and habitat connections for threatened species, including sooty owl, glossy black cockatoo, koala, white-eared monarch, Nightcap *Plectranthus* and arrow head vine.

At the project midpoint, the grantee has achieved more than 87 hectares of weed control across seven sites, almost tripling the original target of 30 hectares. The group has triggered significant regeneration of pioneering canopy species, including bleeding heart, white cedar, white ash and macaranga. Volunteers have contributed 5925 hours to weed

control, seed collection and propagation of plants for in-fill planting, monitoring, and project management.

As a testament to the ongoing quality of work across the project sites, one property has recently been certified on title as a Wildlife Refuge, with another two registering for Voluntary Conservation Agreements.

'A funded project with a life of six years enables Landcare and community members to ensure habitats on their properties are restored to a standard that is self-sustaining. Landcare members are grateful to be given the opportunity to work alongside trained and skilled bush regenerators, resulting in a consistent and effective approach to weed control and assisted regeneration. This approach, together with the extended time frame, will result in the increased capacity of land managers to conserve biodiversity, leading to better longer term management of sites within the Jiggi and adjoining catchments.'

Julie Reid, President of Jiggi Landcare

Saving our Species Partnership Grants

The Saving our Species (SoS) Partnership grants program funds coordinated, multiple stakeholder partnerships between government, non-government, community organisations and industry to protect and conserve threatened plant and animal species in the wild within New South Wales. This \$10 million program offers funding over two rounds. It supports a number of 10-year projects of between \$300,000 and \$1 million and provides technical support for grantees. The Trust and applicant fund up to 80 per cent of the total project cost in the first six years, with the remaining 20 per cent committed solely by the applicant over the following four years. Funded projects align with the objectives of the NSW Government's SoS program.

Round 1 focused on site-managed species. In September 2014, the Trust received 36 expressions of interest

(EOIs), seeking \$24,318,393 of funding with consortium co-contributions totalling \$52,229,710. Thirteen applicants were then invited to develop full project business plans, with the Trust awarding seed funding of up to \$15,000 for 11 of the consortium applications, totalling \$132,000. One applicant later withdrew, leaving 10 seed funding grants valued at \$127,000 (Table 6). In early March 2015, the Trust received 13 high quality business plans, requesting \$9,481,210 with consortium co-contributions of \$30,379,843 to address a diverse range of threatened species.

In May 2015, the Trust approved five projects requesting funding of \$4,196,319 (Table 7) from the Trust with consortium contributions of \$8,158,921.

Table 6

Saving our Species Partnership Business Plan Seed Funding awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	Amount
BirdLife Australia	Saving the regent honeyeater using strategic partnerships	\$15,000
Central Tablelands Local Land Services	Frogs, fish, flora and fresh flowing water	\$15,000
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Saving our warty zieria – <i>Zieria tubercula</i> conservation project	\$2,000
Great Lakes Council	Great Lakes regional site-managed species project – northern	\$10,000
Greening Australia (NSW) Ltd	The plea of the pea: Western Sydney unites for the downy wattle	\$10,000
Hunter Councils Inc.	Protection and management of three rare mallees in the Hunter Region	\$15,000
Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance Inc	Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance multi-species project	\$15,000
Murray Local Land Services	Wild orchids: conservation and management of endangered orchids	\$15,000
Office of Environment and Heritage, NPWS	Burning hotspots – Gondwana threatened species and fire	\$15,000
University of Technology Sydney	Conserving the broad-headed snake	\$15,000
Total		\$127,000

Table 7

Saving our Species Partnership grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
BirdLife Australia	Saving the regent honeyeater using strategic partnerships	Various	\$963,276
Central Tablelands Local Land Services	Frogs, fish, flora and fresh flowing water	Various	\$1,000,000
Murray Local Land Services	Wild orchids: conservation and management of endangered orchids	Various	\$585,322
Office of Environment and Heritage	Partnerships protecting Shoalhaven plants	Various	\$653,501
Office of Environment and Heritage	Burning hotspots – Gondwana threatened species and fire	Various	\$994,220
Total			\$4,196,319

Round 2 of the SoS Partnership grants program is expected to commence in August 2015.

Expected Round 1 outcomes

Round 1 of the SoS Partnership grants program will target 25 site-managed species and 20 co-occurring species from other SoS management streams.

The program will fund:

- establishment and expansion of existing populations of three orchid species through innovative propagation techniques, identification of pollinators, community engagement and infrastructure such as fencing to support ongoing management
- improvement in the long-term viability and security of three frog species reliant on riparian environments within agricultural landscapes on the central and south-west slopes by targeting key threats including amphibian chytrid fungus, weed infestation and erosion
- the reverse of the decline of the regent honeyeater through monitoring and colour-banding, control of native pest species and securing in-perpetuity conservation agreements for vital habitat. Continuation of the successful captive breeding and release program coordinated by Taronga Zoo will help secure the regent honeyeater in the wild in New South Wales
- coordination of on-ground works to secure 10 site-managed flora species at 28 priority sites through seed banking, landholder agreements and fire planning
- the addressing of key knowledge gaps and improving of management planning across multiple land tenures to provide long-term security for selected mammal, bird, reptile and plant species in the Border Ranges South Biodiversity Hotspot, containing the highest biodiversity and density of threatened species in New South Wales.

Major Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects

The Trust is currently funding a range of major projects that are consistent with the objectives of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program. These major grants are provided to projects that fall outside the scope of the contestable grants program. In 2014–15, a number of existing projects have continued to progress and two new projects relating to Lord Howe Island weeds and the Great Eastern Ranges were awarded (Table 8).

Weed eradication on Lord Howe Island

This project is protecting Lord Howe Island's unique terrestrial ecosystems from the threat of key invasive weeds. This is being achieved through a combination of community engagement, on-ground search and control and helicopter operations, including testing of a new weeding apparatus and remote area surveillance. The project is part of a wider 30-year program, which is now in its tenth year.

In 2014–15 the project has achieved significant outcomes, including:

- search and treatment of at least 420 hectares for key invasive weeds
- up to 15,743 hours of labour for the removal of more than 116,497 weeds, with a 96 per cent reduction in the number of mature cherry guava plants intercepted since 2006–07
- ongoing communication and engagement with the Lord Howe Island community via media and events
- search and control of 20 hectares of rugged terrain through two helicopter programs, with collaborative funding through Caring for our Country. Teams were winched onto Mt Gower and treated 1687 weeds. A team winched into one transect to undertake a surveillance run deemed the area free of target weeds
- application of a heli-lance spray program, allowing thorough search and precision treatment of weeds on steep and sheer cliff lines. At least 10 hectares of cliff line up to 720 metres elevation was searched and an estimated 1500 weeds treated over two days
- re-delivery of the initial weed density and distribution mapping undertaken in 2002–03 across four main landscape units, showing a significant decline in weed cover
- team training in safely accessing difficult terrain.

The Trust has this year agreed to support this ambitious weed eradication program in this World Heritage Listed site with an additional two-year, \$508,946 grant (Table 8). The grantee will research and trial other innovations, including unmanned automated vehicles, aero robots and Herbicide Ballistic Technology™ for weed surveillance, detection and control. This also gives the Lord Howe Island Board some additional time to find long-term funding for the remaining 20 years of this program.

An independent review of the program by eradication experts will be undertaken between 2015 and 2017 to consolidate and improve program success.



The heli-lance spray program allows thorough search and precision treatment of weeds on otherwise inaccessible cliff lines

Rodent eradication on Lord Howe Island

This project aims to remove ship rats and house mice, two of the most significant introduced pests on Lord Howe Island. Both species have a major impact on Lord Howe Island's species and ecosystems, and the island's rats are recognised as a key threatening process under both state and Australian Government legislation.

This year, the grantee has conducted additional consultation with the island community before proceeding to implement eradication. They commissioned independent community engagement specialists to engage with the community to work through their concerns regarding the project and try to resolve any conflicts. A confidential survey was undertaken which revealed that 91 per cent of respondents agreed that the rodent problem needed to be addressed, and 52 per cent supported progressing to the planning and approvals stage of the eradication program.

A monitoring program is in place, which is undertaking the initial studies that will allow the assessment and documentation of the resulting biodiversity improvements. OEH has undertaken biodiversity monitoring studies of terrestrial birds, seabirds and reptiles including the Lord Howe Island skink, and flora studies of mountain palms and other flowering plants. Results from the various monitoring components can be integrated to identify and explore changes to ecosystem processes over time.

The project includes revising the island's quarantine strategy and developing an updated biosecurity system to prevent incursions of rodents and other high-risk threats, including pest plants and animals, diseases and pathogens. Once approved, the draft Lord Howe Island Biosecurity Strategy 2015 will be implemented.

Classification and mapping of regional-scale native vegetation in New South Wales

This project is delivering comprehensive, regional-scale native vegetation mapping and will improve the classification of plant community types across New South Wales. This investment creates, for the first time, consistent, seamless, robust and evidence-based information about the types and extent of native vegetation across New South Wales. This provides government and the community with baseline information and the capability to continuously upgrade and improve as new information becomes available.

Over the last 12 months, native vegetation mapping for the Namoi, Border Rivers-Gwydir, Central West and Lachlan has been completed and made available through the OEH Vegetation Information System. It joins provisional mapping completed for the Murray, Hunter and parts of the Murrumbidgee and Sydney regions. To date, mapping has been completed for approximately 45 per cent of New South Wales.

This project has completed more than 10,000 rapid field surveys and 2000 full floristic surveys to fill data gaps. Survey work this year focused on western New South Wales and the upper Murray region.

The project has also delivered a tree canopy map for the whole state. This shows individual tree canopies, including paddock and roadside trees, as well as forests and woodlands. This information is being used by a range of government and community organisations for tree monitoring, roadside conservation and landscape corridor planning.

In 2015–16 the focus will be on mapping and classification for the Riverina, Murray, western and coastal New South Wales. Mapping will be completed for the whole state by June 2016.

Jenolan Caves

Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust has continued replacing galvanised steel hand railings with stainless steel in the show cave system. The galvanised steel was having a detrimental impact on both cave formations and cave biota through the leaching of toxic chemicals and rust staining. Stainless steel is a non-reactive material that is resistant to corrosion within the caves and is expected to have a life span of more than 50 years.

In order to maintain the cultural heritage values of the cave, the new railings were heat treated to give a 'burnished' finish. The railings were displayed at the International Show Cave Association conference that was held at the caves in November 2014 and attended by 92 delegates from 21 countries.

The new stable stainless steel hand railings not only protect the sensitive cave environment but also eliminate the ongoing costs of maintaining the infrastructure and mitigating the impacts on the cave system. It is estimated this would have had a cumulative cost in excess of \$700,000 over the next 10 years.

Maintenance savings have been redirected into a 10-year environmental offset program that will allow the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust to undertake weed management in and around the cave systems, as well as other environmental projects such



Farmland with native vegetation

as the installation of energy-efficient lighting to reduce energy consumption and heat impacts on cave formations.

Some funds will be used to enhance the caves education program. Conservation principles and environmental education will be delivered to a broad audience through online media and existing interpretive activities to promote behavioural change.

Building resilience to climate change

Local councils are key players in climate change adaptation. However, financial and technical constraints limit their capacity to implement climate adaptation projects or risks treatments.

Last financial year, the Trust awarded \$500,000 in funding to OEH to work in partnership with Local Government NSW to deliver a devolved grants program to address climate change risks and vulnerabilities. OEH then contributed an additional \$500,000 from the Waste and Environment Levy Envelope Regional Adaptation and Vulnerability program to make a total of \$1 million in grants available for the Building Resilience to Climate Change contestable grants program.

This program provides individual grants of up to \$80,000 to councils and encourages collaborations between local government, non-government and industry through regional or sectoral alliances to further disseminate outcomes and build adaptive capacity.

The first round of grants opened in August 2014, inviting project proposals to address extreme heat or adaptation of priority infrastructure. There were 56 applications from 44 councils, seeking \$3.3 million in funds. Six grants across 21 local government areas were awarded for a total of \$432,500.

Round 2 of the grants program opened in June 2015. The second round is focusing on projects that build the resilience of water supply and/or quality or adapt priority infrastructure.

Building a sustainable connectivity approach for the Great Eastern Ranges

This year, the Trust awarded \$300,000 to OEH to develop a new sustainable model for the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative that will be effective and self-sustaining into the future (Table 8). This two-year project will involve a strategic-level evaluation of the initiative, analysis of potential investors, development of a new governance framework and strategic plan, and a marketing and fundraising plan.

This grant builds upon the Trust's \$11 million investment into the GER Initiative in Stages 1 and 2 over the past eight years, and will complement the Trust's new \$8 million Bush Connect program, which is delivering funds for on-ground works within the GER corridor.

Table 8

Major Restoration and Rehabilitation projects awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Lord Howe Island Board	Protecting island ecology – eradicating weeds from World Heritage Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island	\$508,946
Office of Environment and Heritage	Building a sustainable connectivity approach to the Great Eastern Ranges	Various	\$300,000
Total			\$808,946

Protecting our Places Grants

The Protecting our Places (POP) program funds Aboriginal groups to restore or rehabilitate land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people, and supports community education about the natural environment and its importance to Aboriginal people.

Achievements

Achievements from two of the POP projects completed in 2014–15 include:

- rehabilitation of 13.8 hectares of land at Pinny Beach, exceeding the original target by 1.8 hectares and encouraging regeneration of native species to control erosion at the Pinny Beach midden and burial site. The grantee found the threatened species *Syzigium paniculatum* within the project site. They extended the project to include a Themeda grassland Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) and threatened species *Pultenaea maritima*. They also installed a fence to protect this area from key threatening processes.
- providing an opportunity for the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community to work together to rehabilitate land of great Aboriginal cultural significance at Slaters Creek, North Lismore. A successful project launch was held with local Bundjalung elders, later followed by a tree planting and cultural information sharing day to recruit Landcare volunteers, with bush tucker plants provided by local Aboriginal elders.

Protecting our Places outcomes

Grant recipients from 2010 have so far rehabilitated or restored 23 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land, which has been enhanced by the planting of 4890 native plants. A total of 148 volunteers have contributed 2070 hours to these projects.

Grants awarded in 2011 have regenerated nearly 119 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land, including the planting of almost 9000 native plants. Grantees have received 3179 hours of support from 225 volunteers and held 183 training and awareness-raising events attended by more than 1500 people. These projects have also fostered the support of 30 partnerships with community and government organisations.

Grant recipients from 2012 have so far regenerated over 50 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land. They have also planted 3256 native plants and 101 volunteers have contributed more than 2400 hours to these projects.

Outcomes for the 2013 POP program will be included in subsequent annual reports.

Table 9

Protecting our Places outcomes 2010–12

Project measures	2010 Projected*	2010 Actual	2011 Projected*	2011 Actual	2012 Projected*	2012 Actual
Area of Aboriginal/culturally significant land restored or rehabilitated (hectares)	21	23	120	122	196	208
Area regenerated (hectares)	21	23	110	119	265	53
Number of plantings	5,700	4,890	8,125	8,977	15,650	3,256
Training and awareness events	55	50	255	183	459	408
Number of people participating	958	1,048	759	1,524	1,480	587
Volunteers	148	148	107	225	135	101
Volunteer hours	3,718	2,070	3,533	3,179	8,113	2,403
Number of partnerships (with community/government)	27	89	17	30	31	24
Percentage of projects completed	50%		73%		30%	

* Some projections may vary from those previously published due to projects withdrawing, reserve projects being funded and/or variations resulting from adaptive management during project lifecycles. POP grants generally last for up to two years. Final reports for 2010 and 2011 grants continue to be received.

Grants awarded in 2014–15

The Trust normally allocates \$500,000 per year for the POP program, with grants of between \$2000 and \$35,000 available. The program has continued to receive growing numbers of applications, with 48 applications submitted by 37 different organisations this year. This is a substantial increase on the last financial year, with \$1,501,144 worth of funding sought, in comparison with \$1,243,866 in the 2013–14 round. Nineteen organisations were new applicants.

The Trust awarded 22 grants valued at \$705,996. Four projects withdrew, leaving 18 grants valued at \$586,095 (Table 10).

2014–15 grantees in the POP program are expecting to rehabilitate or restore almost 160 hectares of land. Fencing or bollards will be erected to protect and limit inappropriate access to 230 hectares of the aggregated project area. An estimated 5000 native plants will be planted; 67 training events and awareness raising events and 34 educational products will be developed; and 468 people are expected to share, give or receive traditional Aboriginal knowledge.

An independent evaluation of the POP program commenced in May 2015. Recommendations arising from the review are to be considered by the Trust in 2015–16.



Stepping stone depicting a long nosed potoroo, created as part of a project at the Little Yuin Aboriginal Preschool Corporation

Table 10

Protecting our Places grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Awabakal LALC midden protection project	Lake Macquarie	\$29,992
Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council	Murramarang Aboriginal Area site protection and rehabilitation	Shoalhaven	\$33,700
Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council	Woods Point restoration project	Lake Macquarie	\$31,000
Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protecting the EECs in the estuarine zone at Arrawarra Creek	Coffs Harbour	\$35,000
Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council	AWAY – Aboriginal women and yamfields	Various	\$34,975
Grafton Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council	Bujimbay Land Restoration	Clarence Valley	\$31,605
Grafton Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council	Grafton Ngerrie LALC site protection and land management	Clarence Valley	\$35,000
Gulaga National Park Board Management	Gulaga National Park walking track upgrade project	Eurobodalla	\$35,000
Gully Traditional Owners, The	Garguree Swampcare Stage 3	Blue Mountains	\$34,764
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Picnic Island restoration project	Wollongong	\$34,248
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Sandon Point Aboriginal Place restoration	Wollongong	\$34,918
Ngurrula Aboriginal Corporation	Protection and preservation of sites in Yarriabini National Park	Nambucca	\$34,971
Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council	Gagil minan – marrabaa minan (bad weed – good weed)	Tamworth	\$21,797
Thunderstone Aboriginal and Cultural Land Management Services	Community education on Aboriginal heritage in Greater Goorooyaroo	Yass Valley	\$34,756
Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council	Restoration works Stage 1 Marshalls Creek Nature Reserve	Byron	\$34,998

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Weilwan Local Aboriginal Land Council	Gulgambone 'Old Reserve' restoration	Coonamble	\$19,421
Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Educate, enhance, protect our community	Unknown	\$35,000
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Deniliquin Island Sanctuary and Aljoes Creek	Deniliquin	\$34,950
Total			\$586,095

■ CASE STUDY

Garguree Swampcare Stage 2

Garguree Swampcare and the Gully Traditional Owners Inc. (TGTOI) are working in partnership with Blue Mountains City Council to reverse the degradation of the Blue Mountains Swamps located within the Gully Aboriginal Place. Many of the swamps were badly damaged during the construction of the now defunct Catalina racetrack in 1957.

The Garguree Swampcare Stage 2 project is part of a 10-year vision developed by the Gully's joint management committee to restore the environmental values of The Gully Aboriginal Place to their pre-racetrack condition.

The grantee more than tripled its targets by holding 13 awareness-raising events attended by 328 people. In partnership with TGTOI, Blue Mountains City Council delivered a full day Gully BioBlitz event, attended by 114 primary school students who took part in planting and restoration activities. Blue Mountains City Council recorded the day in a YouTube video entitled *BioBlitz: The Gully, Katoomba*.

The grantee has rehabilitated 3.3 hectares of Blue Mountains Swamp EEC, achieved a 95 per cent reduction of seeding woody weed species in the swamp and its buffer, and conducted primary weed control in 4.82 hectares of adjacent bushland.

A key part of the cultural healing process for the Gully's Indigenous community has been telling their story through cultural awareness-raising events. This has enabled them to share their knowledge and invite the broader Blue Mountains community to work alongside them to restore The Gully Aboriginal Place. Significantly, the project received international recognition when 75 delegates from the Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories Consortium and the World Network of Indigenous and Local Community Land and Sea Managers attended the Gathering in the Gully event held in November 2014.

By developing an annual plan and dividing and delegating project activities, the project has exceeded expectations for both ecological and cultural restoration. As well as improving land management knowledge and skills, the project has enabled local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to share, give and receive traditional Aboriginal knowledge in a local setting of World Heritage significance.



The Gully BioBlitz was attended by 114 students from four local primary schools

Contaminated Land Management Program

The NSW Environmental Trust's Contaminated Land Management (CLM) program provides financial assistance for the remediation of significant contamination legacies. Contaminated sites can pose a risk to human health and the environment and need to be effectively managed to prevent them becoming a source of ongoing pollution.

While the Trust has funded this long-term program with assistance from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), in 2014–15 it provided a direct \$6 million grant to the EPA to deliver the CLM program until 2017 (Table 11). Under the new funding model, the EPA is responsible for administration and distribution of the funds.

The program continues to focus on the remediation of legacy contaminated land and has expanded to include a suite of new capacity building and education programs. In addition to the existing Innocent Owners Scheme, the Council Gasworks program and the Derelict Underground Petroleum Storage Systems program, three new subprograms are being delivered over the next three years. These are the Regional Capacity Building program, Regional Acceleration program and Preventative and Education program.

In addition, in February 2015, approval was given to vary the CLM program to provide \$225,000 to Broken Hill City Council to facilitate the clean-up of lead-contaminated playgrounds (Table 11). An extra grant of \$225,000 was subsequently provided to the EPA to support existing program commitments.

Innocent Owners Scheme

The Innocent Owners Scheme provides financial assistance to land-owners who have found themselves legally responsible for significant contamination, where they are not the polluter and cannot afford to pay for remediation of the site.

This year there were no requests for this funding.

Council Gasworks Program

The operation of former gas manufacturing plants throughout New South Wales has left a legacy of contamination in soil and groundwater and sometimes on adjoining sites. This program provides assistance to regional councils that have responsibilities in relation to investigating and remediating former gasworks facilities to mitigate the damage from serious contamination.

This year there were no requests for this funding.

Derelict Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Program

Leaking underground tanks are the largest source of contaminated land in New South Wales, particularly in regional areas. Many smaller regional council areas have an inherited liability with derelict underground petroleum storage systems in their road reserves.

This next stage of this program is designed to identify if regional councils have inherited derelict underground

petroleum storage systems within council road reserves, and to provide a funding mechanism to investigate and remediate or manage derelict tanks. The learnings from this and the previous pilot stage will be used by the EPA in the roll-out of a longer term program. Because of the scale of this issue, the EPA is working to identify a funding mechanism for this outside of the Trust.

To date, this program has funded one grant, totalling \$100,000. The program will target a further 27 local government areas to determine whether they have derelict underground petroleum storage systems located in council road reserves and if they are eligible for funding.

Regional Capacity Building Program

This program will assist regional councils to improve their capacity to manage or apply appropriate planning considerations to contaminated lands by employing specialist technical staff to provide region-specific assistance. This will result in improved environmental outcomes, including more appropriate management of contaminated land in rural and regional areas.

Six applications were received to host a technical specialist. A total of \$450,000 was awarded to three successful applicants, including Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils in partnership with Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (27 councils), Bathurst Orange Dubbo and Central New South Wales Salinity and Water Quality Alliance (16 councils) and Mid North Coast Regional Organisation of Councils (7 councils).

Regional Acceleration Program

A number of legacy contamination sites have the potential to cause significant environmental harm if they are not adequately identified and managed. This program is helping rural and regional landowners obtain the necessary geotechnical and environmental information to make an appropriate submission for a regulatory assessment of the potential environmental or public health risks.

Three officers have been engaged through the program and are undertaking preliminary work to allow a number of sites to be assessed by regulatory unit staff.

Preventative and Education Program

This is a broad program designed to facilitate a variety of small-scale projects and educational campaigns that identify and prevent future contaminated land or improve community and local government awareness.

There are a number of opportunities currently under consideration for inclusion in the program. These are being reviewed by the EPA's Contaminated Land Management Steering Committee.

Table 11

Contaminated Land Management grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Environment Protection Authority	Contaminated Land Management program	Various	\$6,000,000
Environment Protection Authority	Contaminated Land Management additional funds	Various	\$225,000
Total			\$6,225,000

Pollution Clean-up Programs

The Trust's Pollution Clean-up programs provide funds for councils and other land managers to address pollution incidents where the polluter cannot be identified, or where there is uncertainty about the prospect of clean-up costs being paid by the responsible party. Nominated EPA officers have the power to approve spending of Trust funds under these programs.

Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program

The Emergency Pollution Clean-up program provides up to \$500,000 each year for the removal, dispersal or mitigation of emergency pollution events.

Two payments were made in 2014–15 to address emergency pollution incidents, with a total value of \$30,174.90 (Table 12).

Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up Program

Now in its second year of operation, the Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up program is funded through the Waste and Environment Levy and provides up to \$500,000 each year for the removal and management of illegally dumped asbestos and orphan waste.

Funds may be used for clean-up actions, including sampling, analysis and identification of waste; assessment of risk to human health or the environment; and removal, storage and disposal of the waste.

Grants worth \$272,778.05 were made for 34 incidents of illegally dumped asbestos and other orphan waste (Table 13).

Guidelines for the Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up program and Emergency Pollution Clean-up program are available on the Trust's website.

Table 12

Emergency Pollution Clean-up payments awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Holroyd City Council	Motor/gear oil spill – Greystanes Creek, Girraween	Aug 2014	\$6727.01
JR Richards & Sons	Hydrocarbon heavy oil – Stony Creek, Rutherford	Aug 2014	\$23,447.89
Total			\$30,174.90

Table 13

Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Blacktown City Council	Hollinsworth Road, Marsden Park	Jan 2013	\$14,744.00
Fairfield City Council	Glen Elgin Crescent, Edensor Park	Jul 2013	\$816.00
Fairfield City Council	Hollywood Drive, Lansvale	Aug 2013	\$836.00
Fairfield City Council	Blackstone Street, Wetherill Park	Sept 2013	\$876.00
Fairfield City Council	Day Street, Lansvale	Aug 2013	\$946.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Cornwells Lane, Richmond Lowland	Feb 2014	\$3,230.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Cattai Bridge Reserve, Cattai Road	Apr 2013	\$1,300.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Old Kurrajong Road, Richmond	Aug 2013	\$514.55
Hawkesbury City Council	Fairey Road, South Windsor	Nov 2014	\$2,266.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Triangle Lane, Richmond Lowland	Dec 2014	\$4,654.00
Kyogle Council	Mount Lindsay Highway, near Woodenbong	Feb 2014	\$2,500.00
Lake Macquarie City Council	Mandalong Road, Mandalong	Apr 2014	\$3,450.00
Lake Macquarie City Council	George Booth Drive, Seahampton	Oct 2014	\$4,350.00
Lake Macquarie City Council	Ruttleys Road, Wyee	Nov 2014	\$121,914.50
Lake Macquarie City Council	Freemans Drive, Cooranbong	Nov 2014	\$4,700.00
Liverpool City Council	Busby Park, Busby Road, Busby	Nov 2014	\$890.00
Murrumbidgee Irrigation	East of Kidman Way, South of Thorn Road, Hanwood	Sept 2014	\$48,000.00
Office of Environment & Heritage	Clarencetown Road, Columbey National Park	Mar 2014	\$2,700.00
Office of Environment & Heritage	South Basin Road, Elrington	Apr 2014	\$2,295.00
Office of Environment & Heritage	Seal Rocks Road, Bungwahi, Myall Lakes National Park	Oct 2014	\$3,020.00
Office of Environment & Heritage	Scenic Drive, Booti Booti National Park	Oct 2014	\$2,020.00
Riverina Local Land Services	Kohlhagens Reserve, Mile Road, Currawarna	Aug 2014	\$2,055.00
Riverina Local Land Services	Gun Club Reserve, Wee Jasper Road, Tumut	Aug 2014	\$2,010.00
Riverina Local Land Services	Travelling Stock Reserve, Plum Pudding Hill	Aug 2014	\$2,975.00
Ryde City Council	Rothsay Avenue, Meadowbank	Feb 2014	\$7,714.00
Ryde City Council	Culloden Road, Marsfield	Jul 2013	\$900.00
Shoalhaven City Council	North Head, Ulladulla	unknown	\$8,602.00
Trade & Investment	Binya Road Hornsby Heights	unknown	\$4,300.00
Trade & Investment	Cattai Ridge Road, Glenorie	Mar 2013	\$4,400.00
Trade & Investment	Dargle Fire Trail, Cliftonville Road, Maroota	Mar 2014	\$2,700.00
Trade & Investment	Shoplands Road Annangrove	unknown	\$2,400.00
Trade & Investment	Irwins swamp fire trail off West Portland Road, Lower Portland	Nov 2013	\$3,800.00
Trade & Investment	Green Point Road Oyster Bay	unknown	\$2,700.00
Trade & Investment	Egans Road, Oakdale	Mar 2013	\$2,200.00
Total			\$272,778.05

Environmental Education

The Environmental Education program aims to address specific environmental problems through education, behaviour change and environmental learning. It provides grants to community organisations and government agencies for a range of projects that increase the community's environmental knowledge and skills, enhance their commitment to protecting the environment, and promote sustainable behaviour.

Achievements

This year, 20 environmental education projects were concluded. Some notable achievements are highlighted below:

- An innovative online tool has been developed to empower coastal councils to use social media to engage, consult and educate communities on local and regional coastal environmental issues.
- Engaging radio scripts on household energy efficiency and sustainability have been written and broadcast to more than 80 community radio stations and digital downloads. Radio segments giving simple steps to reduce energy and water use resonated strongly with community radio listeners.
- Through regular education activities, local children aged 2–10 years and 400 registered families have been empowered to protect fragile urban bushland remnants in the Lane Cove area. The grantee has secured ongoing funding from the local council.

- Fifty-five rural lifestyle landowners around Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Cowra and Dubbo have attended five Natural Landscape Function Fundamentals workshops, where they learned sustainable land management practices to reduce energy use, waste, salinity, erosion and other environmental impacts on their properties.

Environmental Education outcomes

Projects funded through the 2010 Environmental Education program produced 196 educational products and publications and held 505 training and awareness raising events, significantly exceeding initial projections. These projects involved partnerships with 269 community and government organisations. More than 8000 students contributed 9962 hours across a range of educational activities. This was more than double the initial projections for student numbers.

Projects funded in 2011 have delivered 661 training events, field days and awareness raising activities. Almost 2400 students have been engaged and partnerships have been fostered with 258 community and government organisations. The projects have been supported by the efforts of 651 volunteers, more than doubling the projected number.

Projects awarded grants in 2012 have so far prepared 176 different publications and educational products, delivered more than 200 awareness raising and training events and involved more than 4000 students over 10,863 hours. To date, 629 volunteers have contributed their time.

Table 14

Environmental Education outcomes 2010–12

Project measures	2010 Projected*	2010 Actual	2011 Projected*	2011 Actual	2012 Projected*	2012 Actual
Total training and awareness raising events	384	505	606	661	231	209
Number of publications and educational products	150	196	641	659	254	176
Number of volunteers	180	270	300	651	601	629
Number of students (primary, secondary, tertiary)	3,658	8,145	1,462	2,390	8,030	4,033
Number of student hours	8,066	9,962	4,596	17,514	28,250	10,863
Number of partnerships with community/ government	184	269	208	258	52	68
Percentage of projects completed	100%		87%		80%	

* Some projections may vary from those previously published due to projects withdrawing, reserve projects being funded and/or variations resulting from adaptive management during project lifecycles. Environmental Education grants run for up to three years.

Outcomes for projects funded in 2013 will be reported in subsequent annual reports.

Environmental Education Grants

The Environmental Education program provides competitive grants to community groups and state and local government organisations for projects that:

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

The Trust usually offers a total of \$1 million, with \$500,000 available to community organisations and \$500,000 to government entities. Due to a high number of quality applications, however, this year the Trust has awarded \$1,212,452 in Environmental Education competitive grants.

The Trust received 94 EOIs for the community stream of the Environmental Education program, with the government stream receiving 87 EOIs. Twenty community and 15 government organisations were invited to submit full applications.

Based on these applications, the Trust awarded 10 community grants totalling \$619,781 (Table 15) and 10 government grants totalling \$592,671 (Table 16).

The Trust anticipates that the 2014–15 Environmental Education program will involve more than 10,000 people, hold 350 training and awareness raising events and generate 180 educational products and publications for distribution to approximately 200,000 people.

Table 15

Environmental Education community grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury Conservation Company Ltd	Urban developers constructing a hollow future for Albury's wildlife	Albury	\$54,560
Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Start the Switch NSW	Statewide	\$71,000
Community Environment Network Inc.	Landscapes for urban wildlife project	Various	\$74,752
EDO NSW	Environmental law for environmental decision-makers	Statewide	\$66,768
Gould League	Creating Gunnedah Regional Environmental Education Network (GREEN)	Gunnedah	\$83,750
Liverpool Plains Land Management Inc.	RAINtripleO – regenerative agriculture is now our only option	Gunnedah	\$96,432
Murrumbidgee Landcare Association Incorporated	Paddock trees – their value and their vulnerability	Various	\$35,350
Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group (SURG) Inc.	Community action blueprint to enhance estuarine habitat resilience	Coffs Harbour	\$43,850
UnitingCare NSW	Waste management education in the aged care industry	Statewide	\$60,000
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	Can Do Campers	Coffs Harbour	\$33,319
Total			\$619,781

■ CASE STUDY

Powerful owl

The powerful owl is the largest owl in Australasia and is listed as vulnerable across New South Wales. Powerful owls nest in tree hollows, which form when a tree is at least 150 years old. Through a highly successful citizen science and volunteering approach, BirdLife Australia identified and mapped 73 breeding sites over three years.

Volunteers chose their level of engagement, from reporting ad hoc powerful owl sightings to joining a citizen science program and monitoring breeding pairs several times per year. More than 2400 people attended the various events delivered by the project, and 800 members of the general community reported powerful owl sightings. A total of 333 volunteers assisted with collecting information on a regular basis. Through workshops and a training kit, volunteers and land managers learned to identify, monitor and protect this iconic species.

The project has measured the severity of current threatening processes and the Rural Fire Service and OEH has managed prescribed burns according to the location of known nest hollows. BirdLife Australia has also advised local councils of sites earmarked for development that are home to roosting birds, so that councils can include this information in their decision making processes. All records gathered during the project have been included in the NSW Wildlife Atlas, which allows for better decision making affecting flora and fauna in NSW.

An online nest cam and data log kept land managers and volunteers up to date. An online documentary and social and traditional media presence resulted in widespread awareness and media coverage.

This charismatic species attracted an unexpected level of community interest. In response, the grantee secured

additional funding from the BirdLife Australia Southern NSW Twitchathon to extend the project. 'This allowed the project officer to spend another day a week on the project and ensured that he kept on top of the communications with all the stakeholders. This funding also allowed us to capture an all-important extra breeding season's worth of data. Future projects that are likely to attract a lot of community interest ... should carefully consider the time required to respond to all of the enquiries,' said Holly Parsons, Birds in Backyards Program Manager for BirdLife Australia. 'Be prepared to look for more funds or bring on other staff or even train volunteers to ... utilise any unexpected opportunities that might present themselves.'

The project is a great example of well-executed citizen science, which has captured the hearts and minds of Sydney residents, land managers and the scientific community to improve on-ground conservation of this top order predator.



Powerful owl chicks

Table 16

Environmental Education state and local government grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Environment Protection Authority	Development and provision of training for sewer leak investigations	Statewide	\$60,000
Goldenfields Water County Council	GWCC500: Focus on biodiversity and native vegetation education	Various	\$58,600
Gosford City Council	COSS Wildlife Corridors: actions on private land	Gosford	\$33,900
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	Sustainable land management for Sydney-based rural landholders	Statewide	\$72,000
Lismore City Council	Building landholder capacity to manage ecosystem services	Lismore	\$100,000
NSW Office of Water	A freshwater toxic algal bloom resource kit to improve monitoring	Statewide	\$67,000
Office of Environment & Heritage, NPWS	Threatened shorebirds community and schools education project	Various	\$75,519
Pittwater Council	Coastal ambassadors program for nippers 'Coastal Kids'	Various	\$45,900
Sutherland Shire Council	Bat and flying-fox education and engagement program	Sutherland	\$64,852
Tweed Shire Council	Sustainable grazing in the Tweed Valley	Tweed	\$14,900
Total			\$592,671

Major Education Project

Treated Timber Initiative

This year the Trust awarded \$330,000 in funding to the EPA to improve community awareness of the risks associated with treated timber, especially timber treated with copper chrome arsenate (CCA) (Table 17). The initiative will include education and labelling to reduce the likelihood of environmental contamination and human exposure to arsenic associated with the use of treated timber.

CCA is a restricted pesticide used to treat timber. Its components, including copper, chrome and arsenic, are non-biodegradable heavy metals that present a continuing hazard to people and the environment. Arsenic is a carcinogen that may harm human health when ingested or inhaled via sawdust or during a fire, and can cause environmental harm if it leaches from treated timber into soil or is not disposed of appropriately.

The project aims to reduce environmental contamination and human exposure associated with the use of treated timber by:

- improving practice around the use of treated timber and waste management (disposal) via online training for DIY users, retailers, government employees, tradespeople, builders, architects and engineers
- producing and distributing a range of targeted educational material via retailers, councils and other government and non-government organisations
- a public information campaign
- improved labelling of treated timber, in consultation with industry.

The project is currently establishing partnerships with community and government stakeholders and developing the content and materials for the training module and the education campaign, which will be delivered next financial year.

Table 17

Major Education Project awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Environmental Protection Authority	Treated timber initiative	Various	\$330,000
Total			\$330,000

Eco Schools Grants

This program provides learning opportunities for students, teachers and the school community through hands-on, curriculum-based environmental projects. Through small contestable grants of \$2500, the program encourages strong student involvement and the development of links with the wider community to address environmental issues within the school grounds or the local area.

Achievements

In 2014–15, 64 Eco Schools grants were completed. These achieved a diverse range of environmental outcomes:

- Twenty schools have undertaken Aboriginal cultural projects focusing on the environment, including the establishment of new bush tucker gardens
- twenty nine schools have undertaken projects to improve their waste management practices and recycling systems
- six schools have undertaken biodiversity and habitat improvement projects: Kincumber Public School constructed 30 nest boxes to provide shelter for a range of birds, possums, sugar gliders and microbats; students studied the modified and naturally occurring habitats as well as local biodiversity in the school grounds
- Sofala Public School has become the first primary school in New South Wales to introduce a program of learning about energy efficiency under the Eco Schools framework

- Woollooware Public School has propagated new grey ironbark plants from a small cluster on the school grounds; the school worked with the local council nursery to restore these endemic and increasingly scarce trees to bushcare sites across the Sutherland Shire.

In response to a program review the Trust decided, for its next round of grants in 2015–16, to combine the Food Gardens in Schools program with Eco Schools. More information is provided in the Food Gardens in Schools section later in this report.

Grants awarded in 2014–15

In 2014–15, a total of 46 Eco Schools grants, totalling \$115,000, were approved (Table 18). These are expected to involve more than 4600 primary school students and over 700 high school students, who together will spend around 25,000 hours learning about biodiversity, recycling, sustainability, and water and energy conservation. Over 270 volunteers from the schools and local community are expected to participate and assist schools in the implementation of environmental education projects that will deliver 140 units of learning.

Table 18

Eco Schools grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA
Ashmont Public School	Ngrang Yindyamarra outdoor learning area	Wagga Wagga
Austinmer Public School	Native sensory garden and outdoor learning space	Wollongong
Banora Point Public School	Fixing our forest – stage 1	Tweed
Bellevue Hill Public School	Native habitat garden and corridor	Woollahra
Belmore South Public School	Save us from the traffic: Lilly Pilly to the rescue!	Canterbury
Blaxland Public School	BPS in the bin	Blue Mountains
Bobs Farm Public School	Learning the elements	Port Stephens
Botany Public School	Rainwater harvesting for reuse and sustainability	Botany
Braidwood Central School	Greenhouse and waste management to support Environmental/PDHPE program	Palerang
Bulli Public School	Develop Indigenous garden	Wollongong
Bungwahl Public School	Sustaining sustainability – ‘from seed to seed’	Great Lakes
Calare Public School	Lifting the lid on lunch and scraps	Orange
Camdenville Public School	Natural and cultural spaces project	Marrickville

Organisation	Title	LGA
Conargo Public School	Children and chickens are a good mix	Conargo
Coomealla High School	Environmental outdoor learning centre/native plant vegetation corridor	Wentworth
Cooranbong Public School	Reconnecting with our heritage and our environment	Lake Macquarie
Crescent Head Public School	The Goolawah eco-learning space	Kempsey
Cronulla High School	Revegetation for biodiversity and educational resources	Sutherland
Cundletown Public School	Cundletown environmental program	Greater Taree
Enngonia Public School	Water smart kids save school oval in remote NSW	Bourke
Faulconbridge Public School	A class amongst the gum trees	Blue Mountains
Glenmore Park High School	Recycling zone for resource recovery and reuse	Penrith
Goolmangar Public School	Goolmangar School koala community connections	Lismore
Hastings Public School	Rainforest classroom and sensory play-space	Port Macquarie-Hastings
Immaculate Heart of Mary – Sefton	Inspiring a love of nature	Bankstown
James Busby High School	Renewable gardens	Liverpool
John Therry Catholic High School	Sustainable living and working outdoor poultry space	Campbelltown
Lismore Public School	Mother Nature is calling you to the yarning garden	Lismore
Meadowbank Public School	Harmony and sensory native stingless bee garden	Ryde
Miller Public School	Learnsapes that engage the senses and excite the imagination!	Liverpool
Mogo Public School	Dhangaa dhama gabun: Eat very good food	Eurobodalla
Murwillumbah Public School	Bush tucker garden and outdoor learning space	Tweed
Orange Public School	Mudyidharaa and Indigenous garden outdoor learning area	Orange
Pleasant Heights Public School	Creek bed rehabilitation and outdoor learning area extension	Wollongong
Shearwater the Mullumbimby Steiner School	Mullumbimby Creek riparian rainforest regeneration beyond Coolamon	Byron
St Anne's Primary School	Recycling warriors	Albury
St Columba Anglican School	Year 5 outdoor learning area	Port Macquarie-Hastings
St Ignatius College Riverview	Solar cooking schools challenge: Lane Cove/Hunters Hill network	Lane Cove
St John the Evangelist Catholic High School	Outdoor learning area to enhance our Indigenous bush tucker garden	Shoalhaven
Tregeagle Public School	Enhancing koala habitat at Tregeagle Public School and surrounds	Lismore
Trinity Catholic College Lismore	Trinity Tree Day – Wilson River rehabilitation	Lismore
Tullamore Central School	Bush Tucker Reconciliation and Learning Area	Parkes
Wauchope High School	Wauchope High School yarning circle	Port Macquarie-Hastings
Whitebridge High School	Energy efficiency at Whitebridge High School	Lake Macquarie
Willoughby Girls High School	Sustainable garden project	Willoughby
Woy Woy South Public School	Living sustainably at Woy Woy South	Gosford
Total		\$115,000

■ CASE STUDY

Sofala Saves Power

In 2013, Sofala Public School students asked themselves an important question: 'What are our needs, wants and opportunities for change in how our school uses energy?'

With the help of an Eco Schools grant, they initiated a student-focused energy efficiency project that provided a strong student learning framework, and promoted sustainable energy use within the school and the community.

'We started by conducting an energy audit, and learning reasons why it's important to reduce electricity consumption', said principal Jaime Medbury. 'Students identified everyday appliances that consume electricity, like computers, air conditioners and lights, and discussed ways in which we could reduce their use.'

Students looked at where the heat was escaping from in their classrooms, and ways in which the heat loss could be reduced. They used thermometers and made a temperature gauge to help them decide if air conditioning was needed or not. They used iPads to measure light levels to decide if the lights needed to be switched on or not, and made a graph of the temperature and light levels in the classroom. They also studied renewable and non-renewable energy, and visited a power station to gain a greater understanding of where power comes from, and how it is produced.

They created posters to promote sustainable practices such as water saving, energy saving and waste management, to share what they had learned with the community. They also



Students from Sofala Public School visited Mount Piper power station to learn about how power is produced

shared the results of the monitoring program they set up to determine how their new solar pump was performing, and this attracted considerable interest from local farmers.

'By the end of our project, our students were demonstrating a heightened awareness of sustainability, and incorporating sustainable practices into their daily lives.'

Jaime Medbury, Principal, Sofala Public School

Food Gardens in Schools Grants

The Food Gardens in Schools grant program increases the capacity of schools to provide environmental education to students through the establishment of food gardens. These projects provide opportunities for teachers and students, including special needs students, to develop knowledge and practical skills in garden maintenance and develop teaching resources across curriculum areas including science, arts, literacy and numeracy.

In December 2014, in response to a review of the Food Gardens in Schools program, the Trust decided to:

- combine the Eco Schools and Food Gardens in Schools programs into a single program
- increase individual grant funding available by adopting the Food Gardens in Schools funding model, which provides a stronger focus on building school capacity to deliver environmental education
- provide greater opportunities for students with special needs by funding a broader range of environmental projects
- offer up to 80 grants of \$3500 each over two years. For 2015–16 and 2016–17 this includes 25 grants for projects catering for students with special needs.

Applications for the combined program (called Eco Schools) opened in March 2015, and will be announced in 2015–16.

Achievements

In the 2014–15, 22 Food Gardens in Schools grants were completed. A survey was conducted as part of the review, and revealed a diverse range of positive outcomes, detailed below:

- student and teacher behaviour change, including taking part in garden maintenance, making healthier nutritional choices and, most commonly, recycling more
- teacher professional development: for most, that meant learning alongside students through excursions to environmental education centres and visiting speakers including Gardening Australia television presenter Costa Georgiadis

- an improvement in quality of and access to existing gardens, and implementation of more structured teaching programs linked to curriculum outcomes, catering to a greater number of students
- enriched environmental engagement of special needs students and establishing better connections between special needs and mainstream students
- an increase in student knowledge and awareness of healthy sustainable living. Comments included:
 - 'dramatic increase in student knowledge' Bellambi Public School
 - 'project has been a powerful catalyst' Young Public School
 - 'student knowledge deepened greatly' St James Primary, Kotara.

Grants awarded in 2014–15

The third round of competitive grants closed in May 2014, with the Trust receiving 108 applications seeking a total of \$378,000. Due to strong demand, the Trust awarded 25 grants of \$3500 each and another 25 grants catering for students with special needs, bringing the total number to 50 grants valued at \$175,000 (Table 19).

Grants awarded in 2014–15 are expected to involve more than 4300 primary school students and nearly 800 high school students, who together will spend around 42,000 hours learning about healthy sustainable living. Nearly 470 volunteers from schools and local communities are expected to assist students with building and maintaining around 1570 square metres of food gardens in schools. Teachers will use the gardens to deliver nearly 230 units of learning.

Table 19

Food Gardens in Schools grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA
Albury North Public School	K–6 Crunch and sip garden	Albury
Argenton Public School	Lead safe food garden project	Lake Macquarie
Arthur Phillip High School	Hands on garden nook of tranquillity and purpose	Parramatta
Ashfield Public School	Ashfield Public School courtyard food garden	Ashfield
Billabong High School	Billabong MC food garden	Greater Hume
Black Mountain Public School	Black Mountain school garden	Guyra
Blackheath Public School	Blackheath Public School 'cool school' kitchen garden project	Blue Mountains
Bobs Farm Public School	Pest patrol – teaching integrated pest management	Port Stephens
Bonville Public School	Land to lunchbox garden – relocation and rejuvenation	Coffs Harbour
Budawang SSP	The hanging gardens of Budawang	Shoalhaven
Casula High School	Hands on edible and native garden: Special Education Unit	Liverpool
Cooranbong Public School	Growing our future	Lake Macquarie
Cundletown Public School	Cundle green thumbs	Greater Taree
Dunoon Public School	Dunoon school diggers	Lismore
Edgeworth Public School	Edgie's veggie garden	Lake Macquarie
Gorokan High School	Gorokan High School support garden project	Wyong
Greenacre Public School	Worming for food ... here and there!	Bankstown
Holroyd School	Holroyd School food garden project – grow healthy, be healthy!	Holroyd
Hunter River High School	Our garden project	Port Stephens
Iluka Public School	Three 's' – simple + sustainable = success	Clarence Valley
Inner Sydney Montessori School	Wicking worm grow beds	Leichhardt
John Palmer Public School	Sensory organic food garden	Blacktown
Kadina High School	Sustainable living, healthy eating	Lismore
Kurrambee School	Participation, engagement and understanding: Kurrambee food garden	Penrith
Lake Munmorah Public School	Fresh is best	Wyong
Manly West Public School	Manly West kitchen garden	Manly
Manning Valley Anglican College	Establishment of a food garden – garden to plate	Greater Taree
Marayong Public School	Chives, chickens and children: an oasis in suburbia	Blacktown
Marks Point Public School	Marks Point market garden	Lake Macquarie
Moorefield Girls High School	Promote sustainable and healthy living	Kogarah
Murwillumbah Public School	Lettuce grow	Tweed
Orange High School	Vegetable garden	Orange
Queanbeyan West Public School	The not so secret garden	Queanbeyan

Organisation	Title	LGA
Rowland Hassall School	From garden to plate	Parramatta
Sapphire Coast Anglican College	Diggers patch – you can fix the world's problems in a vegie patch	Bega Valley
Shoalhaven High School	School grown vegetables	Shoalhaven
Southern Cross School	The support centre K-6: food garden project	Ballina
St Ives High School	St Ives High hospitality garden	Ku-Ring-Gai
St Joseph The Worker Auburn South	Kitchen garden	Auburn
St Joseph's School Narrandera	Our sustainable garden	Narrandera
St Mary's Primary School Corowa	Sow to sustain	Corowa
St Patrick's Primary School	St Patrick's kitchen garden	Nambucca
St Raphael's Catholic School	St Raphael's vegetable garden project	Cowra
Summerland Christian College	Growing good food	Lismore
Tallowood School	Tallowood farm and gardens	The Hills
Tomaree High School	Support playground food garden	Port Stephens
Toormina High School	Support village garden	Coffs Harbour
Wentworth Falls Public School	Carrots to catchment management from our organic kitchen garden	Blue Mountains
Woniora Road School	Horticulture program – growing for the future	Kogarah
Woodenbong Central School	Woodenbong Central School community food garden project	Kyogle
		Total \$175,000

Environmental Research

The Environmental Research program provides approximately \$1 million each year in contestable grants to support research projects that help address environmental issues in New South Wales. The program aims to:

- generate new information that will help solve environmental problems
- discover innovative methods and technologies that will reduce the environmental impacts of business and industry
- support assessments of environmental degradation
- increase general awareness of environmental issues.

The NSW Environmental Trust approached the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer to undertake a review of the Environmental Research program. The review found that the program is highly competitive and funds good quality research that benefits the environment of NSW. Further to the review, the Trust engaged the NSW Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to develop a more rigorous prioritisation framework to maximise impact and end-user uptake of research outcomes. Priorities for the next two financial years have been set. For next financial year, priorities are land and seascape management, water-dependent ecosystems, soil health, and mechanisms for social engagement.

Achievements

This year, 10 research projects were concluded. Two of these projects have provided valuable findings with implications for the health of coastal and freshwater environments.

- Macquarie University has developed an optical-based technique to enable rapid vertical profiling of water temperature and salinity. They constructed a portable laser ranging water profiler, which is capable of measuring salinity and temperature to depths of 20 metres. This profiling capability delivers new knowledge that can be applied to a host of environmental issues in coastal and freshwater environments, such as assessing waterway health and providing habitat information about plant and animal species in waterways. Sydney Metro CMA (now Greater Sydney Local Land Services) conducted an evaluation of urban stream remediation techniques, including retrofitted stormwater wetlands and a bio-retention system on the Cooks River catchment. The evaluation provided valuable insights into the abilities of these approaches to improve stormwater quality, as well

as increasing understanding of the conditions necessary for successfully remediating degraded urban streams.

- The CSIRO has developed simple protocols that measure short-term ecological improvements, as opposed to long-term change or project outputs, in Box Gum Grassy Woodland sites managed for biodiversity and conservation values. Adoption of outcomes-based schemes has been hampered by an inability to accurately and efficiently assess improvement over relatively short time periods. However, CSIRO researchers have successfully identified short-term indicators, such as the abundance of litter invertebrates, that can detect improvements in two to three years and that land managers and experts alike can reliably apply. These user-friendly indicators can help managers to assess and prove quality outcomes and adaptively manage where change is not occurring as expected. The indicators can also inform policy tools and incentives such as grants, subsidies and market-based instruments to protect and improve biodiversity values on private lands. This project has been selected for dissemination through the Trust's Dissemination program.

Environmental Research outcomes

Environmental Research grants funded in 2010 have so far generated 26 different innovative technologies or new methods or approaches to previously known work, with these developments being presented at 67 scientific or technical conferences and other events. A combined total of 47 educational resources and articles related to the research projects have been produced, with articles published in journals and other scientific publications.

Progress reports for 2011 Environmental Research grants indicate that 25 innovative technologies, new methods or approaches to previously known work have been produced. Presentations at 136 scientific or technical conferences and other events have been delivered. A total of 33 educational resources have been developed, and project findings have been published in journals and other scientific publications.

Grants funded in the 2012 Environmental Research program have already generated 16 innovative technologies or new approaches to previously known work. Findings have been presented at 27 presentations at scientific or technical conferences and other events, and 16 educational resources and scientific journal articles have been finalised.

Table 20

Environmental Research outcomes 2010–12

Project measures	2010 Projected*	2010 Actual	2011 Projected*	2011 Actual	2012 Projected*	2012 Actual
New technologies or methods developed	26	26	28	25	21	16
Number of partnerships established	39	41	30	31	22	16
Conferences or events where research is presented	57	67	174	136	39	27
Publications and educational resources	48	47	42	33	26	16
Percentage of projects completed	90%		60%		25%	

* Some projections may vary from those previously published due to projects withdrawing, reserve projects being funded and/or variations resulting from adaptive management during project lifecycles. Environmental Research grants run for up to three years.

The 2013 Research program grants are currently in their early stages and will be reported on in subsequent annual reports.

■ CASE STUDY

Dynamically Downscaled Climate Projections for the Eastern Seaboard

The large scale of global climate models means that projections of temperature, rainfall and other variables are of limited use to local environmental decision makers. The University of NSW (UNSW) has dynamically downscaled several global climate models (GCMs) to a scale of 10 kilometres across NSW and 2 kilometres in Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Thanks to this cutting edge research, researchers and decision makers now have access to more locally relevant climate change and bushfire risk projections.

Using a dynamical downscaling model called Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF), UNSW produced simulations at 10 kilometres, each approximately 20 years long. They then used the results to undertake much higher resolution simulations of 2 kilometres over the Blue Mountains and Sydney metropolitan region. They made the data available online and entered it into a bush fire risk model that showed likely changes in the Blue Mountains and Sydney metropolitan region.

UNSW increased model resolution, which gave them a more accurate simulation of climate in mountainous and coastal areas. Simulations at 50 kilometres provide a more nuanced picture of climate, while simulations at 10 kilometres display

similar changes but with more spatial structure and often larger maximums. The project is also providing more detailed information to fire managers and is helping the Rural Fire Service better estimate the Forest Fire Danger Index risk throughout NSW.

The simulations are helping assess the impacts of urbanisation and projected land use changes, which under climate change conditions has profound impacts on minimum temperature. The data produced is also important for helping impacts researchers forecast likely agricultural, hydrological, ecological and health impacts. As a flow on from the project, the grantee worked with the Australian National Data Service on a \$500,000 high profile and multi-jurisdictional initiative to develop tools that help impacts researchers use the data. This helped lay the groundwork for the delivery of the NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLiM) project.

‘The investment from the Environmental Trust was like the first stone that begins to cascade down a mountainside,’ UNSW Professor Andrew Pitman said. ‘It ... ended up as an avalanche of activity that remains ongoing.’

Working with and effectively using climate data is challenging and complex. This project has provided the grantee and its collaborators with the opportunity to explore and apply this knowledge, and this understanding is expected to increase into the future.

Environmental Research Grants

The Environmental Research program is one of the most competitive grant programs funded by the Trust, and offers \$1 million in funding through grants of up to \$150,000. Grants are awarded through a competitive two-stage application process for projects of up to three years.

Stage 1 is assessment of expressions of interest (EOIs), and this year a total of 196 EOIs were received, requesting an upper value of \$26,950,000. From this, 34 applicants were invited to make full applications.

Thirty-two full applications requesting a total of \$4,163,899 were received, and were peer reviewed by scientific experts in the relevant field. While the Trust usually offers a total funding pool of \$1 million, due to the high number of quality applications this year the Trust has funded 11 research projects with a total of \$1,477,846 (Table 21).

In 2014–15, program priorities were based on the government's NSW 2021 plan and included:

- threats to the environment (pests and weeds, fire, coastal erosion and coastal inundation)
- biodiversity and native vegetation (habitat restoration and threatened species)
- pollution (air quality or waste recovery)
- rivers, wetlands and coasts (environmental water or wetland and catchment health).

In future years, priorities will be driven by the implementation of the prioritisation framework developed by the NRC.

Environmental Research program grantees funded in the 2014–15 year are expected to present the findings of their research at 71 technical or scientific conferences or other events, and to publish at least 31 related articles in journals and other scientific publications. Collectively they anticipate developing 216 innovative technologies or new methods or approaches to previously known work.

Table 21

Environmental Research grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Museum	Arresting declines of woodland birds through noisy miner control	Statewide	\$149,499
Australian Museum	Koalas: applying conservation genomics to manage an iconic species	Statewide	\$149,572
Charles Sturt University	Using agronomic principles for understorey restoration	Murrumbidgee	\$150,000
CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research	Atmospheric particles in Sydney: model-observation verification	Statewide	\$150,000
CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research	Regional 21st century sea level projections for the NSW coast	Statewide	\$150,000
Macquarie University	Ecological impact of myrtle rust on native vegetation	Statewide	\$146,962
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Does thinning regrowth restore habitat for biodiversity?	Statewide	\$145,340
Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust	Predicting representative habitat for provenance sourcing	Statewide	\$88,754
Southern Cross University	Maximising environmental outcomes of coastal infrastructure upgrades	Statewide	\$99,869
Southern Cross University	Reef restoration: conservation solutions for critical habitats	Statewide	\$97,950
University of New South Wales	Forecasting air pollution impacts from hazard reduction burns	Statewide	\$149,900
Total			\$1,477,846

Major Research Project

Psyllid-induced dieback of grey box on the Cumberland Plain

The University of Western Sydney received a grant of \$400,000 in 2013 to research the widespread defoliation of grey box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) in the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodlands of Western Sydney. The defoliation has occurred over thousands of hectares and has impacted two-thirds of the grey box stands in Sydney. It is caused by a native lace lerp species (*Cardiaspina* sp.) that has previously not been formally described for the Sydney region and has resulted in extensive canopy dieback and tree mortality.

Over the last 12 months, genetic tools and techniques for the population genetic analysis of grey box and the grey box psyllid have been established, and the project has focused on how to apply these to large population samples. The result will give a detailed description of genetic diversity of grey box as a species throughout its distribution and will allow for comparison of the characteristics of the various populations within the state. This may assist in linking the susceptibility of trees to psyllid attack. Materials from closely related species are also included in the study, to establish their genetic relationships with grey box and to evaluate whether there is a potential risk for the psyllid to spread further. The genetic analysis includes other *Cardiaspina* psyllid species that have been collected from closely related eucalypt species. This will reveal the species relationships of the grey box *Cardiaspina* sp. with these other species that have previously been described from Eucalyptus species in southern Australia.

Current indications of tree health throughout the outbreak region show that the original core area of the outbreak are recovering, however, the woodlands have lost trees, and natural recruitment is low. Though psyllids have become rare



Adult psyllids with eggs

in the original outbreak region, they are still at high enough densities to cause defoliation in previously less affected areas. There will be ongoing monitoring of this situation to understand the longer term trends of psyllid outbreaks. It is also noted that another genetically distinct *Cardiaspina* species, *Cardiaspina fiscella*, is currently occurring in large numbers and resulting in localised defoliation in the western fringes of the Cumberland Plain Woodland.

This project has so far resulted in the publication of two papers. One on the biology of the *Cardiaspina* psyllid species and its population dynamics during this outbreak on grey box, and the other publication on the feeding biology of the psyllid nymphs that results in nutritional enhancement of leaves for psyllid development, with the outcome of leaf necrosis and defoliation. More publications are currently being prepared.

Green Corridors Program

2014–15 was the fourth year of this \$40 million government initiative. It brings together a number of projects designed to protect strategic areas of high conservation value vegetation and ensure more green spaces across New South Wales.

Part of this initiative, the Green Corridor Reserves program, is being delivered by the Trust's Land Acquisition program. Further information on properties purchased which support green corridors is provided under the Land Acquisition program earlier in this report.

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Phase 2

In 2011–12, the Trust awarded Greening Australia \$4.4 million over four years to expand the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) conservation corridor within New South Wales.

Led by a public–private partnership between OEH, Greening Australia, Nature Conservation Trust, National Parks Association and OzGreen, the GER has continued to bring together a broad range of local, state and national organisations to deliver collaborative projects, and has established itself as a leading example of collaborative large-scale conservation in Australia.

More than 200 organisations are now members of the GER Initiative, including:

- 10 national organisations, including the Australian Conservation Foundation and Conservation Volunteers Australia
- five New South Wales state-based organisations, including National Parks Association of NSW, Nature Conservation Trust and OzGreen, and five Victorian and Queensland organisations
- eight NSW regional partnerships, as well as one in Victoria and one in Queensland
- 180 other NSW organisations involved as members of the regional partnerships or other active contributors. These include Landcare, industry bodies, conservation groups, academia, local Aboriginal land councils, government agencies and local councils.

The GER's 10 regional partnerships, eight of which are in New South Wales, continued to deliver a range of projects, including on-ground works, innovative research and community-based conservation planning projects.

Work in 2014–15 has focused on providing a platform for supporters of the initiative to come together, reflect on achievements and plan for the future. During a forum and workshop to showcase the range of projects being delivered, the GER launched three flagship programs: the GER Supporters program, Parks of the GER and the GER Atlas.

A three-day field trip delivered by the GER as part of the World Parks Congress in November 2014 provided a valuable opportunity to promote the achievements of this globally significant, landscape-scale connectivity conservation program to an international audience

Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset program aims to permanently protect some of the best remaining bushland in western Sydney. Bushland is protected under the program by acquiring land for new reserves from willing landowners or by funding the establishment of perpetual conservation agreements on private land. In the seven years that the program has been operating it has protected more than 470 hectares of native vegetation at 10 locations.

The funding received in 2014–15 resulted in an additional 18.2 hectares of threatened vegetation being protected at two biobank sites. One of these sites is located on the historic Fernhill Estate near Mulgoa. The site adjoins Blue Mountains National Park and was established independently of the program but within the program's first preference investment area. Funds from the program were used to purchase biodiversity credits to protect 4.7 hectares of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest on the site.

An additional 13.5 hectares of vegetation was protected through purchasing biodiversity credits from the Glenmore Park biobank site near Penrith. The biobank site demonstrates the importance that private land conservation plays in supporting public reserves. The site provides a crucial link between two previously separated portions of Mulgoa Nature Reserve, enhancing the long-term viability of the habitat protected within the reserve.



The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Phase 2 has contributed to the conservation of threatened woodland and forest birds such as the vulnerable diamond firetail finch

Linking Landscapes through Local Action

In June 2015 OEH completed the Linking Landscapes through Local Action project (Linking Landscapes) as part of the NSW Government's Green Corridors program. Linking Landscapes has supported the government's *NSW 2021* goal to protect our local environment by identifying green corridors of strategic conservation value and protecting some of the lands within them. From 2011 to 2015, the Environmental Trust provided \$10.1 million of funding for the following three components of this project:

BIO Map

The Biodiversity Investment Opportunities Map (BIO Map) has been prepared to help achieve better biodiversity outcomes from the funding available for protecting, conserving and managing our natural landscapes. BIO Map provides a guide for effective investment in biodiversity management.

The BIO Map identifies priority investment areas within two pilot subregions: the Cumberland subregion (western Sydney) and the Illawarra. The priority areas comprise of core areas of bushland and state and regional biodiversity corridors that are important for linking these areas. The core areas and corridors were identified using best available information and relied on extensive consultation with stakeholders in the regions.

The BIO Maps will be publicly available to help guide government and private investment to achieve the best results in keeping our bushland and creeks healthy.

Protecting Land through Linking Landscapes

In 2014–15, the Linking Landscapes through Local Action grant program continued to protect and manage land with high conservation values through the establishment of biobank sites using the NSW Biodiversity Banking and Offsets (biobanking) Scheme.

The project has resulted in better management of biodiversity by establishing and funding seven new biobanking agreements on public land. The new biobank sites are owned by the Shoalhaven, Lake Macquarie, Ku-ring-gai, Gosford, Wollongong, Hornsby and Bankstown councils.

These sites provide ongoing management funding for 345 hectares of native bushland and wetlands, including 119 hectares of threatened ecological communities (TECs) located within existing or potentially new biodiversity corridors.

Through the seven biobank sites established, \$9.2 million has been invested in the Biobanking Trust Fund, including \$8.5 million of grant funding and \$700,000 contributed by the applicant councils.

The Biobanking Trust Fund will provide annual management payments to the seven councils, amounting to \$530,000 in the first 10 years following establishment of the biobank sites. The funding is indexed and continues in perpetuity.

Biodiversity Investment Spatial Viewer

The Biodiversity Investment Spatial Viewer is a web-based application that provides access to conservation commitment information in New South Wales to both registered users and the general public. Access to this information will allow land subject to conservation commitments to be more easily identified, allow audit and compliance checks, and reduce the likelihood of land being used to offset more than one development.

Lead Environmental Community Groups Program

The Lead Environmental Community Groups (LECG) program offers funding to environmentally focused non-government organisations (NGOs) operating for the benefit of the environment of New South Wales. Applicants must be significantly involved with the community and their funded activities must directly contribute to the government's *NSW 2021* objectives.

The LECG program was subject to an independent evaluation in 2013. For the 2014–15 round of the program, the Trust decided, following consideration of the evaluation, to refocus the program's objectives away from supporting administrative assistance towards supporting community education and capacity building.

In addition, the LECG program was divided into two funding streams to better address the different needs of large and small organisations. Stream 1 offers funding of \$20,000 to \$80,000 for larger NGOs, while Stream 2 targets smaller groups seeking less than \$20,000.

In 2014–15, the program offered a total funding pool of \$600,000. Applications closed in February 2015, with 22 applications received, demonstrating strong interest from the NGO sector. A total of \$1,161,021 in funding was requested.

Following assessment and recommendation from the Independent Technical Committee, the Trust awarded 15 grants with a total value of \$600,000 (Table 22). Funded projects were approved for only 12 months in light of the recent changes to the program and to trial the new program governance.

Table 22

Lead Environmental Community Groups grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Amount
Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW)	\$14,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.	\$25,000
Community Environment Network Inc.	\$25,000
EDO NSW	\$75,000
Fish Habitat Partnership Inc.	\$40,000
Friends of the Koala Incorporated	\$12,000
Inland Rivers Network Inc.	\$9,000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NSW)	\$15,000
Landcare NSW Inc.	\$75,000
National Parks Association of NSW	\$50,000
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	\$75,000
The Wilderness Society Sydney Inc.	\$40,000
Total Environment Centre Inc.	\$70,000
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	\$20,000
WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information Rescue & Education Service)	\$55,000
Total	\$600,000

Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative

Waste Less, Recycle More is a NSW Government initiative that has committed \$465.7 million over five years for a range of support packages that will help communities and businesses reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. The Trust and the EPA are collaborating to deliver the initiative.

The Trust is responsible for managing the contestable grants component of the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative. Grants will be delivered through six different funds. In 2014–15, the contestable grants allocation was reduced to \$155.5 million over four years, as \$3 million was reallocated to the EPA as part of an assistance package for waste facilities that require weighbridge infrastructure to better quantify waste.

Improved Systems for Household Problem Wastes (\$11.77 million)

Household ‘problem’ wastes include paints, motor oils, cooking oils, household batteries, car batteries, fluorescent lighting, gas cylinders, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. These wastes are a significant management issue for the environment and human health. This fund supports the construction of community recycling centres that will facilitate the appropriate disposal of these problem wastes. Equally as important, the community will be making their own homes safer and cleaner.

This fund builds on the success of the EPA’s CleanOut days. It also supports the development and trialling of innovative disposal solutions where a fixed facility is not practicable.

Grant programs include:

- Community Recycling Centres.

Organics Infrastructure (\$60.75 million)

This fund supports programs that encourage and support waste avoidance, re-use and recycling of food and garden organics from households and businesses.

Grant programs include:

- Local Government Organics Collection Systems
- Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small)
- Love Food Hate Waste (also known as Food Waste Avoidance Education).

Waste and Recycling Infrastructure (\$53.75 million)

The Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund stimulates investment in recycling facilities and increases the processing capacity of facilities in waste levy paying areas to meet the *NSW 2021* recycling targets. Priority materials for recovery are paper, cardboard, tyres, timber, plastics, glass and metals from commercial, industrial and municipal waste streams. Projects may also be focused on processing, stabilisation and energy recovery from residual business and household waste.



Selected households in Kiama Municipal Council prepare for a new household waste collection system that will convert kitchen and garden organics into compost

Grant programs include:

- Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement program (for existing facilities)
- Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure program (for new infrastructure).

Recycling Innovation (\$12.8 million)

This fund provides support for increased resource recovery through innovative new technologies, processes, infrastructure, research and development.

Grant programs include:

- Innovation in Shredder Floc Management program
- Innovation in Priority Problem Wastes Management program.

Business Recycling (\$9.45 million)

Administered by the EPA, this fund provides rebates to small and medium enterprises to fund small-scale recycling infrastructure and equipment to help improve source separation of recyclables, reduce waste and increase recycling in the workplace.

Grant programs include:

- Small Scale Recycling Infrastructure Rebate program.

Supporting Local Communities (\$7 million)

This fund provides financial support to regional and rural local councils for landfill consolidation and closure, and environmental improvements to small landfills serving rural communities.

Grant programs include:

- Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements program.

Program structure

The Waste and Recycling Subcommittee oversees the Trust's contestable grant programs funded through the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative. The subcommittee has reviewed and endorsed business plans for all programs.

In collaboration with the EPA, workshops were conducted across New South Wales and webinars conducted for each round of Waste Less, Recycle More grants. Fifteen workshops covering the Community Recycling, Landfill Consolidation, Priority Problem Waste Management, Love Food Hate Waste, Organics Collections, Organics Infrastructure, and Major Resource Recovery programs were conducted during 2014–15, with participants attending regional and rural workshops in Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth and Dubbo. Metropolitan workshops were also held in Parramatta and Sydney.

Attendees learnt about the program objectives and how to prepare a sound application. Staff from the Trust were also present at EPA capacity-building and information sessions to answer grant queries during 2014–15.

Grants awarded in 2014–15

Community Recycling Centres Program

This grant program supports the development of up to 86 community recycling centres (CRCs) through three streams:

- enhancement or upgrade of an existing CRC
- construction of a new CRC
- development and trialling of innovative solutions where a fixed solution is not viable.

This year the program attracted 43 applications, requesting a total of approximately \$7.2 million. Local government authorities, not-for-profit organisations and private sector entities were able to apply for funds of up to \$250,000 for fixed infrastructure and up to \$300,000 for innovative solutions.

The Trust approved 36 grants totalling \$5,166,602 (Table 23) for the construction or modification of CRCs. Funded projects extend across the state, from Shellharbour in the south to Narrabri in the north. Metropolitan projects include Penrith, Lane Cove and Hornsby among others. Grantees estimate that more than 1.1 million households will benefit from the outcomes of these grants.

Funding has also been awarded to projects that will focus on innovation and large-scale regional projects such as satellite CRCs and CRC network clusters.

Table 23

Community Recycling Centre grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bega Valley Shire Council	Household problem waste drop off centre	Bega Valley	\$146,077
Bellingen Shire Council	Raleigh Community Recycling Centre	Bellingen	\$106,300
Bogan Shire Council	Bogan Shire Community Recycling Service	Bogan	\$43,030
Cabonne Council	NetWaste Region – Manildra Community Recycling Centre	Cabonne	\$98,037
Campbelltown City Council	Campbelltown Junction Road Community Recycling Centre and Recycling Cluster Stations (RCS) trial	Campbelltown	\$276,298
Canada Bay Council	City of Canada Bay community drop-off centre	Canada Bay	\$172,433
Coonamble Shire Council	NetWaste Region – Coonamble Community Recycling Centre	Coonamble	\$31,601
Cowra Shire Council	NetWaste Region – Cowra Community Recycling Centre	Cowra	\$74,573
Forbes Shire Council	NetWaste Region – Forbes Community Recycling Centre	Forbes	\$93,531
Gunnedah Shire Council	Gunnedah community recycling facility	Gunnedah	\$166,335
Hawkesbury City Council	Hawkesbury City Council Community Recycling Centre	Hawkesbury	\$216,000
Hornsby Shire Council	Hornsby Shire community recycling drop-off centre	Hornsby	\$158,500
Inverell Shire Council	Inverell Shire Community Recycling Centre	Inverell	\$191,375
Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre	Kimbriki household problem waste drop-off centre	Warringah	\$247,795

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Lachlan Shire Council	NetWaste Region – Condobolin Community Recycling Centre	Lachlan	\$32,410
Maitland City Council	Construction of community problem waste recycling centre	Maitland	\$112,447
Marrickville Council	Marrickville Council Community Recycling Centre	Marrickville	\$248,933
Mid-Western Regional Council	NetWaste Region – Mudgee Community Recycling Centre	Mid-Western Regional	\$78,781
Moree Plains Shire Council	Moree Plains Shire Council – Community Recycling Centre	Moree Plains	\$130,227
Narrabri Shire Council	Narrabri Community Recycling Centre – household problem wastes	Narrabri	\$111,691
Newcastle City Council	Summerhill Community Recycling Centre for household problem wastes	Newcastle City	\$115,000
North East Waste	North East Waste Regional CRC network – Tweed Community Recycling Centre (CRC)	Tweed	\$70,250
North East Waste	North East Waste Regional CRC network – Byron Community Recycling Centre (CRC)	Byron	\$111,826
North East Waste	North East Waste Regional CRC Network – Ballina Community Recycling Centre (CRC)	Ballina	\$109,498
Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC)	Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre	Lane Cove	\$149,549
Oberon Council	NetWaste Region – Oberon Community Recycling Centre	Oberon	\$32,410
Penrith City Council	Penrith Community Recycling Centre	Penrith	\$161,850
Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC) – Murray Waste Group	Berrigan, Conargo, Corowa and Murray Shires Community Recycling Centres	Berrigan	\$153,480
Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC) – Riverina Waste Group	Construction of six Community Recycling Centres	Carrathool	\$222,000
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	REROC Community Recycling Centres network – Western Cluster	Greater Hume	\$182,919
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	REROC Community Recycling Centres network – Northern Cluster	Bland	\$182,939
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	REROC Community Recycling Centre network – Eastern Cluster	Gundagai	\$182,919
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	REROC Community Recycling Centre network – Central Cluster	Coolamon	\$156,943
Shoalhaven City Council	Central Community Recycling Centre (CRC) with satellite drop-off facilities and milk run service	Shoalhaven	\$262,861
Tenterfield Shire Council	Tenterfield Community Recycling Centre	Tenterfield	\$175,784
Wyong Shire Council	Wyong Shire Council – Community Recycling Centre	Wyong	\$160,000
Total			\$5,166,602

Local Government Organics Collection Systems Program

This program provides funds to help councils implement new, or enhance existing, household kerbside collection services for organic waste. This includes collection systems for garden, food or combined food and garden organic waste. The program aims to increase the diversion of separated household organics from landfill, resulting in less waste of resources and fewer greenhouse gas emissions from landfill. The fund provides additional bins, kitchen caddies and other systems to facilitate the diversion of organic material from general waste bins.

In 2014–15, the Trust received 11 applications seeking approximately \$7 million. Ten projects were funded to a total of \$5,805,566 (Table 24).

Grant recipients estimate that approximately 71,716 tonnes of food and garden organics will be diverted from landfill as a collective result of the projects funded in 2014–15. More than 237,000 households are expected to receive a new or enhanced kerbside organics bin collection service as a result of this program.



Clarence Valley Council has provided 17,500 households with compostable bin liners and educational material to encourage greater recovery of food waste

Table 24

Local Government Organics Collection Systems grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury City Council	Organics collection system – Albury City Council	Albury	\$278,106
Blue Mountains City Council	Organics collection system	Blue Mountains	\$1,258,185
Botany Bay City Council	Botany Bay garden organics mobile garbage bins (MGB) project	Botany	\$370,632
Byron Shire Council	Byron Shire food and organics collection service	Byron	\$735,759
Cessnock City Council	Do not waste your organics household collection service	Cessnock	\$758,288
Coolamon Shire Council	Ganmain organics collection	Coolamon	\$21,405
Gundagai Shire Council	Back to the earth Gundagai	Gundagai	\$65,210
Lake Macquarie City Council	All food scraps are good to go! Lake Macquarie's improved green waste service	Lake Macquarie	\$686,250
Maitland City Council	Implementation of garden organics kerbside collection service	Maitland	\$1,228,331
Singleton Council	Waste to compost organics household collection service	Singleton	\$403,400
Total			\$5,805,566

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

The Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grants program encourages the re-use and recycling of source-separated organics from households and businesses through four streams:

- **Stream 1:** establishment of new and enhanced infrastructure to process food, garden or combined food and garden organics from households and/or businesses
- **Stream 2:** on-site processing or pre-processing of organics at large businesses and not-for-profit institutions such as prisons, universities and aged-care facilities. This stream was offered for the first time in 2014–15
- **Stream 3:** Infrastructure to facilitate the collection and redistribution of food waste from businesses to people in need
- **Stream 4:** Compost bins and/or worm farms to enhance council organics waste management workshops and home composting programs.

Contestable grants were available for between \$25,000 and \$5 million, covering up to 50 per cent of the capital costs relating to organics processing infrastructure and equipment to divert organics from landfill.

Completion of 2013–14, Round 1

In Round 1, projects seeking more than \$1 million were required to submit an EOI. After assessment of the EOIs, the Technical Review Committee invited eight organisations to submit a full application. Decisions on those applications were made in September 2014. Five projects were funded, totalling \$12,456,594 million (Table 25). It is estimated that these will deliver built capacity capable of processing up to 132,500 tonnes per annum.

Table 25

Round 1 Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1			
Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd	ANL FOGO processing – Badgerys Creek and Blayney	Liverpool	\$3,673,204
Dubbo City Council	Dubbo regional organics processing plant (DROPP)	Dubbo	\$3,259,300
Newcastle City Council	The Summerhill composting facility	Newcastle City	\$1,796,250
SITA Australia Pty Ltd	Lucas Heights organics resource recovery facility expansion	Sutherland	\$2,587,950
Stream 3			
Foodbank NSW Limited	Project salvation	Blacktown	\$1,139,890
Total			\$12,456,594

Round 2

In 2014, Round 2 of the program was conducted. The Trust received 34 applications worth approximately \$19.4 million. Twenty grants across the four streams, with a total value of \$8,075,021, were awarded across regional New South Wales and Sydney. Two were then declined, bringing the total to 18 grants with a value of \$7,774,393 (Table 26).

Projects funded through Streams 1 and 2 are expected to deliver built capacity capable of processing up to 86,000 tonnes per annum of organic business and household waste. Projects funded under Streams 3 and 4 will collectively divert an estimated additional 4700 tonnes per annum of organic waste from landfill.

Table 26

Round 2 Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1			
Amiterre Ag Solutions	Healthy Soil – Healthy Food	Young	\$492,000
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	Cooma 'Coompost Organics Farm' infrastructure upgrade program	Cooma-Monaro	\$104,000
EarthPower Technologies Sydney	EarthPower food organics processing increase	Parramatta	\$887,850
Lake Macquarie City Council	Awaba alternative waste treatment facility for organics processing	Lake Macquarie	\$1,399,000
Lismore City Council	Lismore City Council Food and Garden Organic Recycling Facility Expansion	Lismore	\$350,000
Shellharbour City Council	Dunmore Resource Recovery Redevelopment – Organics Processing Facility	Shellharbour	\$1,850,000
Tweed Shire Council	Tweed organics processing facility	Tweed	\$2,100,000
Stream 2			
Hydro Majestic Pty Ltd	On-site food waste composting for Hydro Majestic and Escarpment Group resorts	Blue Mountains	\$96,075
Stream 3			
OzHarvest	Northern Sydney region food rescue expansion	Statewide	\$61,364
OzHarvest	Food rescue logistics equipment	Statewide	\$29,853
SecondBite	SecondBite fresh food rescue and redistribution expansion into the Illawarra region	Wollongong	\$56,745
Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre	Winmalee Community Food Cupboard	Blue Mountains	\$38,056
Stream 4			
Hawkesbury City Council	The Hawkesbury compost revolution	Hawkesbury	\$58,875
Inverell Shire Council	Creating a composting community at Inverell, NSW	Inverell	\$73,958
Kiama Municipal Council	OK Organics Kiama – home composting workshops	Kiama	\$26,977
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	Compost doctor	Various	\$42,010
Tenterfield Shire Council	Tenterfield Shire Council community composting project	Tenterfield	\$71,030
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Waste Wise in Wingecarribee – home composting and worm farming	Wingecarribee	\$36,600
Total			\$7,774,393

Love Food Hate Waste (Food Waste Avoidance Education) Program

This four-year \$1.4-million grant program builds on the EPA's successful Love Food Hate Waste program. It supports food waste avoidance education and awareness projects with Love Food Hate Waste partners, including local councils, council groups, non-government organisations and community groups.

The second round of the Love Food Hate Waste program was awarded in 2014–15. Contestable grants of up to \$70,000 were available for the implementation of education projects that help households and businesses avoid food

waste. The Trust received 24 applications worth \$945,170, with funding requests ranging from \$6300 to \$70,000.

Nine projects were approved, with funding totalling \$260,184. Two applicants declined, leaving seven projects funded to the value of \$218,764 (Table 27). Grantees have estimated that the Love Food Hate Waste program will engage with around 490 participating organisations to deliver educational materials and resources such as workshops, cooking demonstrations and food recipes that are expected to reach an audience of more than 57,000 businesses and households.

Table 27

Love Food Hate Waste grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Canada Bay Council	Eat, taste, create – A \$ave more waste less initiative	Canada Bay	\$26,810
Cessnock City Council	Food business waste minimisation – SME education project	Cessnock	\$35,042
Illawarra Area Child Care	Growing young food lovers	Wollongong	\$30,184
Inverell Shire Council	Creating a community of food waste warriors at Inverell	Inverell	\$31,317
NetWaste	Healthy Meals That Don't Cost the Earth	Bathurst	\$17,401
Pittwater Council	Leftovers to lunch box	Pittwater	\$8,050
Youth Food Movement	#FIRL: Food In Real Life Workshops – by the Youth Food Movement	Sydney City	\$69,960
Total			\$218,764

Innovation in Shredder Floc Management Program

The Shredder Floc Management program is a targeted program of up to \$5 million. It aims to improve existing processes and introduce new approaches and technologies to reduce the residual waste produced by the metal recycling sector (called shredder floc) currently being landfilled.

Grants of up to \$1.6 million were available. The Trust received three applications requesting \$4.8 million in a two-phase assessment process. One applicant subsequently withdrew prior to final assessment by the Technical Review Committee. The two remaining requests, valued at \$3,198,589, were approved by the Trust (Table 28). These projects estimate that an additional 16,180 tonnes per annum of built capacity will be delivered, increasing the amount of material recycled and recovered through improved processing.

Table 28

Innovation in Shredder Floc Management grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Sell and Parker	Light Shredder Residue Processing Plant	Blacktown	\$1,598,589
Simms Metal Recyclers	Sims floc diversion project	Penrith	\$1,600,000
Total			\$3,198,589

Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Program

The Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements grants program will provide \$7 million to fund consolidation, closure and environmental improvements to rural and regional landfills.

This grants program consists of two streams:

- **Stream 1:** Landfill consolidation and closure
- **Stream 2:** Environmental improvements.

Grants of up to \$200,000 were available, covering up to 70 per cent of the estimated landfill consolidation or closure

costs (under Stream 1) or environmental improvement costs (under Stream 2).

The Trust received 57 applications, worth approximately \$7.3 million. A total of 34 grants worth \$3,831,542 were approved for funding across regional New South Wales (Table 29).

Projects funded through Stream 1 will result in the consolidation and full closure of 19 rural and regional landfills and the partial closure of two landfills. Additionally, projects funded under Stream 2 are expected to improve environmental performance at 43 landfills and waste management facilities.

Table 29

Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1			
Boorowa Council	Closure of Rugby and Frogmore Rural Landfills	Boorowa	\$157,997
Cobar Shire Council	Operational efficiency improvements – two cell closure at Cobar Waste Disposal Facility	Cobar	\$14,700
Gilgandra Shire Council	Gilgandra Shire Council Landfill Rationalisation	Gilgandra	\$198,950
Greater Hume Shire Council	Henty landfill conversion to a transfer station	Greater Hume	\$117,488
Gundagai Shire Council	Nangus and Muttama Tip Rehabilitation	Gundagai	\$139,044
Inverell Shire Council	Landfill consolidation to Ashford rural landfill in the Inverell Shire	Inverell	\$199,308
Inverell Shire Council	Closure and consolidation of Elsmore Rural Landfill	Inverell	\$186,562
Junee Shire Council	Closure and rehabilitation of Eurongilly Landfill and conversion to a Rural Transfer Station	Junee	\$33,116
Kyogle Council	Closure of Woodenbong Landfill	Kyogle	\$159,447
Lachlan Shire Council	Lachlan Shire Council Landfill Rationalisation	Lachlan	\$49,050
Palerang Council	Macs Reef landfill closure	Palerang	\$200,000
Parkes Shire Council	Yarrabandi landfill closure	Parkes	\$45,955
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Dunbogan landfill closure and capping	Port Macquarie–Hastings	\$200,000
Tenterfield Shire Council	Tenterfield Rural Landfill Consolidation and Closure project – Northern Precinct	Tenterfield	\$187,749
Stream 2			
Albury City Council	Albury waste management centre environmental improvements project	Albury	\$55,300
Boorowa Council	Waste Transfer Station establishment at Rugby and Frogmore	Boorowa	\$158,135
Bourke Shire Council	Bourke Shire Council environmental improvements	Bourke	\$43,990
Central Darling Shire Council	Central Darling Landfill improvement project	Central Darling	\$80,000

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Cobar Shire Council	Environmental Improvements – Cobar Waste Disposal Facility	Cobar	\$137,302
Conargo Shire Council	Environmental Improvement for Blighty Landfill	Conargo	\$81,673
Conargo Shire Council	Environmental Improvement for Wanganella Landfill	Conargo	\$63,797
Conargo Shire Council	Environmental Improvement for Pretty Pine Landfill	Conargo	\$60,719
Conargo Shire Council	Environmental Improvement for Conargo Landfill	Conargo	\$52,605
Forbes Shire Council	Environmental Improvements to Forbes Shire Council Unlicensed Landfills	Forbes	\$70,141
Gilgandra Shire Council	Gilgandra Shire Council environmental improvements	Gilgandra	\$55,178
Griffith City Council	Construction of improved waste handling and disposal at Yenda Waste Management Centre	Griffith	\$114,118
Gundagai Shire Council	Gundagai Shire Landfill Environmental Improvement	Gundagai	\$107,681
Kyogle Council	Woodenbong Waste Transfer Station	Kyogle	\$165,230
Lachlan Shire Council	Lachlan Shire Council environmental improvements	Lachlan	\$189,600
Parkes Shire Council	Landfill Environmental Improvements Parkes Shire	Parkes	\$135,852
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Kew Waste Transfer Station	Port Macquarie–Hastings	\$200,000
Walgett Shire Council	Walgett Shire Council Landfill Improvement Project	Walgett	\$107,600
Warren Shire Council	Environmental Improvements to the Ewenmar Waste Depot	Warren	\$59,552
Weddin Shire Council	Weddin Shire Council Environmental Improvements	Weddin	\$3,703
Total			\$3,831,542

Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Program

The Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure program aims to accelerate and stimulate investment in waste and recycling infrastructure and increase resource recovery to meet the *NSW 2021* recycling targets. The program funds major resource recovery facilities that receive waste from the levy paying areas of New South Wales and that primarily process materials from these areas.

Infrastructure priorities include:

- recovery of recyclables from sorted and unsorted business and household waste
- reuse, recycling and reprocessing of recyclable materials from businesses and households such as timber, paper, cardboard, tyres and consumer packaging
- processing, stabilisation and energy recovery from residual business and household waste.

Funding was available to cover 50 per cent of capital costs relating to proposed new resource recovery infrastructure. Grants of between \$1 million and \$5 million were available

for infrastructure projects proposed by the private sector and not-for-profit organisations. Grants of between \$1 million and \$10 million were available for projects proposed by councils, regional groups of councils and other local government organisations.

Interested parties submitted an EOI, with successful applicants being invited to submit a full application. In Round 1, the Trust received 33 EOIs and 12 applicants were invited to submit a full application, requesting more than \$30 million. At the end of Round 1, the Trust awarded funding to seven projects totalling \$20,310,071. One declined, leaving six projects totalling \$18,310,071 (Table 30). New infrastructure funded under this round will deliver a combined estimate of 465,514 tonnes per annum of built capacity diverting waste from landfill.

In Round 2, the Trust received 40 EOIs and 13 applicants were invited to submit a full application, requesting more than \$34 million. For this round, the Trust awarded funding to seven projects totalling \$17,932,500 (Table 30). As a result of grant funding, new infrastructure will be constructed with a combined built capacity to divert more than 839,000 tonnes of waste from landfill per annum.

Table 30

Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure grants awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Round 1			
Boral Cement Limited	Boral Berrima cement kiln alternative fuel	Wingecarribee	\$4,084,821
Global Renewables Eastern Creek Pty Ltd	Eastern Creek UR-3R facility RDF circuit and expansion	Fairfield	\$5,000,000
Great Lakes Council	Tuncurry resource recovery park	Great Lakes	\$1,000,000
Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre	KEE – landfill resource recovery facility	Warringah	\$1,175,000
Shellharbour City Council	Dunmore resource recovery redevelopment	Shellharbour	\$2,050,250
Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	Camellia recycling centre	Parramatta	\$5,000,000
Sub total			\$18,310,071
Round 2			
BioCoal Group Pty Ltd	Earthcare SRF manufacturing facility	Gosford	\$2,645,000
Dial-A-Dump (EC) Pty Ltd	Genesis Xero Waste C&I Plant	Blacktown	\$5,000,000
Doyle Bros	Doyle Bros C&I materials recovery facility	Fairfield	\$1,000,000
Newcastle City Council	Summerhill C&I dirty MRF	Newcastle City	\$1,937,500
PGM Refiners Pty Ltd	NSW next generation e-waste recycling facility	Statewide	\$1,050,000
Relivit Holdings Ltd	Relivit recycling resource recovery project – Nowra	Shoalhaven	\$1,300,000
ResourceCo RRF Pty Ltd	ResourceCo Resource Recovery Facility	Blacktown	\$5,000,000
Sub total			\$17,932,500
Total			\$36,242,571

Other Waste and Environment Programs

The Trust receives funds from the NSW Government's Waste Levy to manage a number of additional waste and environmental programs focusing on sustainability, protecting threatened species and enhancing biodiversity.

This year the Trust continued funding programs awarded in previous years, including Alternative Waste Treatment, Devil Ark, and Reform of Native Forestry Regulation. The Flying-fox Netting Subsidy program has been expanded with an additional \$1 million funding for throw-over netting. Three projects have commenced as part of the Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism program, and the UV Tanning Units Disposal Scheme was successfully completed.

Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) – Mixed Waste Organic Output Trials

This project aims to better understand the nature of AWT organic outputs and their potential physical and chemical impacts on the environment, through the delivery of four research sub-projects.

Research commenced into the micromorphology and particle size distribution of physical contaminants in AWT organic outputs; risk of wind erosion of plastics; and the potential for accumulation and transport of organic compounds on microplastics by physical means (erosion) and chemical means (leaching).

A second cropping season was successfully completed with a wheat crop grown and harvested from each treatment plot. This crop provided data on grain quality and yield. Two AWT organic output materials were trialled, with no toxicity effects observed in the wheat crop, and grain quality was not compromised by metal or other contaminants. The final wheat crop has been established and is due for harvest in late December 2015.

A risk assessment for AWT organic outputs was conducted using chemical concentration data generated in earlier phases of the project. A range of scenarios was considered including exposure to solid material (human and ecological) and to leachates (human, ecological and agricultural). The risk assessment was used to rank chemicals as high, medium or low risk, in terms of land application of AWT organic outputs. For those chemicals identified as high risk, a number of risk mitigating factors were also considered. These factors included chemical degradation, speciation (chemical form) and bioavailability, and physical factors such as dilution and bulk movement of leachates. The findings from this risk-assessment will assist with future regulation of land application of AWT organic outputs.

Experiments were conducted on 10 different NSW soil types that had AWT organic outputs applied at various rates and application methods (surface applied or incorporated). Samples were collected at different intervals, and tested for leaching, runoff, and plant growth.



UV tanning units ready for separation and recovery of components

UV Tanning Units Disposal Scheme

This voluntary scheme was funded from 2012–15 for the collection and disposal of unwanted ultraviolet (UV) tanning units from solaria businesses ahead of a ban on UV tanning services in New South Wales. The scheme was designed to ensure recovery of recyclable materials and safe disposal, and included free pick-up and a rebate of \$1000 per machine.

Although early uptake of the scheme was lower than expected, there was a sharp increase approaching the 31 December 2014 ban. Due to this late surge in interest, the EPA continued the scheme for the first quarter of 2015 to maximise recovery of UV tanning units.

By March 2015, 63 tanning units had been collected under the scheme, each containing 24–36 tanning tubes. In addition, approximately 400 used tubes weighing 191 kilograms were collected. Tanning unit lamps contain phosphors and mercury, while the units contain e-waste, recyclable metals and polymethyl methacrylate, a special UV-transmitting plastic. The estimated material diverted to recycling is 20,000 kilograms. It is also estimated that about 46,000 milligrams of mercury was recovered from the tubes.

Devil Ark

Devil Ark is a special breeding facility on a remote property in the Barrington Tops that is helping to conserve the endangered Tasmanian Devil through free-range captive breeding. The breeding program, which currently holds 30 per cent of all Tasmanian Devils in captivity, aims to minimise human interaction with the devils so that one day they can be re-introduced into the wild.

The project has continued its successful breeding program this year, with 70 per cent of all females breeding and 35 joeys born, bringing the total number of joeys born during the five years of the project to 150. In 2014–15, the project focused on preparing 50 devils for future wild release into Tasmania, the first return and release of this type in the program's history.

The grantee has commenced work on a new corporate sponsorship and donor funding program, along with the appointment of a campaigns manager to help Devil Ark

become financially self-sustainable. The project continues to host a number of TAFE and university groups, which allows students to study population management, genetics and social dynamics in a practical situation.

Rehabilitation and restoration of habitat at the facility has resulted in three invasive weed species being removed from the site, and the grantee has liaised closely with the Rural Fire Service to actively mitigate against fire risk to the project.

Devils in the Wild Tours have continued to be popular, with 20 tours attended by more than 200 visitors. Devil Ark was a finalist in the NSW Tourism Awards. Media presence was significant throughout the year, including updates and stories on television programs such as Channel 7's 'Sunrise'.

Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program

The Flying-fox Netting Subsidy program was awarded \$5 million in 2011–12 towards subsidies for the installation of netting on commercial orchards across New South Wales. The program aims to eliminate the need for licenced shooting as a crop protection measure for flying-foxes, and eligible growers can obtain up to 50 per cent of the cost of installing netting.

At the end of last financial year, the Trust agreed to include the installation of throw-over netting as an alternative to full canopy netting, as well as extending the program to all of New South Wales. This resulted in a substantial increase in the number of applications for subsidies through the program. Based on the increased uptake, an additional \$1 million in provisional funding was made available this year (Table 31), bringing the total allocation to \$6 million.

This financial year, 82 applications have been approved for a total amount of around \$4.3 million. This brings the total number of successful applications to 100, with total assistance of around \$5 million being provided. Since the beginning of the scheme, 446 hectares of orchards have been netted.

Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism

In 2013–14, funding of \$4.8 million over four years was awarded to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to raise awareness of the range of nature-based experiences available in NSW national parks, encourage sustainable growth in visitor numbers and build a community of support for nature and conservation. The project has three broad aims:

1. growing demand: this includes the New South Wales National Parks Campaign, and will raise the profile of nature based experiences on offer
2. improving supply: this includes the National Landscapes Small grants program, which will develop new nature based experiences at iconic destinations
3. creating the nature tourists of tomorrow: this is aimed at engaging children in nature and will include WilderQuest Learning.

The NSW National Parks Campaign will raise awareness of national parks, primarily among 25–34 year olds. Research has shown a growing disconnect between younger people and nature, with Generation Y specifically having a low awareness and engagement with national parks in New South Wales. A research agency was engaged to benchmark the level of awareness about national parks within this

group, and to track the change in awareness throughout the campaign delivery. A campaign agency was also appointed to design a campaign informed by the benchmarking research as well as the results from the NPWS Biennial Visitation Survey. It is anticipated that this campaign strategy will help young people engage with nature, discover the national parks and nature based experiences on their doorstep and participate in the care and protection of NSW national parks.

The National Landscapes Small Grants program will provide small grants to commercial operators to develop or enhance experiences for visitors to connect, experience and learn about nature and conservation. This program will focus on New South Wales' five National Landscapes, including Australia's Coastal Wilderness (South Coast), Australian Alps, Sydney Harbour, Greater Blue Mountains (including the World Heritage Area), and Australia's Green Cauldron (including the World Heritage Area) (North Coast).

WilderQuest Learning will develop an education portal for teachers and students that represents a best-practice model for engaging students with nature. It will provide teachers with 10-week teaching programs and activities, including outdoor lessons, which encourage visits to national parks. Discovery rangers from many ecosystems of New South Wales will deliver live feeds and interactive experiences into classrooms, as well as providing relevant Aboriginal education materials.

Reform of native forestry regulation

In 2013–14, the Trust awarded funding of \$3 million over three years to the EPA to deliver major reform of the environmental regulation of native forestry in New South Wales. This project is now in its second year of delivery and is supporting reforms to the regulatory framework on state forests. It is delivering major improvements in the identification and management of threatened ecological communities and koala habitat in both public and private forestry areas.

A key component of the project is to deliver four new Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOA) for coastal New South Wales. The grantee has contracted a legal firm to draft a Coastal IFOA and an expert panel of ecologists and botanists has been convened to provide advice on the threatened species requirements necessary. The panel has played a critical role in the Coastal IFOA development, as well as in a NSW Government-approved demonstration trial of proposed threatened species measures. Trial outcomes will be used to ensure that the threatened species measures are fit for purpose and do not erode environmental values or wood supply.

This project is improving koala habitat mapping for the purposes of public and private native forestry regulation, with the EPA commissioning OEHL to develop fine-scale koala habitat mapping. This is a critical step in informing the survey and management needs for koala habitat, particularly in private native forestry areas.

The EPA has also commissioned OEHL to map 25 priority threatened ecological communities across native forestry areas. Extensive aerial photo interpretation mapping, model development, expert consultation and survey work is underway across a study area of around 1.4 million hectares. The project has identified important information on the location, extent and complexity of each TEC surveyed, which will be used to improve the identification, description and management of TECs on public native forestry lands.

Sustainability Programs

The Trust has funded OEH to deliver sustainability initiatives for a decade. In this time, OEH has established and delivered successful programs, as well as building long-term partnerships, networks and knowledge.

In 2014–15, grantees developed a three year business plan. The Trust awarded \$12 million over three years for delivery of a suite of projects (Table 31). Three projects are listed below.

Sustainability Advantage Program

Since 2007 the Sustainability Advantage program has been the flagship through which OEH assists businesses to improve their environmental performance, efficiency and the competitiveness of their operations. In 2014–15, the program increased its membership by 19 organisations and it invested \$1.556 million to help 567 businesses and not-for-profit organisations reduce their resource use. The program has helped businesses lower their costs in areas such as water, waste and energy use by \$94.7 million annually and deliver strong environmental outcomes. Around 50 per cent of program members are based outside the greater Sydney region.

In 2014–15, the program moved towards a more financially sustainable model by introducing a fee structure and increased online delivery. As well as providing the same level of service at a lower cost to government, the fee structure leverages the commitment of its valued partners to achieve greater outcomes for the business sector. In 2014–15, the program has had a stronger focus on priority regions, including the Riverina, Dubbo, Hunter and the Illawarra. In future the program will take a more targeted approach.

Sustainable Government Behaviour Program

This program supports and encourages NSW Government agencies to undertake projects that demonstrate leadership in resource efficiency through sustainable behaviour. In 2014–15, the program has:

- launched the Resource Efficiency Action Lab, an online discussion tool for government agencies to identify and share joint solutions to common resource efficiency challenges. More than 70 stakeholders have joined the lab

- held six sessions to provide information, co-design tools and processes for resource efficiency, improve data collection, introducing benchmarking and behaviour change actions around waste management
- developed a motivational video and case studies on implementing best practice in organisational sustainability
- provided resource use summaries to all NSW government agencies to help identify resource efficiency project opportunities
- launched a solar assessment tool to help agencies identify sites for solar panels.

Social Research: Who Cares about the Environment?

Held every three years since 1994, *Who Cares about the Environment?* ('*Who Cares?*') is a state-wide, longitudinal data set that helps government and non-government organisations deliver more effective, efficient and well targeted sustainability programs and policies. The program was independently evaluated over a five month period in 2014, including through 58 telephone interviews with a range of stakeholders, an online survey with over 1000 respondents, three case studies, a technical review of the *Who Cares?* methodology and a literature review on the role of social research in evidence-based policy making.

The evaluation provided an assessment of the overall impact and value of the *Who Cares?* research since its inception in 1994, as well as recommendations for its future. It found that *Who Cares?* is widely used and valued as a rigorous piece of research by a broad range of organisations, with a large number of users engaging with its findings over many years. It also revealed that *Who Cares?* forms a vital part of the evidence base for research on social attitudes to the environment, is high impact and considered important across a variety of uses. The evaluation also found opportunities to strengthen the strategic value of *Who Cares?*, introduce more interactive reporting and expand dissemination.

The evaluation findings will be incorporated into planning for the 2015–16 *Who Cares?* survey. The evaluation summary report can be viewed on the OEH website.

Table 31

Other waste and environment projects awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Office of Environment and Heritage	Sustainability programs	Various	\$12,000,000
Rural Assistance Authority	Threatened Species program – Flying-fox Netting extension funding	Various	\$1,000,000
Total			\$13,000,000

Dissemination Program

The Dissemination program extends the success, knowledge and tools produced by successfully completed grant projects across New South Wales. The Trust allocates up to \$200,000 annually to this program. This small investment builds capacity in environmental protection by extending the lessons learned and experiences gained by grantees.

Achievements

In 2014–15, six dissemination grants were completed and three new dissemination projects were awarded valued at \$167,012 (Table 32).

Activities delivered under the program included training and mentoring events and a number of high quality resources, including toolkits, manuals and training DVDs that extend the lessons and value of grant funded projects.

Dissemination staff have worked closely with grantees in the dissemination and contestable programs to take advantage of media opportunities and build their capacity to promote project outcomes.

Completed projects

Following is a description of two dissemination projects completed in 2014–15.

Securing a Sustainable Food Future

This project delivered workshops and a practical toolkit to help councils and other organisations establish and coordinate local food initiatives, including community gardens and farmers markets, and manage day-to-day food-related issues such as sustainable catering.

The toolkit includes templates, case studies and methodologies to facilitate food security actions, add value to existing food-related projects and encourage users to consider a variety of food security elements. Almost 70 per cent of participants had accessed the online resource kit three months after the initial workshops.

The project has inspired and equipped councils and other organisations to commit almost \$200,000 in local food security projects and created an online discussion group that continues to support community networking in food security.

Stop salvinia strangling our waterways

Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) is an aquatic weed of national significance and is a serious problem in eastern Australia. A previous Trust grant had yielded valuable findings on the use of the weevil *Cyrtobagous salviniae* as a control agent in temperate climates. This highly successful project extended that knowledge by training more than 100 local government, state government and other land managers to use the weevil for biological control and distributing a high quality and practical field manual to 450 weed officers.

As part of the project, four accredited training workshops were delivered on the east coast and four salvinia biological control field days were held in the Hunter, Sydney region and Central Coast. Thirty-nine biological control sites have now been established around the state. The project has also extended the area in which the salvinia weevil can successfully be used for biocontrol to include colder regions, namely Moruya on the south coast.

Table 32

Dissemination Projects awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title and description	Amount
Access Macquarie Ltd	Habitat stepping stones Residents in five diverse Sydney local government areas (LGAs) will pledge to incorporate LGA-specific habitat elements into their properties to enhance urban native habitat. The project will deliver appealing online habitat advice, traditional and social media campaigns customised in each partner council area, networking opportunities for residents and advice for future grantees.	\$57,033
CSIRO Land and Water Flagship	Guide to measuring short-term changes in Natural Resource Management (NRM) This project will develop and disseminate a guide to assessing short-term changes in the ecological condition of grassy woodlands in New South Wales. The guide will detail how to collect and interpret data against reliable and user-friendly indicators, track ecological change and input data into an appropriate online citizen science application.	\$74,979
SD Environmental Management	School environmental art guide This project will develop, pilot and disseminate a guide to running recycled environmental art projects targeting school students and their communities. It will support councils and other organisations to use more rigorous and learning-based approaches, with best practice examples.	\$35,000
Total		\$167,012

BioBanking Trust Fund and Offset Programs

BioBanking Trust Fund

The BioBanking Trust Fund was established to manage funds invested as part of the BioBanking scheme, which allows for the negotiation of long-term conservation agreements (biobanking agreements) between landowners and the Minister for the Environment. Funds from each biodiversity credit sale are deposited into the Fund and invested in TCorp Hourglass facilities. Annual management payments are made to biobank site owners from these investments to improve the biodiversity value of their land.

The Trust has been appointed as the fund manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund until July 2017. As at 30 June 2015, the fund held investments for 36 biobank sites, including nine new sites that commenced in 2014–15.

Funds are invested in three investment options (Cash Facility, Medium Term Growth Facility and Long Term Growth Facility). An operating account is also held with Westpac to receive deposits and make payments. As of 30 June 2015, the total funds held within the BioBanking Trust Fund totalled more than \$43.8 million (Table 33). In 2014–15, the fund provided \$2.556 million in payments to property owners for the management of biodiversity on their land.

Table 33

BioBanking Trust Fund 2014–15

Details	Amount
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	\$31,009,402
Receipts by the BioBanking Trust Fund (no GST)	\$12,776,312
Return on invested funds	\$2,729,018
Annual management payments (GST exclusive)	-\$2,556,018
Management fee (OEHL)	-\$29,800
Administration fee (NSW Environmental Trust)	-\$49,837
Cash balance invested in the BioBanking Trust Fund	\$43,879,077

Warnervale Town Centre

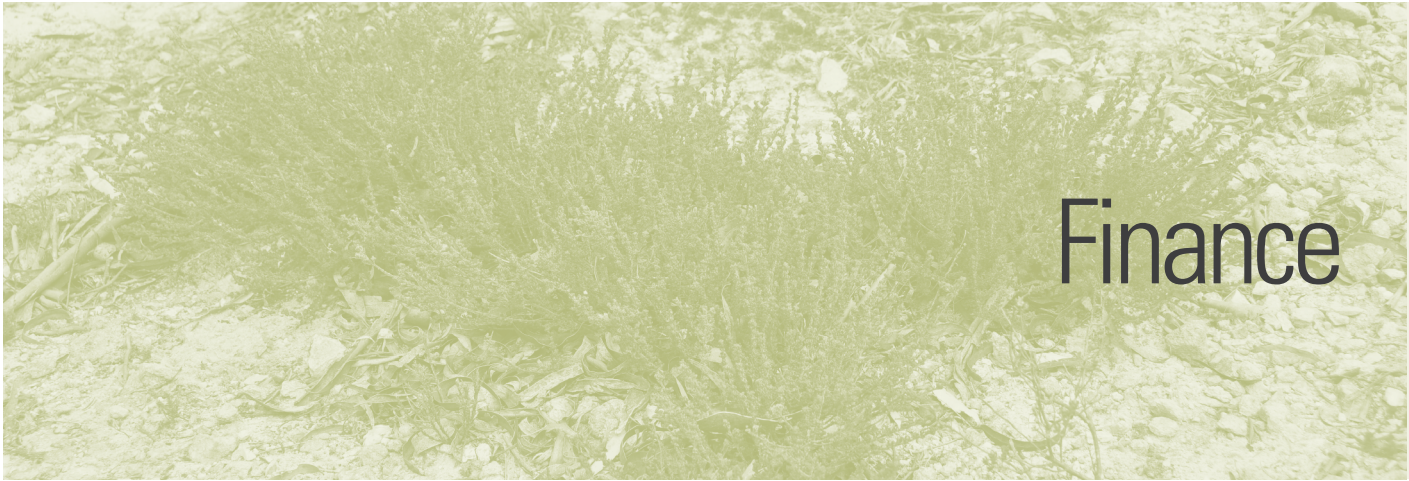
Warnervale Town Centre is located within the Wyong local government area and will be developed over the coming 10–20 years to provide 1650 dwellings and opportunities for 1200 jobs. The area contains Blackbutt-Turpentine open forest, Smooth-barked Apple–Red Bloodwood open forest, Spotted Gum–Grey Ironbark open forest and Swamp Mahogany swamp forest. The vulnerable heath wrinklewort *Rutidosis heterogama* and wallum froglet *Crinia tinnula* are found at the site.

In order to offset the impacts on these vegetation communities and species, the biodiversity certification of Warnervale Town Centre requires biodiversity offsets to the value of up to \$4.4 million, through the purchase of land for the reserve system, purchase and retirement of biobanking credits, or financing landowners in establishing conservation agreements in perpetuity. The biodiversity certification assessment calculated that 2233 ecosystem credits and 2508 species credits would need to be retired, which equates to the conservation of approximately 270 hectares of land. The Trust therefore awarded \$4.4 million in funding (Table 34).

Table 34

Warnervale Biodiversity Offset grant awarded in 2014–15

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Office of Environment & Heritage	Warnervale Biodiversity Offset program	Various	\$4,400,000
Total			\$4,400,000





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Environmental Trust

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Environmental Trust (the Trust), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and service groups, for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2015, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- are in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015.

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

The Trustee's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the PF&A Act and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view and that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Trust
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of its internal control
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical pronouncements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

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



Caroline Karakatsanis
Director, Financial Audit Services

22 September 2015
SYDNEY

Environmental Trust

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

For the year ended 30 June 2015

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 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the applicable clauses of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015, Australian Accounting Standards, the Financial Reporting Code for NSW General Government Sector Entities and the Treasurer's Directions;
- b) the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Trust; and
- c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Mark Speakman
Chairperson

22 September 2015



Terry Bailey
Secretary

17 September 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	Actual 2015 \$'000	Budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	3,732	3,100	2,851
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	81,891	99,592	53,828
TOTAL EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES		85,623	102,692	56,679
Revenue				
Investment revenue	3(a)	964	1,173	1,016
Grants and Contributions	3(b)	80,964	100,288	52,347
Other revenue	3(c)	2,717	300	2,674
Total Revenue		84,645	101,761	56,037
Net Result		(978)	(931)	(642)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(978)	(931)	(642)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

		Actual 2015 \$'000	Budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	16,131	17,767	19,085
Receivables	6	1,548	1,293	2,134
Total Current Assets		17,679	19,060	21,219
Total Assets		17,679	19,060	21,219
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	7	403	1,776	2,965
Total Current Liabilities		403	1,776	2,965
Net Assets		17,276	17,284	18,254
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds		17,276	17,284	18,254
Total Equity		17,276	17,284	18,254

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2014	18,254	18,254
Net result for the year	(978)	(978)
Total comprehensive income for the year	(978)	(978)
Balance at 30 June 2015	17,276	17,276
Balance at 1 July 2013	18,896	18,896
Net result for the year	(642)	(642)
Total comprehensive income for the year	(642)	(642)
Balance at 30 June 2014	18,254	18,254

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

		Actual 2015 \$'000	Budget 2015 \$'000	Actual 2014 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	(81,891)	(99,592)	(53,828)
Return of funds to the cluster department*		-	-	(1,413)
Other		(6,294)	(3,327)	(4,482)
Total Payments		(88,185)	(102,919)	(59,723)
Receipts				
Interest received		885	1,173	1,080
Grants and Subsidies		80,964	100,288	53,760
Other		3,382	300	4,362
Total Receipts		85,231	101,761	59,202
NET CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	12	(2,954)	(1,158)	(521)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH		(2,954)	(1,158)	(521)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		19,085	18,925	19,606
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5	16,131	17,767	19,085

*Cluster department refers to Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2013-14 and Department of Planning and Environment in 2014-15

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

SERVICE GROUP STATEMENT – STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Competitive Grants		Major Programs		Total	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ENTITY'S EXPENSES AND INCOME						
Expenses excluding losses						
Operating expenses						
Other operating expenses	1,866	1,426	1,866	1,425	3,732	2,851
Grants and subsidies	10,100	23,495	71,791	30,333	81,891	53,828
Total Expenses excluding losses	11,966	24,921	73,657	31,759	85,623	56,679
Revenue						
Investment Revenue	187	474	777	543	964	1,017
Grant from Department of Premier and Cabinet	9,471	22,848	71,493	29,499	80,964	52,347
Other Revenue	2,626	365	91	2,309	2,717	2,674
Total Revenue	12,284	23,687	72,361	32,351	84,645	56,038
Net result/(loss)	318	(1,234)	(1,296)	592	(978)	(642)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	318	(1,234)	(1,296)	592	(978)	(642)

The names and purpose of each Service Group are summarised in note 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

SERVICE GROUP STATEMENT – STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Competitive Grants		Major Programs		Total	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ENTITY'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,718	9,340	14,413	9,745	16,131	19,085
Receivables	1,186	1,891	362	243	1,548	2,134
Total current assets	2,904	11,231	14,775	9,988	17,679	21,219
Non-current assets						
Total non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	2,904	11,231	14,775	9,988	17,679	21,219
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities						
Payables	330	413	73	2,552	403	2,965
Total current liabilities	330	413	73	2,552	403	2,965
Non-current liabilities						
Total non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	330	413	73	2,552	403	2,965
NET ASSETS	2,574	10,818	14,702	7,436	17,276	18,254

The names and purpose of each Service Group are summarised in note 4.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

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

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

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

Since July 2008, the Environmental Trust has been the Fund Manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund pursuant to section 127ZY(1) of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act). The Environmental Trust's current appointment as BioBanking Trust Fund Manager concludes in July 2017. The BioBanking Trust Fund is an element of the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking Scheme) established under Section 127A of the TSC Act. This scheme provides a robust framework for private land conservation and offsetting, providing long-term arrangements for biodiversity conservation on private land. Each BioBanking site has a legal agreement between the Minister for the Environment and the BioBanking site land owner(s). The BioBanking Trust Fund holds and invests financial assets to pay for the future management of BioBanking sites.

The operations of the BioBanking Trust Fund are not consolidated with the Environmental Trust's financial statements.

Environmental Trust's financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Environmental Trust on 22 September 2015.

(b) Basis of Preparation

The Trust's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board;
- the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015, and;
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies or issued by the Treasurer.

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

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

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

(c) Statement of compliance

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(d) Insurance

The Trust's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) Scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past claim experience.

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

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

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

(f) Income recognition

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

Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions

Except as specified below, parliamentary appropriations (received as grants from the principal department in the cluster) and contributions from other bodies (including grants and donations) are generally recognised as income when the Trust obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations and contributions. Control over appropriations, grants and contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

However unspent appropriations are recognised as liabilities rather than grant income, as the authority to spend the money lapses and the unspent amount must be repaid to the consolidated fund, via the principal department.

(ii) Investment revenue

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

(g) Receivables

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

These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are recognised in the net result for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(h) Impairment of financial assets

All financial assets are measured at fair value and are not subject to an annual review for impairment. An allowance for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due.

(i) De-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the Trust transfers the financial asset where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred, or where the Trust has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, but has not retained control.

Where the Trust has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Trust's continuing involvement in the asset.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(j) Payables

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

(k) Equity and reserves

Accumulated funds: The category 'accumulated funds' includes all current and prior period retained funds.

(l) Budgeted amounts

The budgeted amounts are drawn from the original budgeted financial statements presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period. Subsequent amendments to the original budget (e.g. adjustment for transfer of functions between entities as a result of Administrative Arrangements Orders) are not reflected in the budgeted amounts. Major variances between the original budgeted amounts and the actual amounts, disclosed in the primary financial statements are explained in note 10.

(m) Assistance provided by other organisations

The maintenance of the Trust's accounting records and provision of other administrative services is provided by the Office of Environment and Heritage. The fair value of such services is charged to the Trust.

(n) Comparative Information

Except when an Australian Accounting standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(o) Changes in accounting policy, including new or revised Australian Accounting Standards

(i) Issued but not yet effective

NSW public sector entities are not permitted to early adopt new Australian Accounting Standards, unless Treasury determines otherwise.

The following new Accounting Standards have not been applied and are not yet effective (NSW Treasury mandate TC 15/03):

- AASB 9, AASB 2010-7, AASB 2013-9 (Part C), AASB 2014-1 (Part E), AASB 2014-7 and AASB 2014-8 regarding financial instruments
- AASB 10, AASB 12 and AASB 128 regarding investment entities
- AASB 10, AASB 124 and AASB 1049 regarding extending related party disclosures to not-for-profit entities
- AASB 13 related to fair value disclosures of not-for-profit entities
- AASB 14 and AASB 2014-1(Part D) regarding Regulatory Deferral Accounts
- AASB 15 and AASB 2014-5 regarding Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- AASB 1056 Superannuation Entities
- AASB 2014-3 regarding accounting for acquisitions of interests in joint operations
- AASB 2014-4 regarding acceptable methods of depreciation and amortisation
- AASB 2014-6 regarding bearer plants
- AASB 2014-9 regarding equity method in separate financial statements
- AASB 2014-10 regarding sale or contribution of assets between and investor and its associate or joint venture
- AASB 2015-1 regarding annual improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 cycle
- AASB 2015-2 regarding amendments to AASB 101 disclosure initiatives
- AASB 2015-3 regarding materiality
- AASB 2015-7 regarding amendments to Australian Accounting Standards, Fair Value Disclosures of Not for Profit Public Sector Entities.

These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on the financial statements, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

(ii) Effective for the first time in 2014-15

AASB 1055 budgetary reporting. Disclosure in note 10 made in accordance with this standard provides users with information relevant to assessing performance of the Environmental Trust, including accountability for resources entrusted to it.

2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

(a) Other operating expenses:	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Auditor's remuneration - audit of the financial statements	33	32
Payments to NSW Government agencies	2,909	2,359
Stores and minor assets	4	4
Hire - Plant, facilities and venues	4	-
Information dissemination	115	103
Fees for services	644	329
Travel	23	15
Other	-	9
	3,732	2,851

(b) Grants and subsidies:	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Federal Government	248	49
State and Local Governments	57,944	44,059
Other	23,699	9,720
	81,891	53,828

3. REVENUE

(a) Investment revenue	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Interest revenue from financial assets not at fair value through profit or loss	354	472
Interest revenue from Investments	610	544
	964	1,016

(b) Grants and contributions	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Recurrent funding from the cluster department*	80,964	52,347
	80,964	52,347

*Cluster department refers to Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2013-14 and Department of Planning and Environment in 2014-15

(c) Other revenue	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Fund manager fees	91	45
Refunds	2,626	2,629
	2,717	2,674

4. SERVICE GROUPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Service Group Competitive Grants and Major Programs

Service Description: Competitive Grants

This service group covers grant funding to community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, industry, research bodies, and state and local government agencies to undertake restoration and rehabilitation, education, research and waste management initiatives.

Major Programs

This service group covers grant funding to government agencies and other groups for programs addressing key environmental initiatives and government priorities.

5. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	16,131	2,458
Cash at T-Corp	-	16,627
	16,131	19,085

Under the new cash management reforms (NSW TC 15/01), effective 31 March 2015, the Trust is not able to hold any 'at call' cash deposits with the NSW Treasury Corporation.

6. CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Debtors	3	73
Accrued Income	102	55
Interest	410	332
GST receivables	1,033	1,674
	1,548	2,134

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

Refer note 13 for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

7. CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Creditors	52	145
Liability to the NSW Government - recurrent funding	-	-
Liability to Consolidated Fund	-	-
Accrued expenses	351	2,820
	403	2,965

8. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

There were no commitments as at 30 June 2015 (2014 - nil).

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2015 (2014 - nil).

10. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) Net result

The actual net result was (\$978,000) compared to a budget of (\$931,000) - variance of (\$47,000).

- Reduced expenses by \$17.07 million were primarily due to delayed milestones by grants recipients. Majority of these expenses have been reallocated to forward years, under the 2015-16 State Budget process.

- The above expense variation was offset by reduced Government funding, received as a grant revenue through the principal department and other revenue by \$17.1 million.

(b) Assets and liabilities

There was no material variance between the actual and budgeted net assets.

(c) Cash Flows

Both total payments and total receipts were below the budget due to reduced program expenditure and revenue. The actual cash of \$16.1 million was below the budget of \$17.8 million by \$1.7 million, mainly due to net movement in payables and receivables.

11. BIOBANKING TRUST FUND – ADMINISTERED ACTIVITY

Nine new site transactions occurred during the period 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 bringing the total number of sites managed to thirty-six. Refer to note 1 (a) for further detail on Biobanking Trust Fund.

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	31,009	17,572
Add: receipts by the BioBanking Trust	12,776	13,371
Add: Interest on invested BioBanking Trust funds	2,729	1,580
Less: annual management payment	(2,586)	(1,504)
Less: management fee – ET Fund Manager fee	(50)	(10)
Balance invested in the Fund	43,878	31,009

12. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET RESULT

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	(2,954)	(521)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	2,562	(1,606)
(Decrease)/increase in receivables	(586)	1,485
Net Result	(978)	(642)

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

The Trustee has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by Environmental Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed as part of OEH's audit and review program.

(a) Financial Instrument Categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Class:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	N/A	16,131	19,085
Receivables (1)	6	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	515	461
			16,646	19,546
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Class:				
Payables (2)	7	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	403	2,965
			403	2,965

Notes

(1) Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

(2) Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within the scope of AASB 7)

(b) Credit Risk

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

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

Credit risk associated with Environmental Trust's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards.

Cash

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

Receivables and Trade Debtors

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

Environmental Trust is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. No provision for doubtful debts.

The only financial assets that are past due or impaired are 'sales of goods and services' in the 'receivables' category of the statement of financial position.

		\$'000	\$'000
	Total ^{1,2}	Past due but not impaired ^{1,2}	Considered impaired ^{1,2}
2015			
< 3 Months Overdue	3	3	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2014			
< 3 Months Overdue	73	73	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-

Notes

- Each column in the table reports 'gross receivables'.
- The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7 and excludes receivables that are not past due and not impaired. Therefore, the 'total' will not reconcile to the receivables total recognised in the statement of financial position.

Authority Deposits

In 2014, Environmental Trust has placed funds on deposit with TCorp, which has been rated 'AAA' by Standard and Poor's. These deposits are similar to money market or bank deposits and can be placed 'at call' or for a fixed term. For fixed term deposits, the interest rate payable by TCorp is negotiated initially and is fixed for the term of the deposit, while the interest rate payable on at call deposits can vary. The deposits at 30 June 2014 were earning an average interest rate of 2.88%, while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 2.92% on a weighted average balance during the year of \$16.379m. There are no deposits as of 30 June 2015.

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that Environmental Trust will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. Environmental Trust continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of overdrafts, loans and other advances.

During the current and prior year, there were no defaults of loans payable. No assets have been pledged as collateral. Environmental Trust's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in NSW TC 11/12. For small business suppliers, where terms are not specified, payment is made not later than 30 days from date of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. For other suppliers, 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. For small business suppliers, where payment is not made within the specified time period, simple interest must be paid automatically unless an existing contract specifies otherwise. For payments to other suppliers, the Head of an authority (or a person appointed by the Head of an authority) may automatically pay the supplier simple interest. The rate of interest applied during the year was 10.6% (2014: 12.5%).

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the entity's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

Maturity analysis and interest rate exposure of financial liabilities

		\$'000 Interest Rate Exposure				\$'000 Maturity Dates		
2015	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	Nominal amount 1	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
<i>Payables:</i>								
Payables:	-	403	-	-	403	403	-	-
2014								
<i>Payables:</i>								
Payables:	-	2,965	-	-	2,965	2,965	-	-

Notes

- The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities based on the earliest date on which the entity can be required to pay. The tables include both interest and principal cash flows and therefore will not reconcile to the statement of financial position.

(d) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Environmental Trust has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which Environmental Trust operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the statement of financial position date. The analysis is performed on the same basis as for 2014. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

Interest Rate Risk

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

		\$'000		\$'000	
			-1%		+1%
	Carrying Amount	Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2015					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	16,131	(161)	(161)	161	161
Receivables	515	(5)	(5)	5	5
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	403	4	4	(4)	(4)
2014					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	19,085	(191)	(191)	191	191
Receivables	461	(5)	(5)	5	5
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,965	30	30	(30)	(30)

Other Price Risk – TCorp Hour Glass Facilities

Exposure to 'other price risk' primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour-Glass Investment Facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes. Environmental Trust has no direct equity investments. Environmental Trust held units in the following Hour-Glass investment trust in 2014, this is no longer required under NSW TC 15/01.

Facility	Investment Sectors	Investment Horizon	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 1.5 years	-	16,627

(e) Fair value compared to carrying amount

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost.

14. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

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

End of Audited Financial Statements

Appendices



Administration of the Trust

Statement of affairs

Indicators of activity of administering the Trust

	2013–14	2014–15
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives and support	\$56 million	\$85 million
Number of contestable programs and other small grant programs running	22	23
Number of major programs and projects running	17	20
Number of new contestable grant projects approved	328	357
Number of applications / expressions of interest processed	1,166	1,061
Number of grant payments processed	486	569
Number of pollution clean-up payments and grants	64	36

The NSW Environmental Trust, under section 15(5) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, waived the condition of requiring a grant to be expended within three years after it is made for the following grants:

- Cabonne Council – Remediation of Molong Gasworks
- Wingecarribee Shire Council – Remediation of Bowral Gasworks
- University of Sydney – Benchmarks for ecological function in urban ecosystems
- Macquarie University – Understanding and predicting southward range expansions of corals
- Eurobodalla Shire Council – Restoring the last remaining stands of two EECs in the Eurobodalla
- Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council – Protecting and understanding the cultural landscape
- Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc. – Marine biodiversity education using the ex-HMAS Adelaide
- Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority – Protecting the high conservation value Clyde River and its EECs
- Motor Traders Association of New South Wales – Green Stamp Plus: sustainability for the automotive industry
- OEH – Eastern Seaboard Climate Change Initiative
- Australian Reptile Park – Threatened Species program: Devil Ark
- Environment Protection Authority – Alternative Waste Treatment: Mixed Waste Organic Output Trials
- Lord Howe Island Board – Protecting Island ecology – eradicating weeds from World Heritage Lord Howe Island
- OEH – Sustainability programs

Structure and management of the Trust

The Trust is guided by the governance structures outlined in the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. It is comprised of three parts: Trust members, Trust committees, and Trust staff who are housed within OEH. The Trust funds the costs of administering its grant programs, including staff salaries, while OEH provides all support services for the Trust such as information technology, finance and human resources.

The Grants Unit within the Regional Operations Group of OEH is responsible for day-to-day management of the Trust's programs and activities. The major functions of the unit are:

- researching, developing and implementing new programs for the Trust
- promoting and managing the Trust's grant programs
- developing and managing governance arrangements for programs
- providing technical and other assistance to grantees
- coordinating assessments by the Trust's technical committees
- servicing Trust meetings, technical committees and subcommittees to facilitate good decision making
- negotiating grants and agreements, project plans and making payments
- monitoring and acquitting funded projects
- disseminating and promoting successful Trust-funded projects
- managing pollution clean-up programs
- reviewing and evaluating the Trust's programs and procedures.

Grants administration

All Trust grants include a number of conditions that must be met, covering matters such as project timetable, payment schedule, 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 in advance or through milestone payments.

The Trust's technical review committee representatives and independent reviewers assess and recommend grant projects and review project progress and final reports. This process keeps the Trust progressively informed about the quality of the work and the outcomes of each project. Where appropriate, a copy of the final report is placed in the OEH Library.

All major programs are overseen by program-specific Trust subcommittees. These subcommittees are comprised of technical experts in the relevant field. They provide input into the development of program business plans, monitor program implementation and progress, and provide ongoing advice to the Trust.

As an added level of governance for the infrastructure programs of the Waste Less Recycle More Initiative, applicants are required to provide a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) for their projects, based on NSW Treasury's NSW Government Guidelines for Economic Appraisal. These CBAs are then reviewed by independent experts who report their findings to the Technical Review Committee to assist with the overall assessment of proposals. A Probity Auditor has also been appointed to review all program documentation and attend all Technical Review Committee meetings as an observer to ensure that the decision-making process is in accord with the highest standards of probity and integrity.

Organisational performance

Trust support staff are employed within OEH and are subject to the administration and organisational performance programs of that office. These include the disability inclusion action plan, workforce diversity, multicultural policies and services program, work health and safety etc. Further information on these policies and other organisational issues can be found in the *Office of Environment and Heritage Annual Report for 2014–15*.

Assets

Since it uses the resources of OEH, the Trust does not have any physical assets that require risk management or associated insurance activities.

Risk management

The Trust's risk management includes independent grant assessment processes, formal authorisation and payment procedures under explicit delegated authority, written grant agreements and approved business plans with grantees. A clause in the grant agreements indemnifies the Trust, and there are processes for tracking the progress and payment of

grants, along with a procedures manual and regular audits of procedures.

Further information on Risk Management Policies and guidelines, Fraud and Corruption Control Strategies and the Internal Audit program applicable to the Trust can also be found in the *Office of Environment and Heritage Annual Report for 2014–15*.

Digital information attestation

The NSW Government Digital Information Security Policy requires each Department and Statutory Body to annually attest to the adequacy of its digital information and information systems security.

The information systems used by the Trust and all digital information held by the Trust is managed by OEH. For a copy of the Digital Information Attestation Statement, refer to the *Office of Environment and Heritage Annual Report for 2014–15*.

External reviews

The Trust is subject to a range of independent audits, including annual review of its financial statements by the Audit Office of NSW. This year the Trust was subject to an internal audit of its contestable grant programs. The audit found that there was clear evidence that the Trust has in place a comprehensive and robust governance framework, providing an objective, systematic and consistent approach to its grant management activities.

To ensure Trust funding is achieving the best possible results for the environment, the Trust implements a five-year evaluation plan for each of its competitive grant programs.

This year, the Environmental Research program was subject to independent review by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, while the Food Gardens in Schools pilot program and Eco Schools program underwent an internal review. Information on the outcomes of these reviews is provided under the relevant program within this report.

An independent evaluation of the POP program commenced in May 2015. The Trust will consider the results of the review and report the findings in next year's annual report. The Roadside Vegetation Implementation programs were also independently evaluated.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Trust's Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) program was established in 2008, aligning with the national *Monitoring Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework* and improving the Trust's ability to report on measurable environmental outcomes. The Trust's MER program also helps grantees to track their progress against their objectives and to measure and report on the effectiveness of their projects. The intent is to increase the likelihood of project success by providing a framework that integrates clear processes to monitor and evaluate outcomes from the beginning of a project. Since its inception, there have been ongoing enhancements to improve and streamline the MER system to assist both Trust Administration and grantees.

The Trust employs a full-time Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Officer to manage the reporting data, and to support grantees with preparing their monitoring and evaluation plans, which in turn guide their projects and form the basis of their reports. Grantees in the competitive Restoration and Rehabilitation, Community Bush Regeneration, Protecting our Places, Education, Research and Eco Schools programs must also report on a number of key performance indicators relating to measurable environmental outcomes. The indicators are specific to each program and the Trust uses this information to report progress towards environmental goals on a state-wide basis and ensure that the Trust's programs are contributing towards *NSW 2021* objectives. Some measured outcomes that have been achieved to date are included under the relevant program headings in this report.



South East Forest National Park Nungatta Station poa grasslands

Internal Audit and Risk Management Statement

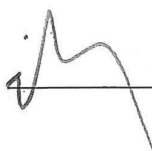
I, Mr Terry Bailey, Secretary, am of the opinion that the Environmental Trust has internal audit and risk management processes in operation that are, in all material respects, compliant with the core requirements set out in Treasury Circular NSW TC 09/08 *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy*.

I, Mr Terry Bailey, Secretary, am of the opinion that the Audit and Risk Committee for the Environmental Trust is constituted and operates in accordance with the independence and governance requirements of Treasury Circular NSW TC 09/08. The Chair and Members of the Audit and Risk Committee are:

- Independent Chair, Mr Bruce Turner, appointed March 2014 to February 2018
- Independent Member 1, Ms Geraldine Brus, appointed March 2014 to February 2018
- Independent Member 2, Ms Elizabeth Crouch, appointed May 2014 to April 2018
- Independent Member 3, Ms Suzanne Jones, appointed May 2015 to December 2015
- Non-independent Member 1, Mr Paul Elton, appointed March 2014 to February 2015
- Non-independent Member 2, Dr Kate Wilson, appointed February 2015 and ongoing

These processes provide a level of assurance that enables the senior management of the Environmental Trust to understand, manage and satisfactorily control risk exposures.

As required by the policy, I have submitted an Attestation Statement outlining compliance with the policy to Treasury on behalf of the Treasurer.



13 August 2015

Signed and dated by:

Mr. Terry Bailey

Secretary

Environmental Trust

Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust

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
- Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by Local Government NSW (LGNSW).

The Trust met four times in 2014–15.

Members of the Trust and meeting attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
The Hon. Rob Stokes MP (to 1 April 2015)	(Chairperson) Minister for the Environment (statutory appointment)	3	3
The Hon. Mark Speakman MP (from 2 April 2015)	(Chairperson) Minister for the Environment (statutory appointment)	1	1
Mr Philip Gaetjens (to 4 June 2015)	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)	0	4
Mr Rob Whitfield (from 5 June 2015)	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)		
Permanent Deputy: Mr Bill Stanhope	Senior Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury	4	4
Mr Terry Bailey	Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage (statutory appointment)	4	4
Mr Rob Pallin	Representing Nature Conservation Council of NSW	4	4
Cr Keith Rhoades Deputy: Ms Susy Cenedese	President, Representing Local Government NSW Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW	1 1	2 1
Observer: Cr Keith Rhoades Ms Susy Cenedese	President, Local Government NSW Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW	1 1	1 1

Membership of Trust Subcommittees

The Trust had seven subcommittees in operation under section 9 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* during 2014–15 to assist with the management of its grant programs. Trust subcommittees provide input into the development of program business plans in consultation with external stakeholders, oversee program governance arrangements and provide ongoing advice to the Trust. Membership of each subcommittee follows.

Environmental Hazards Subcommittee

Professor Cameron Hazelhurst (Chairperson)
Foundation Principal, The Ethicos Group

Mr Jeff Angel
Executive Director, Total Environment Centre

Ms Nicole Lawler
Health Safety & Environment Manager, Boral

Ms Phillippa Biswell
Environmental Scientist / Educator, Sutherland Shire Council

Ms Eleanor Carswell
Community representative

Mr Ian Gregson
Principal Environmental Consultant, GHD

Dr Alex Pulkownik
School of the Environment, University of Technology

Ms Rebecca Simpson
Senior Team Leader, Major Projects, Environmental Trust

Biodiversity and Green Corridors Subcommittee

Dr Carolyn Davies (Chairperson)
Director, Environmental Programs Branch, OEH

Mr Richard Thackway
Consultant, Vast Transformations

Ms Bronwyn Petrie
Representing NSW Farmers

Mr Peter Dixon
Senior Manager, Environmental Grants, Environmental Trust

Mr Peter Turner (delegate Ms Hillary Cherry)
Senior Weeds Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Mr Tim Low
Project Officer, Invasive Species Council

Ms Karen Eardley
Project Officer, Reserve Establishment National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program Subcommittee

Dr Carolyn Davies (Chairperson)
Director, Environmental Programs Branch, OEH

Mr Bruce Glover
Manager, Grants Administration, NSW Rural Assistance Authority

Ms Alexia Wellbelove / Mr Evan Quartermain (alternate Ms Nancy Pallin)
Senior Program Manager, Humane Society International

Mr Glenn Fahey
Representing NSW Farmers

Mr Leigh James
Senior Land Services Officer (Horticulture), Local Land Services

Mr Myles Parker
Leader Horticulture Development, Department of Primary Industries

Ms Rebecca Simpson
Senior Team Leader, Major Projects, Environmental Trust

Waste and Recycling Subcommittee

Mr Stephen Beaman (Chairperson)
Director Waste and Resource Recovery EPA

Dr Tony Wilkins
Head of Environment, News Corp Australia

Professor Don White
Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mr Paul Klymenko
CEO Planet Ark

Dr Paul Hogan
Director Investment & Export Services, NSW Trade & Investment

Mr Miles Lochhead
Convenor, Community Recycling Network

Mr Brian Fox-Lane
Director, Fox-Lane Consulting

Professor Adam Read
Practice Director, Ricardo-AEA

Ms Tracy Chalk
Manager Waste and Community Protection, Penrith City Council

Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism Subcommittee

Ms Sally Chatterjee (Chairperson)

Director, Customer Experience Tourism & Partnership,
National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Mr Anthony Laver

General Manager, Marketing, Destination NSW

Ms Suzanne Jones

Chair, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory
Council

Ms Rebecca Simpson

Senior Team Leader, Major Projects, Environmental Trust

Offsets Subcommittee

Mr David Trewin (Chairperson)

Regional Manager, Greater Sydney, OEH

Mr James Tregurtha

Assistant Secretary (South Eastern Australia Environment
Assessment), Department of the Environment

Ms Paula Tomkins

Senior Planner, Housing and Employment Delivery,
Department of Planning and Environment

Mr Minh Nguyen

Senior Financial Analyst, Natural Resource and Environment
Branch, NSW Treasury

Mr Neville Pavan

Manager, Land Services, Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Ms Rebecca Simpson

Senior Team Leader, Major Projects, Environmental Trust

Community and Sustainability Subcommittee

Dr Tony Wilkins (Chairperson)

Head of Environment, News Corp Australia

Professor Don White

Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Ms Madelaine Townsend

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Dr Greg Walkerden

Lecturer, Environmental Management, Macquarie University

Ms Kalina Koloff

Senior Team Leader, Community Engagement, OEH

Ms Rebecca Simpson

Senior Team Leader, Major Projects, Environmental Trust

Ms Susy Cenedese

Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW

Membership of Trust Technical Review Committees

Under section 9 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust has established several Technical Review Committees. These committees assess and recommend grant applications, provide guidance in implementation of the program and may review progress and final reports. The membership of each committee during 2014–15 is set out below.

Eco Schools Program

Ms Maria Rickert (alternate Mark Caddey) (Chairperson)
Senior Team Leader, Sustainable Communities, OEH

Ms Anne Lanyon
Coordinator, Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Columbian Mission Institute

Mr Brian Williams
Procurement Manager, Catholic Education Office

Ms Brigitte Herrmann
Support Teacher Transition, Department of Education

Ms Amanda Lee
Primary Curriculum Advisor, Department of Education

Ms Emma Hayes (Delegate)
Bushland Community Officer, Willoughby City Council

Environmental Education Program

Ms Roz Hall (Chairperson)
Sustainability and community education expert

Ms Kalina Koloff
Senior Team Leader, Community Engagement, OEH

Ms Erika Van Schellebeck (Community Program)
Sustainability Officer, Coffs Harbour City Council

Ms Sarah Warner (Government Program)
Environmental Planner, Lake Macquarie City Council

Ms Jane Smith
Executive Officer, Community Environment Network

Environmental Research Program

Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)
Director, Environment and Conservation Science, OEH

Dr Derek Van Dyk
Former Director, Strategic Development, Intersect

Dr Graeme Batley
Chief Research Scientist, Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research, CSIRO Land and Water

Professor Deirdre Lemerle
Director, EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, NSW Trade and Investment

Dr Brent Jacobs (Delegate)
Research Director, Natural Resources & Environment Cluster, UTS Institute of Sustainable Futures

Protecting our Places Program

Mr Peter Dixon (Chairperson)
Senior Manager, Environmental Grants, Environmental Trust

Late Mr John Lennis
Community representative

Mr Anthony Seiver
Principal Policy Officer (Culture and Heritage), Aboriginal Affairs NSW

Ms Margaret Bottrell
Senior Strategic Land Services Officer (Aboriginal Communities), Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Ms Robbie Beale
Senior Project Officer, Illegal Dumping, EPA

Cr Gwen Griffen
Chair, Min Min Aboriginal Corporation (also a Councillor on Gunnedah Shire Council)

Ms Barrina South
Senior Team Leader, Southern Region Heritage Branch, OEH

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Ms Jane Gibbs (Chairperson)
Senior Manager, Environmental Program Services, OEH

Mr Rob Gregory (Alternate Royce Bennett)
Manager, Land Services, Murray Local Land Services

Mr Ben Addison (Alternate James Dawson)
Regional Manager, Illawarra, OEH

Ms Kirsty McIntyre (Government Program) (Delegate)
Senior Policy Officer, NRM, Local Government NSW

Mr Justin Sauvage (Community Program) (Delegate)
Stormwater Engineer, Sutherland Shire Council

Ms Cilla Kinross
Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mr Marc Womer
Representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

Ms Mary-Lou Lewis (Community Program)
Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Ms Janet Rannard (Government Program)
Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program

Mr David Trewin (Chairperson)

Regional Manager, Greater Sydney, OEH

Mr Kieran Thomas

Senior Planner, Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Ms Rhiannon Cook (Alternate Jed Horner)

Senior Policy Officer, Council of Social Services of NSW

Ms Judy Christie

Community Representative

Saving our Species Partnership Grants Program

Ms Susanna Bradshaw (Chairperson)

Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife

Mr Bob Makinson

Conservation Botanist, Science Conservation & Education Branch, Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, Sydney

Mr Simon Duffy

General Manager, Life Sciences, Research & Conservation Taronga Conservation Society Australia

Dr Richard Major

Principal Research Scientist, Australian Museum

Dr John Hunter

Adjunct Senior Lecturer, School of Behaviour, Cognitive and Social Sciences, University of New England

Mr Peter Ridgeway

Senior Land Services Officer (Biodiversity), Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Ms Linda Bell

Senior Team Leader, Ecosystems and Threatened Species Environmental Programs, OEH

Ms Elizabeth Dixon

Team Leader, Environmental Planning and Threatened Species Assessment, Shoalhaven City Council

Waste Less Recycle More Initiative grant programs

Community Recycling Centres

Mr David Coleman (Chairperson)

Member of Local Government Managers Association

Mr Aaron Malloy

Waste Management Coordinator, Port Stephens Council

Ms Martina Rienzner

Strategic Coordinator, Hume Region, Sustainability Victoria

Mr John Davis

Financial and Committee member Men's Bowls Club, Urunga

Ms Rose Read

Manager, Recycling, Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association

Ms Jo Immig

Coordinator, National Toxics Network

Local Government Organics Collection Systems

Mr John Street (Chairperson)

Chairperson, Hawkesbury Environment Network

Mr Justin Lang

Program Manager, Local Government, Zero Waste SA

Mr Ken Wilson

Sustainable Services Coordinator, Clarence Valley Council

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small)

Mr Cameron Little (Chairperson)

Coordinator, Permaculture Northern Beaches

Mr Brock Baker

Project Leader, Market Development, Organics Resource Recovery, Sustainability Victoria

Mr Michael Wood

Director, EnviroMix

Mr Lachlan Jeffries

Managing Director, Jeffries Group

Mr James Turnell

Manager, Waste and Drainage, Armidale City Council

Mr John Street

Chairperson, Hawkesbury Environment Network

Love Food Hate Waste

Ms Kalina Koloff (Chairperson)

Senior Team Leader, Community Engagement, OEH

Mr Geoff Isaac

Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Households, OEH

Ms Linda Tohver

Education Coordinator, Newaste

Ms Sue Burton

Executive member, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Major Resource Recovery and Infrastructure

Mr Brad Gray (Chairperson)

Campaigns Manager, Planet Ark

Mr Phil Klepzig (delegate Ken Wilson, Clarence Valley Council)

Manager, Commercial Services, Lismore City Council

Mr Mark Rawson

Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Rawtec Pty Ltd

Mr David Cocks

Manager, Waste and Resource Recovery and Infrastructure, Integrated Waste Management, Sustainability Victoria

Innovation in Shredder Floc Management

Mr Bruce Howden (Chairperson)

Manager, Products and Material, Sustainability Victoria

Mr Tony Wright

Joint Managing Director, Wright Management Association Australia

Dr Sean O'Malley

Research and Technical Manager, Planet Ark

Ms Susy Cenedese (delegate Ms Leisha Deguara)

Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW

Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements

Ms Lyndall Holstein (Chairperson)

Programs Manager, Keep NSW Beautiful

Mr Keith Baxter

Leader Innovation, Innovation and Development, Office of Local Government

Mr Neil Chapman

Coordinator, Landfill Operations, Bankstown City Council

Mr Peter Lowery

Rehabilitation Manager, Waste Assets Management Corporation

Mr Craig Lees

Manager, Resource Recovery, Great Lakes Community Resources

Ms Megan Vallas

Project Coordinator, EPA Victoria

Priority Problem Waste Management

Ms Susy Cenedese (delegate Ms Leisha Deguara) (Chairperson)

Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW

Dr Sean O'Malley

Research and Technical Manager, Planet Ark

Ms Val Southam

Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management Association Australia

Dr Dennis De Kantzow

Tidy Towns Assessor, Keep NSW Beautiful

Mr Tony Wright

Joint Managing Director, Wright Corporate Strategy

Contact Information

Public access

Further information on the NSW Environmental Trust can be obtained by contacting:

Grants Administrator
PO Box 644
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
Telephone (02) 8837 6093
Email: info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Information on the Trust's grant programs is also available on the Trust's website at www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Offices

The Trust office is located at:

Level 6, 10 Valentine Avenue
Parramatta NSW 2150

The office is 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 grant programs
- NSW Environmental Trust annual reports from 1992–93 to 2014–15.

This annual report is available to download from the Trust's website at: www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

A range of case studies highlighting successfully completed grant projects is available from the Trust's Dissemination webpage at:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/casestudies.htm

Public access to government information

Rights to public information are covered by the NSW Government's *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act). It relates to personal and non-personal information held by government.

The Trust makes its information available in four different ways:

- through mandatory release (such as policies and guidelines available on the Trust's website)
- proactive release, which requires the Trust to release as much government information as possible in an appropriate format free-of-charge (or at lowest reasonable cost)
- through informal requests from members of the public
- through a formal application process, requesting specific information under the GIPA Act. This is the last resort if a member of the public hasn't been able to get information in any other way.

Under section 20 of the GIPA Act, government agencies are required to make available an information guide outlining the agency's structure and functions, the type of information held by the agency, and how members of the public can access information through that agency. The Trust's operations are covered by the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* OEH information guide which is available on the OEH website.

The Trust regularly and proactively releases information through its website, including information relating to the management of grant programs, provision of grant applications, applicant guidelines and other supporting documents, as well as publishing lists of successful grantees for each program. The Trust endeavours to release this information as soon as possible once it is available. The Trust publishes other information on an intermittent basis, such as case studies of successful grant projects.

All GIPA requests relating to the Trust are reported by OEH in the *OEH Annual Report*.

Abbreviations

AWT	Alternative Waste Treatment
CCA	Copper Chrome Arsenate
CLM	Contaminated Land Management program
CMA	Catchment Management Authority (former)
CRC	Community Recycling Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community
EOI	Expression Of Interest
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
FNPW	Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife
GER	Great Eastern Ranges
GIPA	Government Information (Public Access)
GCM	Global Climate Model
IFOA	Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals
LECG	Lead Environmental Community Groups
LGA	Local Government Area
NARCLiM	NSW and ACT Regional Climate Modelling project
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
POP	Protecting our Places
PLCG	Private Land Conservation Grants program
SoS	Saving our Species
TEC	Threatened Ecological Communities
TGTOI	The Gully Traditional Owners Inc.
TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
UV	Ultraviolet
WRF	Weather Research and Forecasting

Photographs

Page	Title and source
3	Endangered <i>Zieria citriodora</i> in the Kybayan Nature Reserve. Photo courtesy of OEH.
5	Hornsby Council and OEH staff meet to discuss management of Blue Gum High Forest on the Dog Pound Creek biobank site. Photo courtesy of OEH.
6	South East Forest National Park, Nungatta Creek, Nungatta Station. Photo courtesy of OEH.
10	Tweed Coast koalas: mother and offspring. Photo courtesy of Tweed Shire Council.
18	The heli-lance spray program allows thorough search and precision treatment of weeds on otherwise inaccessible cliff lines. Photo courtesy of Lord Howe Island Board.
19	Farmland with native vegetation. Photo courtesy of OEH Image Library. Credit: Michael Van Ewijk.
22	Stepping stone depicting a long nosed potoroo created as part of a project at the Little Yuin Aboriginal Preschool Corporation. Photo courtesy of Little Yuin Preschool.
23	The Gully BioBlitz was attended by 114 students from four local primary schools. Photo courtesy of Blue Mountains Shire Council.
30	Powerful owl chicks. Photo courtesy of Kristen Hardy.
34	Students from Sofala Public School visited Mount Piper power station to learn about how power is produced. Photo courtesy of Sofala Public School.
41	Adult psyllids with eggs. Photo courtesy of Markus Riegler.
42	The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Phase 2 has contributed to the conservation of threatened woodland and forest birds such as the vulnerable diamond firetail finch. Photo courtesy of K. Stepnell.
45	Selected households in Kiama Municipal Council prepare for a new household waste collection system that will convert kitchen and garden organics into compost. Photo courtesy of Kiama Municipal Council.
48	Clarence Valley Council has provided 17,500 households with compostable bin liners and educational material to encourage greater recovery of food waste. Photo courtesy of Clarence Valley Council.
55	UV tanning units ready for separation and recovery of components. Photo courtesy of OEH.
61	Barakee National Park. Looking east to rainforest gullies. Photo courtesy of Shelley Braithwaite/OEH.
79	Ku-ring-gai Council staff stand next to a site that has received additional protection through a biobanking agreement as part of the Linking Landscapes program. Photo courtesy of OEH.
82	South East Forest National Park Nungatta Station poa grasslands. Photo courtesy of Rachel Butterworth/OEH.

