NSW GOVERNMENT





NSW Environmental Trust
Annual Report 2019–20

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/environmental-trust



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Cool cultural burn at Rick Farley Reserve, Far West New South Wales. Photo: Dieuwer Reynders/DPIE

Green tree frogs (Litoria caerulea). Photo: Sam Willis/DPIE

Narriearra station in Far West New South Wales includes some of the Bulloo River floodplain. Photo: John Spencer/NPWS

Background image: Six foot walking track. Photo: Stephen Alton/DPIE

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NSW GOVERNMENT | Environmental Trust

The Honourable Matthew Kean MP
Minister for Energy and Environment
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present to you the 2019–20 annual report for the NSW Environmental Trust, 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.

During a year of catastrophic environmental impacts, the Trust has provided support for frontline responders in the wildlife rehabilitation sector through the Bushfire Relief Fund. It has assisted grantees in adapting their projects and timelines due to fire, flood and COVID-19 and supported the important work of cultural burning.

Underpinned by the Trust's objectives, this year a strategic review was undertaken to ensure the Trust's activities reflect current environmental priorities. As a result the Trust has realigned its key priorities over the next 18 months to focus on addressing climate change impacts on the environment, threatened species recovery and land acquisition for the national parks estate.

In 2019–20 the Trust provided more than $55 million for the delivery of environmental projects undertaken by research organisations, industry, community groups, Aboriginal organisations and government agencies. These funds are helping to reduce waste, produce innovative research, tackle feral animals, influence behaviour change and secure threatened species in the wild.

This year the Land Acquisition Program acquired a vast 52,000 hectares, with funds helping to secure the remote and unique Narriearra Station. Notably, this acquisition includes several landscapes previously unrepresented in national parks and provides vital habitat for threatened migratory birds.

Most prospectus projects from the 2018–20 process are now underway and the development process for Prospectus 2021 has started. The collaborative co-design with subject matter experts, which underpins the Trust's prospectus, guides the investment of tens of millions of dollars to enhance the NSW environment. Combining grassroots support with expert analysis, this biennial undertaking identifies the most appropriate avenues for investment, leverages substantial in-kind and financial support and delivers robust projects with measurement, monitoring and evaluation at their core.

Yours sincerely



Kate Wilson
Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust

About the NSW Environmental Trust

Functions of the Trust

The NSW Environmental Trust (the Trust) is an independent statutory body supporting projects that enhance the environment of New South Wales. Established under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* it funds contestable grants, major projects, and various NSW Government initiatives. The Trust is administered by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and chaired by the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment. The appendices of this report contain more information on Trust administration.

The objectives of the 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, 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, 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.

In 2019–20 Trust staff were employed within the Grants Branch of the Department's Environment, Energy and Science Group. For issues of compliance (such as disability inclusion action plans, workforce diversity, multicultural policies and services, work health and safety etc.) please refer to the *NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Annual Report 2019–20*.

Highlights of 2019–20

In 2019–20, the Trust spent more than $55 million on the delivery of environmental projects. These projects were undertaken by research organisations, community groups, industry, Aboriginal organisations, schools, and State and local government agencies.

This year many programs were impacted by fire, drought, flood and COVID-19, affecting both our grantees' ability to deliver projects and the involvement of their partners. Despite significant impediments to project delivery in 2019–20, grantees and their partners have shown great ingenuity and resilience, adaptively managing their projects to deliver some exceptional outcomes this year.

Strategic review of the Trust

Since the Trust was formed over two decades ago, the natural environment has experienced significant change and subsequent challenges. In response, an independent review of the Trust was undertaken during the year to examine its current focus areas and programs. As a result of the review, the Trust has determined new key priorities. A new four-year strategic plan has been developed following a series of interviews, workshops and discussions with Trust members, as well as a desktop review of existing programs and processes.

The new strategic plan is consistent with the legislative objects of the Trust and recognises the importance of adaptively managing Trust funding priorities to align with the most pressing environmental concerns. The Trust has identified its critical longer term priorities as:

1. strengthening the New South Wales natural environment, including acquiring properties to enhance the NSW national parks estate, restoring and rehabilitating ecosystems, and supporting Aboriginal communities to participate in protection, conservation and restoration of culturally significant land.
2. supporting native species and their habitats, including protecting threatened flora and fauna, increasing and stabilising threatened species populations and controlling invasive species.
3. reducing human-induced impacts on the environment, including supporting the circular economy and waste reduction, increasing initiatives that focus on climate change and emissions reduction, and improving air and water quality.

Over the next 18 months however, the Trust will focus on three priority issues:

- supporting acquisition of properties to enhance the NSW national parks estate
- supporting threatened species recovery
- mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts on the natural environment.

Most Trust programs already align with one or more of the strategic priorities, however the Trust will further incorporate the focus areas, fill gaps and extend program outcomes. New grants will complement existing NSW Government programs.

Beyond the new priorities, the Trust will remain responsive to new and emerging issues, especially where early investment can deliver a faster, more cost-effective approach. The Trust will continue to invest in longer term solutions, take a collaborative, cross-sector approach and leverage in-kind and co-contributions to enhance its programs.

Bushfire Relief Fund for Wildlife Rehabilitators

At the height of the catastrophic bushfires of 2019–20, the Trust provided almost $1 million to support wildlife rehabilitators' capacity to respond to bushfires. Koala habitat mapping was completed and made available to incident management teams during the 2019–20 bushfire season and is now informing planning and fire severity mapping for summer 2020–21. The Trust has also funded two 18-month positions to support the wildlife rehabilitation sector and establish frameworks for coordinating responses to future emergencies.

Acquiring land for conservation

This year the Land Acquisition Program acquired 52,000 hectares, including land for two new national parks. The Trust funded around 30% of the 153,415-hectare Narriearra Station acquisition, 46 kilometres east of Tibooburra in the State's far north-west. Containing several landscapes not currently represented in national parks, the station includes Aboriginal and historic artefacts. Featuring some of the Bulloo River floodplain and ephemeral wetlands which can host tens of thousands of waterbirds, the station supports 90% of the NSW distribution of the nationally endangered grey grasswren.

Trust funds have helped establish the Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park, safeguarding the last remaining undeveloped peninsula-plateau on the upper Blue Mountains western escarpment. The 306-hectare property was acquired following steadfast community advocacy to protect the land's natural, cultural and aesthetic qualities.

Three properties totalling 963 hectares were acquired for koala habitat, including a New England property which provided refuge for individual koalas during the 2019–20 bushfires. A property acquired near Kempsey supports east-to-west habitat connectivity in koala stronghold Maria National Park.

The Land Acquisition Program has also purchased a further 53.5 hectares of Everlasting Swamp, one of the State's largest remaining coastal floodplain freshwater wetlands. Supplementary financial support from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI Fisheries) will help reinstate natural flow regimes and improve water quality for terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

Orange and mouse ear hawkweed eradication begins in Kosciuszko

The first attempted eradication of a weed from New South Wales has had some early successes despite challenging conditions facing the $7.2-million Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication project.

The 2019–20 bushfires affected approximately 80% of orange hawkweed sites in the Snowy Mountains, leaving this fragile ecosystem open to further infestation. However, all hawkweed found before 23 April 2020 was treated. The bushfires helped lead to the discovery of a new infestation site that was previously hidden by thick undergrowth.

COVID-19 restrictions reduced the ability for hawkweed's large volunteer contingent to participate in surveillance. Despite this, 45 volunteers contributed more than 1500 in-kind hours and completed 12 weeks of surveys this year. In December 2019, 10 volunteers were helicoptered in with NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) and ACT Parks and Conservation staff to survey and treat hawkweed at remote sites prior to the bushfire season.

The University of Wollongong is progressing hygiene behaviour change research, including surveying park users and monitoring boot brush-down stations. The project has engaged more than 35 local landholders and attracted prime-time coverage on ABC's *Gardening Australia*.



Volunteers and field officers identifying orange hawkweed

Every two years the Trust produces a prospectus of projects that address serious and significant environmental issues. The goal is to invest in high-priority, collaborative projects designed by experts for maximum environmental outcomes.

Major Projects program provides robust goverance

An independent review of the Major Projects program, including the biennial prospectus process, has found the program's governance processes are well-designed and robust. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) found that the prospectus process for identifying new projects is comprehensive, including its highly valued engagement with experts and technical review processes. The co-design approach was found to encourage collaboration and cooperation between agencies and stakeholders, and is a 'key strength' of the program. Overall the NRC noted a 'genuine commitment to continuous improvement with staff demonstrating the strong culture of a learning organisation dedicated to delivering best value for money in grants administration'.

The report recommended a formal program strategy and logic; clarification of funding priorities, criteria and processes; strengthening and broadening stakeholder engagement in developing the prospectus; more proactive consultation with the Minister; and replacing or ceasing the unsolicited funding stream.

The Trust has responded positively to the report and the Major Projects program is updating governance procedures in line with recommendations. It will shortly commence a much broader program of stakeholder engagement during prospectus development as recommended by the evaluation.

Promoting waste avoidance and sustainability

The Waste Less, Recycle More (WLRM) initiative is a suite of programs funded by the waste levy, some of which are managed by the NSW Environmental Trust.

The initiative includes programs for local government, business, industry and the community. The programs support and complement each other, and together form a comprehensive approach to improving waste management in New South Wales.

The NSW Government has allocated $802 million over nine years for Waste Less, Recycle More. The initiative will run until 2020–21 with grants from $5000 to $5 million. This year around $29 million was awarded for projects that will help to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Contestable grants programs

In 2019–20 the Trust awarded over $6.5 million under its traditional contestable grant programs:

- around $3.9 million for projects that will enhance and restore natural habitat through rehabilitation and regeneration activities, including Aboriginal projects
- more than $1.5 million for projects that will deliver environment education projects in schools and the community
- around $87,000 in seed funding under the River Connections Program
- more than $1 million for research projects to inform approaches to genetic diversity in rainforest restoration, optimise citizen science approaches, and improve fire management by investigating cultural burning and new soil health knowledge.

Enhanced reporting and service offering for grantees

This year grantees submitted 144 applications through the new cloud-based grants management system (GMS). Staff and grantees will soon have access to dashboards to monitor their progress across four Trust programs, with more to come online in the next 12 months.

The GMS is helping to standardise grants management across the Trust's programs, and ensure best practice through customisable, outcomes-based planning and reporting design.

Trust programs and achievements



Land Acquisition Program

Funding the acquisition of land for national parks and other reserves for the national parks estate through section 7(d) of the Environmental Trust Act

$15.47 million paid to NPWS to acquire high conservation value land

52,000 hectares purchased for national parks

Achievements 2019–20

- Acquired 52,000 hectares across 10 properties
- Acquired lands include 963 hectares for koala conservation

Land for two new parks:

- 252.2 hectares of the 306 hectare **Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park**
- 46,000 hectares of the 153,415 hectare **Narriearra Station**

Species protected through land acquisition in NSW:

grey falcons
dwarf mountain pine
straw-necked ibises
tallowwoods
sandy inland mouse
brolgas
koalas
redthroats
Australian bustards
flooded gums
glossy black-cockatoos
yellow bellied gliders
squirrel glider
grey grasswrens

Existing national parks and reserves to be expanded by Trust-funded land acquisition:

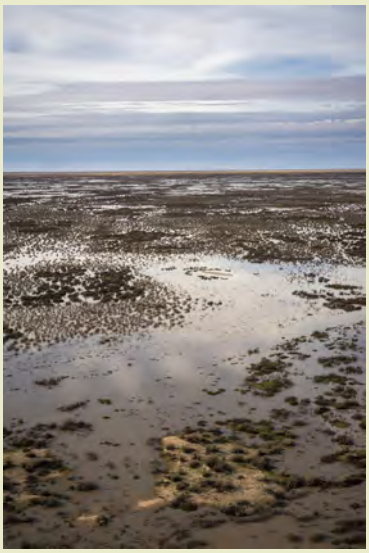
Yengo	**16.99 hectares**
Everlasting Swamp	**53.5 hectares**
Oxley Wild Rivers (two acquisitions)	**1,974.06 hectares**
Maria	**20.23 hectares**
Cataract	**911.92 hectares**
Bongil Bongil	**31.16 hectares**
Ledknapper Nature Reserve	**2,740 hectares**



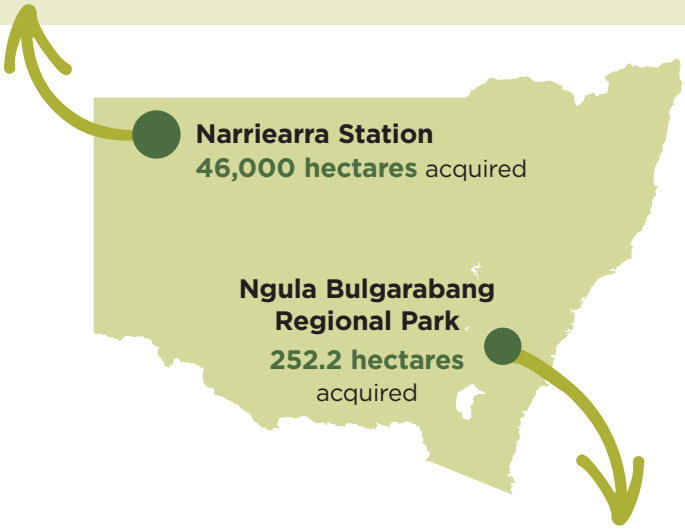
Grey grasswren

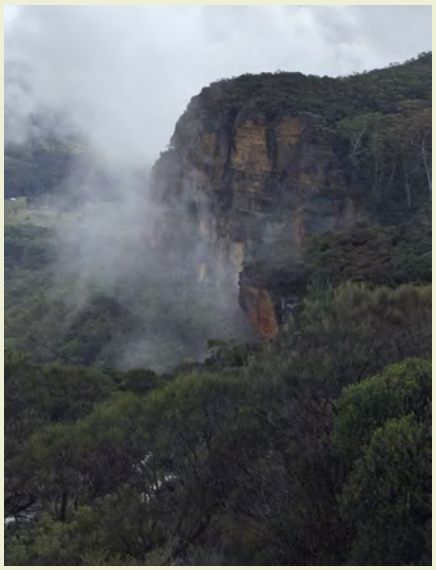
Land for two new parks





Narriearra Station contains several landscapes previously unrepresented in national parks.





Mist rises near the escarpment in Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park



Blue Mountains Ash

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Promoting environmental stewardship by providing grants of up to $100,000 for community and government organisations to reduce environmental degradation and pollution, protect important ecosystems and improve capacity for environmental restoration

Achievements 2019–20

- Planting 2000 trees on 23 properties connecting remnant endangered vegetation on key bird migration routes. Supporting landholders and Landcare groups with education and a planting equipment library
- Restoring populations of the habitat-forming crayweed (*Phyllospora comosa*) at eight locations along Sydney's coastline, aided by citizen scientist divers. Hundreds of crayweed have reproduced, enhancing diversity of marine life
- Weeding 13,000 square metres and removing around five tonnes of rubbish to improve habitat for endangered ecological communities like Hunter River Red Gum and White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland. Enthusiastic community support continues

Grants in 2019–20

Applications received
67

Funding sought
$5,955,640

Grants funded
35

Funding awarded
$3,167,458

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program outcomes 2015–17

6,923 hectares regenerated by native regrowth after weeding, fencing, erosion control or pest control

1,240 hectares revegetated by planting or direct seeding

461 organisations adopted improved land management practices

6,185 volunteers contributed 153,174 hours

730 contractors employed for over 112,901 hours

26,500 people attended **916** training and other **events**

5,080 students (primary, secondary and tertiary) involved for over 21,340 hours

Note: This data is drawn from reports submitted this year from 153 projects that were funded in the 2015–17 grant years, with 53 of these projects (35%) now complete. Several projects have extensions due to drought conditions, bushfires and COVID-19.

Table 1
Restoration and Rehabilitation grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian River Restoration Centre Limited	Rivers of Carbon – Crookwell	Upper Lachlan Shire	$99,470
Bangalow Koalas Inc	Bangalow Koalas Community Wildlife Corridor - East Coraki	Richmond Valley	$87,348
Bathurst Regional Council	Wetlands Enhancement – Bathurst Brick Pits	Bathurst Regional	$100,000
Big Scrub Landcare Inc.	Restoring Critically Endangered Lowland Subtropical Rainforest	Lismore City	$100,000
Border Ranges–Richmond Valley Landcare Network Inc.	Kyogle Koala Corridors	Kyogle	$98,732
Central Tablelands Landcare Inc	Riparian Restoration Through Revegetation	Orange City	$98,836
Envite Environment	Restoring and Connecting Rainforest Habitat in Wanganui Gorge Stage 2	Byron Shire	$100,000
Federal Landcare Group Inc	Restoring Federal and Hinterland Koala Habitats, Corridors and Waterways	Byron Shire	$100,000
Fingal Head Coastcare Incorporated	Restoring and Protecting Fingal Headland Themeda Grasslands and Significant Bird Habitats	Tweed Shire	$79,962
GLENRAC Inc.	GLENRAC – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity	Glenn Innes-Severn	$97,988
Goonengerry Landcare Group Inc.	Goonengerry Landcare Group Restoration and Rehabilitation Project 2020	Byron Shire	$99,848
Holbrook Landcare Group	Upper Murray Creek and Gully Woodlands	Snowy Valleys	$95,987
Hovells Creek Landcare Group Inc.	Hovells Creek Catchment Erosion Control and Habitat Rehabilitation	Hilltops Council	$99,833
Mackellar Range Landcare Inc.	Mackellar Range Corridor Restoration	Lismore City	$96,320
Macleay Landcare Network Inc.	Building Biodiversity Outcomes into the Macleay Land for Wildlife Program	Kempsey Shire	$91,799
Mid Coast Council	Burgess Beach Cape Hawke Seal Rocks Cliff-top Littoral Rainforest Restoration Project	Mid-Coast Council	$100,000
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Rehabilitation of Muscle Creek for Community and Environmental Benefit	Muswellbrook Shire	$73,766
Mutawintji Board of Management	Mutawintji Country Repair: *Paliirra Pantji, Paliirra Marnti*	Unincorporated Far West	$99,400
Nangarin Landcare	Cumberland Plain Woodland Restoration Stage 2	Wollondilly Shire	$27,700
North Coast Local Land Services	Rehabilitating Upper Richmond River Riparian Zones	Kyogle	$100,000
Northern Tablelands Local Land Services	Enhancing and Protecting the Conservation Values of Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) in the Northern Tablelands	Inverell Shire	$97,600
Orana Joint Organisation of Councils	Creating Homes for Threatened Species	Narromine Shire	$100,000
Petaurus Education Group Inc.	Continuing Squirrel Glider Landscape Connectivity Work in the Burrumbuttock Area	Greater Hume Shire	$100,000
Shoalhaven Landcare Association Inc.	Restoring and Enhancing Ecological Functioning in Remnant Vegetation in the Northern Shoalhaven	Shoalhaven City	$97,221

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Skillset Ltd	Rockley Mount Koala Corridors – Connecting Community through Conservation	Bathurst Regional	$100,000
South East Local Land Services	Collaborating for Effective Feral Pig Management, Kybean	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	$99,500
St Ives High School Parents and Citizens Association Incorporated	St Ives High School Regeneration for Sydney Turpentine and Ironbark Forest	Ku-Ring-Gai	$14,456
Sutherland Shire Council	Protection and Enhancement of EECs, and Supporting Habitat Within the Woronora River Catchment	Sutherland Shire	$36,090
Threatened Species Conservancy Inc.	Harrow Wattle Recovery Program	Wentworth Shire	$99,897
Tilligerry Community Association	Koala Habitat Improvement at Big Swan Bay	Port Stephens	$76,000
Tweed Landcare Inc.	Filling the Biodiversity Gaps Connecting Tweed Coast to Border Ranges – Stage 6	Tweed Shire	$100,000
Upper Snowy Landcare Network Incorporated	A Demonstration Site for Land Restoration on the Monaro – Phase 1: Replacing the Dieback Trees	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	$99,955
Western Landcare NSW Inc.	Seed Collection/Dispersal Nurseries	Central Darling Shire	$100,000
Western Local Land Services	Rangeland Restoration for Grey Range Thick-billed Grasswren	Unincorporated Far West	$99,750
Wilsons River Landcare Group Inc.	Wilsons River Schools Riparian Education and Biodiversity Restoration Project	Lismore City	$100,000
		Total	**$3,167,458**

Community and government funding streams were combined in 2019–20

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $4,139,717

CASE STUDY

Koalas navigate North Coast streets with help from the community



Above: Community outreach on koala rehabilitation on the Tomaree Peninsula.

On the Tomaree Peninsular, some residents are lucky enough to occasionally see koalas lumbering through their yards.

Port Stephens Council had planned a unique tree giveaway to encourage residents to plant koala-feed trees on their properties.

However, early in the project, monitoring showed the koalas were using the roads to avoid backyard dogs, which also meant they were more likely to be hit by cars. Based on the data, the council decided to create a series of linked, aerial corridors so the koalas could feed and move across the landscape without coming to ground level.

The community took to the program with gusto. Sixty TAFE students propagated mature street trees that council planted strategically to help koalas navigate the streets more safely.

Excellent community engagement included a school education program in conjunction with NPWS, an animated film *Journey of Steve the Koala*, a social media campaign, and dedicated koala webpages on council's website.

The council is now planning a training program for residents to assess koala habitat, and is developing an app so the community can report koala sightings.

Have you seen the Journey of Steve the Koala?

It's an animation using drawings from students at seven local schools. Put together by Port Stephens Council, it's about the major threats to urban koalas.

You can view the animation here: **youtu.be/DMxdaLJRiSs**

Saving our Species Partnership Grants Program

A $10-million program supporting 10-year partnerships between government, industry and community organisations to improve populations of threatened species, aligned with NSW Government Saving our Species (SoS) objectives

Grantees are in their fifth or sixth project year which means they will soon be entering the project's maintenance phase, which is not funded by the Trust. The Trust ran a workshop for grantees to prepare for this period. They will continue maintenance, monitoring and reporting until Year 10.

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $1,259,432

Funded projects include:

26 site-managed species to be secured by site-specific conservation actions

12 landscape-managed species requiring broad conservation actions to address habitat loss or degradation

67 co-occurring threatened species supported

Achievements 2019–20

- Releasing captive-bred regent honeyeaters into the wild, a first for NSW
- Conducting post-fire surveys for threatened macropods south of the Queensland border
- Establishing 12 new landholder agreements and 13 voluntary conservation agreements to protect and enhance habitat for the scarlet robin and Bell's turtle respectively

The Trust funded the release of 20 regent honeyeaters following a successful captive breeding program. It is hoped these birds will breed with the wild population to boost numbers of this critically endangered species.



Regent Honeyeater

SoS Partnership Grants Program outcomes from Round 1 and Round 2 grantees



1,019 hectares
of degraded habitat regenerating after weeding



109,833 seedlings
planted



1,987 people
participated in 111 training events in conservation or regeneration activities



380 hectares
of native habitat revegetated by planting



2,002 volunteers
contributed
49,451 hours of work towards conservation or regeneration activities



2,979 hectares
of habitat protected through fencing



246 educational resources
developed so far

Note: This is data reported to date, drawn from fourth-year reports submitted in 2019–20 by 2014 SoS Partnership projects, and third-year reports from 2015 SoS Partnership projects.

Table 2
Saving our Species Data Deficient Species grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Science Division	Addressing the Knowledge Gaps of Data-deficient Seabirds of NSW	Port Macquarie (Lord Howe Island)	$155,965
		Total	**$155,965**

Saving our Species Contestable Grants Program

A $9-million program, running until 2025, to support long-term projects targeting threatened ecological communities and landscape-managed species, aligned with the NSW Government's Saving our Species program objectives

Grantees and project partners attended Trust-funded workshops with SoS species experts to develop their tailored monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) plans. Twenty-seven grantees funded in 2018 are implementing these plans as they commence works and gather baseline data for their selected threatened landscape-managed species and ecological communities.

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $2,318,952

CASE STUDY

Guiding habitat connection for squirrel gliders

If you stuck a pin in the middle of Burrumbuttock, reached out 10 kilometres and drew a circle around the town, you'd ring around 500 or so squirrel gliders living in the surrounding landscape.

These tiny acrobatic marsupials are a threatened species, and like many Australian animals they live in tree hollows that take around a century to form. Loss of paddock trees due to old age or being cut down for agricultural reasons are a major threat to this vulnerable animal.

The Petaurus Education Group Inc. is partnering with landholders and government organisations to connect fragmented habitat across 6000 hectares. It is hoped the resident squirrel gliders will expand their home range and increase their genetic diversity.



Squirrel glider

Squirrel gliders are up to twice the size of sugar gliders. Sparsely distributed in eastern Australia, they nest in bowl-shaped tree hollows and need an abundance of old trees for refuge and nesting.

The project is off to a flying start with the grantee finalising seven local area management plan (LAMP) agreements with landholders. On-ground activities so far include weed control, revegetation across 12 hectares of priority sites, and four community events to increase public understanding of the species, as well as the importance of conserving large, old scattered paddock trees for squirrel glider habitat.

In two to three decades, squirrel gliders will be able to glide up to 90 metres between mature trees. It will be another 70 to 100 years before tree hollows will form, showing the time scales involved in restoring deforested areas. The ultimate goal is to double the local population of this threatened species to around 1000 individuals.

Bush Connect Program

Building partnerships between community, industry and government to deliver on-ground and community capacity-building activities within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor over 10 years. This is the fifth year of this $8 million program with 15 projects underway

Achievements 2019–20

- Extending one project area by 249 hectares by engaging six farmers in three priority locations around Holbrook. Leveraging additional funds to install 120 nest boxes for gliders and birds
- Fencing riparian areas from stock, planting tubestock, direct seeding and controlling woody weeds across 28 sites in the Goulburn area
- Maintaining connectivity outcomes and planting around 500 tubestock in fire-impacted sites

Bush Connect Program outcomes since 2015



4,093 hectares of new bushland corridors created



1,655 hectares of degraded bushland currently under regeneration



100 contractors employed for over 32,398 hours on conservation activities



141,567 seedlings planted and **36 kilograms** of native seed sown, helping to revegetate **564 hectares**



101 kilometres of fencing installed



1,764 volunteers contributed more than 85,975 hours to on-ground works

This data comes from 14 of 15 Stage 4 reports submitted in 2019–20.

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $932,376

CASE STUDY

Stitching bush pockets together on the Central Coast

Through tackling weed-infested corridors, Bush Connect sews together pockets of national park, state forest, council land and even private property through bush regeneration.

The Coastal Open Space System, run by Central Coast Council, protects areas with high ecological, cultural and historic values.

Thanks to a 2015 Bush Connect grant, the Community Environment Network (CEN) is building on this work, engaging an additional 44 landholders who have entered into voluntary conservation agreements.

CEN has worked with these landholders to develop individual property workplans to guide their on-ground works. The network also provides workshops and training events for landholders to help them improve habitat connectivity across their properties and the landscape.

Habitat condition has already improved thanks to weed removal across 42.5 hectares of combined private and public lands. An annual fauna monitoring program has revealed 42 native animals using these sites, including swamp wallabies, long-nosed bandicoots, lyrebirds and catbirds.

> **By helping landholders improve their individual properties we are having an impact at a landscape scale, which is improving habitat for threatened species including the eastern pygmy possum, long-nosed potoroo and yellow-bellied glider.**
>
> Community Environment Network CEO



Setting up a motion camera to monitor fauna

Priority weeds removed to date:

Lantana – *Lantana camara*

Micky mouse plant – *Ochna serulata*

Small leaved Privet – *Ligustrum sinense*

African olive – *Olea europaea spp. africana*

Bridal Creeper – *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*

Asparagus fern – *Protasparagus aethiopicus*

Green cestrum – *Cestrum parqui*

Cape Ivy – *Delairea odorata*

Mother of millions – *Bryophyllum delagoense*

Crofton weed – *Ageratina adenophora*

Trad – *Tradescantia fluminensis*

River Connections Program

A $10-million contestable grant program bringing diverse stakeholders together to trial new approaches to inland NSW river and aquatic health at a landscape scale

This new program received 12 expressions of interest. The Trust approved three proponents and paid seed funding to develop full business plans, which are now complete. Grants will be awarded next financial year.

Table 3
River Connections seed funding awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group	Murray – Baaka – Murrumbidgee Connections Through Water, Wetlands, Fish and Community	Statewide	$27,000
Murray Local Land Services	Refreshing River Management: New Partnership and Stewardship Pathways for Improving River Health	Statewide	$30,000
Western Local Land Services	Connecting and Coordinating River and Water Management Along the Darling River (Barka) in Western NSW	Brewarrina Shire, Bourke Shire, Central Darling Shire, and Wentworth Shire	$30,000
		Total	**$87,000**

Major restoration and rehabilitation projects

New major grant

Contaminated Land Management Program – Council Gasworks

Under its Council Gasworks Program the Trust awarded up to $200,000 for investigation and up to $500,000 for remediation of a former council gasworks site in Orange.

New major grant

Bushfire Relief Fund for Wildlife Rehabilitators

In late 2019 the Trust awarded $998,900 to NPWS to support wildlife rehabilitators' capacity to respond to bushfires. NPWS partnered with the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife to provide around $200,000 in emergency assistance grants for groups to buy wildlife rescue equipment. A total grant pool of $300,000 will also help replace large assets owned by wildlife rehabilitation organisations that were damaged or lost during the 2019–20 bushfire season. To increase capacity to treat wildlife, 20 wildlife carer training positions have been subsidised for veterinarians and veterinary nurses.

Koala habitat mapping was completed earlier this year and was available to incident management teams in the latter part of the 2019–20 bushfire season. This mapping is assisting bushfire planning and fire severity mapping for summer 2020–21. The Trust has also funded two wildlife coordinator positions for 18 months to support the wildlife rehabilitation sector in responding to the 2019–21 bushfire seasons and to establish frameworks for coordinating future responses that will optimise outcomes for NSW wildlife.

Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication

This project funded in 2018–19 has achieved some early successes. Teams surveyed and treated all known mouse-ear hawkweed sites in the Snowy Mountains and conducted a second survey in March, locating a new site at Mount Twynam.

Teams surveyed more than 40 square kilometres of high-priority sites for orange hawkweed. Drones, weed detector dogs and volunteers uncovered 20 new sites covering 145 square metres across public and private land. All plants found before April 2020 were treated and two new sites have been prioritised for treatment in spring 2020.

Rodent Eradication on Lord Howe Island

Rodents have not been detected on Lord Howe Island since October 2019 following aerial and land-based bating. Initial monitoring of black-winged petrels shows significant improvement in breeding success, rising from 2.5 to 70%. Taronga's captive management program was successful, with animals including Lord Howe woodhens released back into the wild.

Sampling of water, soils, pasture grass, dairy and eggs showed no sign of poison residue and twice daily monitoring for four weeks found no evidence of fish kills.

Flying foxes

Phase 1 of the Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program was completed this year, producing:

- statewide foraging habitat mapping for three flying-fox species
- ranking of all NSW flying-fox camps for restoration and conflict reduction arising from increasing human contact
- a 10-year program design and monitoring and evaluation framework

The Trust has endorsed the business plan outlining the second phase of the program. It will fund $5 million over 10 years to investigate and share ways to enhance, restore or create flying-fox habitat that reduces conflict with humans.

Council roadside reserves

This was the final year of this project which supports councils to better manage the environmental values of council roadside reserves (CRR). The project created key tools and resources including a roadside environmental management framework, a step-by-step guide to the rapid assessment method (RAM), an eLearning program and a roadside vegetation management plan template to fit within councils' integrated planning and reporting framework

The CRR funding included 19 council projects which conducted 1000 conservation value assessments on roadsides using the RAM, trained more than 300 council staff and produced environmental management plans and policies to manage CRR environmental values.

Travelling stock reserves

Completed this year, this project has developed a rapid assessment method which has been used to assess and map the conservation value of all travelling stock reserves in NSW. Assessment outcomes are available on the NSW Government's SEED portal (Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data in NSW). The Local Land Services toolkit *Travelling Stock Reserves: Best environmental management practice* is continuing to help Local Land Services to deliver land management outcomes.

Table 4

Major restoration and rehabilitation grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – NPWS	Bushfire Relief Fund for Wildlife Rehabilitators	Various	$998,900
Orange City Council	Contamination Investigation and Remediation of Former Orange Gasworks Site	Orange City	$700,000
		Total	**$1,698,900**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $5,015,015

Protecting our Places Program

A $500,000 program to assist eligible Aboriginal organisations to protect and restore culturally significant land, share cultural knowledge and educate the community about the importance of the environment in Aboriginal life

Grants awarded 2019–20

Applications received
23

Funding sought
$1,198,429

Grants funded
11

Funding awarded
$584,334

The Protecting Our Places (POP) Program delivers culturally appropriate and safe project management training and guidance to grantees using real-life experiences. It is supported by an almost entirely Indigenous technical review committee.

Achievements 2019–20

- Carrying out 12 cultural burns throughout NSW
- Targeting feral foxes, goats, cats and rabbits on Country
- Planting almost 5000 trees, shrubs and grasses over two hectares

The Trust held five capacity-building workshops for 2019–20 grantees at Evans Head, Narrabri, Jesmond, Wollongong and Albury, and six online workshops.

Protecting our Places Program outcomes from projects funded in 2017

68 hectares regenerated by native regrowth after weeding, fencing, erosion control or pest control

75 Aboriginal people on Country who contributed nearly **1,700** hours

354 volunteers who contributed **1,452** hours, **15 contractors** employed for more than **1,000** hours

290 people attended **41** training events

29 organisations actively collaborating on these projects

Note: This data is drawn from reports submitted in 2019–20 from projects approved during the 2017 funding round.

Table 5
Protecting our Places grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	Gilah Gardens – Turning a Paddock Into a Habitat Garden	Albury	$49,000
Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council	Restoring, Maintaining and Protecting Country at Morisset	Lake Macquarie	$60,000
Birrigan Gargle Local Aboriginal Land Council	Pippi Beach Renewal	Clarence Valley	$59,550
Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council	Darkinjung Mirring Women Muree (the Fire Spirit) Warre Warren Project	Central Coast	$52,500
Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation	Djamaga Ganji (Good Fire)	Shoalhaven	$60,000
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Mt Keira Cultural Restoration	Wollongong	$57,700
Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation	Going Bingings – Protecting Freshwater Turtles from the Impact of Cane Toads	Richmond Valley	$60,000
Minyumai Land Holding Aboriginal Corporation	Restoring Minyumai's Rainforest Gullies and Grassy Slopes	Richmond Valley	$47,500
Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council	Wattle Ridge IPA Cultural Walk Improvement	Armidale Regional	$58,500
Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation	Rewilding Sydney's Remnant Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub	Randwick	$59,444
Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protection of a NSW Endangered Species, *Senecio spathulatus*, in Stockton's Dynamic Dunal System	Port Stephens	$20,140
		Total	**$584,334**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $308,268



Aboriginal people sharing and applying cultural knowledge around a malleefowl geoglyph

CASE STUDY

Magic cultural practice touches far-west New South Wales

There's some magic happening out in Rick Farley Reserve, with the Mothers Ancestral Guardians Indigenous Corporation (MAGIC) reconnecting cultural practice back to the land.

With the help of a 2018 Protecting our Places grant, MAGIC is culturally restoring 12,000 hectares of mallee land in Rick Farley Reserve. Already, the group has increased native species across this cultural landscape. Habitat diversity and resilience has improved, with MAGIC culling feral pests such as goats, foxes, rabbits and cats.

MAGIC is addressing present and future environmental issues by applying cultural practices to land and resources and delivering long-term benefits to Aboriginal communities and the environment.

Not only has MAGIC revitalised cultural land management practices, including seed collecting and replanting, but they have conducted cool burns to encourage natural regeneration and reduce bushfire risk. They will record these processes and share their learnings.

Importantly, MAGIC has created opportunities for Aboriginal people to share and apply cultural knowledge while connecting with Country. Cultural connections have improved by running numerous camps with schools and community groups. These camps involve malleefowl ceremony (pictured), in which the group creates a large sand geoglyph and shares lessons about roles and responsibilities in managing Country. The camp includes walking on Country to help people connect with place, learning how to monitor for reptiles, conducting cool burns, sharing songs and dances for species, and visiting an ancient artefact site.

> **“The icing on the cake was the burning – this was one of the most wonderful experiences I have ever had. Such a sense of connection to Country and community, trust, responsibility, love and care.’**
>
> Recent MAGIC camp participant at Rick Farley Reserve

As well as meaningful educational outcomes from sharing culture with the broader community, the MAGIC happens when people connect with Country and the core cultural values underpinning sustainable natural resource management.

Environmental Education Program

A $1-million program that develops the community's knowledge, skills, and commitment to improving the environment, and facilitates behaviour change to address sustainability challenges

Grants awarded in 2019–20

Expressions of interest received
127

Applications invited
29

Funding sought
$3,430,038

Grants funded
12

Funding awarded
$1,332,610

With no grant round last year, more money was available in 2019–20

Achievements 2019-20

- Fostering a sense of stewardship of the threatened Sloanes froglet and wetland habitats in the Corowa region. Through a digital interactive learning package, hands-on activities at wetland restoration sites, and contributions from Wiradjuri and Pbangerang Aboriginal elders, the project engaged primary school children and led to a commitment with Federation Council around ongoing regenerated wetland maintenance
- Educating the community about the health of the Richmond River: three short animations reaching more than 83,000 people aired on regional TV, in local cinemas and on social media. Monitoring has shown some early behaviour change

Environmental Education Program outcomes 2015–17

929 training and awareness raising events delivered to over **25,312 people**

7,306 students (primary, secondary and tertiary) involved for **28,635 hours**

478 partnerships with government and community organisations

1,174 educational products and resources produced

1,554 volunteers contributed over **20,000 hours**

Note: This data is drawn from reports submitted this year from 41 projects funded in the 2015–17 grant years, with 26 of these projects (63%) now complete.

Table 6
Environmental Education grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bathurst Regional Council	River Connections – Knowing and Caring for the Wambool / Macquarie River	Bathurst Regional	$60,000
Central Tablelands Landcare Inc.	Dung Beetle Breeding Gone Wild	Orange City	$30,952
City of Canada Bay Council	Building Biodiversity – Protecting Coastal Saltmarsh and Migratory Shorebirds in Canada Bay	City of Canada Bay	$50,400
Clarence Landcare Incorporated	Clarence Cane Toad Community Education Project	Clarence Valley	$250,000
Cowra Shire Council	From Little Things Big Things Grow	Cowra Shire	$38,826
Eurobodalla Shire Council	We Care about Waste	Eurobodalla Shire	$60,000
Mid Lachlan Landcare Inc.	Soils for the Future	Cowra Shire	$59,778
OzFish Unlimited	Growing River Stewardship	Statewide	$195,825
Queensland University of Technology	Technologies for Reducing Waste at Music Festivals	Byron Shire, Central Coast	$238,324
The Mulloon Institute Limited	Landscape Rehydration Capacity Building: Developing Curriculum	Statewide	$250,000
Tweed Shire Council	Take Your Lead	Tweed Shire	$60,000
Western Local Land Services	Improving Ground Cover in the Summer Fallow Period in the Balranald Region	Balranald Shire	$38,505
		Total	**$1,332,610**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $563,333

Eco Schools Program

Providing grants of $3500 to schools to help them deliver hands-on learning opportunities through curriculum-based environmental education

This program:

- develops student environmental knowledge, values and behaviour
- helps teachers access targeted professional learning and integrate environmental management into school curriculums
- encourages schools and the community to work together for sustainability outcomes.

Eco Schools grants awarded 2019–20

Applications received
93

Funding sought
$325,500

Grants funded
54

Funding awarded
$189,000

Achievements 2019–20

- Lakelands Public School measured and analysed vegetable plant growth across different soil types, audited household waste, constructed a worm farm and distributed its liquid fertiliser to the local community
- Shearwater Steiner School planted over 1000 native rainforest tree species and 350 native rushes to extend an existing pocket of rainforest and stabilise erosion along Mullumbimby Creek

Eco Schools Program outcomes 2017

5,922 primary and more than 1,861 high school students participated

183 new or updated teaching units delivered

494 volunteers contributed 1,569 hours

15.9 tonnes of waste recycled or reduced

6,432 plants cultivated, including food and native plants

Note: This data is drawn from reports submitted this year from 45 final reports (56%) from the 81 projects that continued from the 2017–18 financial year.

Table 7
Eco Schools Program grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Aetaomah School	A Biodynamic Vegetable Garden	Tweed Shire	$3,500
Aldavilla Primary School	Organic Lifeskills & Lifestyles	Kempsey Shire	$3,500
Austinmer Public School	The Composting Zone – Organic Waste Recycling System and Learnscape	Wollongong City	$3,500
Balgownie Public School	In the Foothills of Mt Keira – 'Kullillah' (Meeting Place)	Wollongong City	$3,500
Bowraville Central School	Engaging in the World of Native Bees	Nambucca Valley	$3,500
Callaghan College Waratah Technology Campus	Plant Your Plate	Newcastle City	$3,500
Cambridge Park Public School	The Sensory Garden	Penrith City	$3,500
Campbell House School	Living Classroom and Aboriginal Yarning Circle	Campbelltown City	$3,500
Caringbah North Public School	Caringbah North Sustainable Bush Tucker Garden	Sutherland	$3,500
Casino West Public School	Sensory Retreat	Richmond Valley	$3,500
Chifley College Shalvey Campus	Creating Healthy Gardens for a Sustainable Future	Blacktown City	$3,500
Coal Point Public School	Environmental Avengers – Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Compost	Lake Macquarie City	$3,500
Corowa Public School	Bpangerang Native Garden	Federation	$3,500
Corrimal High School	Our Sensory Space	Wollongong City	$3,500
Crabbes Creek Public School	How Will we Improve the Water Quality and Ecosystem of our Creek?	Tweed Shire	$3,500
East Maitland Public School	The Endemic Friendship Garden	Maitland City	$3,500
Harbord Public School	Unwrapped	Northern Beaches	$3,500
Hilltop Road Public School	Managing Waste and Ecosystems	Cumberland	$3,500
Holy Family Primary School	Holy Family Eco Warrior's Garden Project	Cumberland	$3,500
Huntingdon Public School	Engaging in the World of Native Bees	Port Macquarie –Hastings	$3,500
Jamberoo Public School	The JPS Rainforest and Bush Tucker Gardens Project	Kiama Municipality	$3,500
Katoomba High School	Reducing Waste, Growing Biodiversity	Blue Mountains City	$3,500
Lake Cargelligo Central School	Kartjellakoo (Wiradjuri meaning 'he had a coolamon')	Lachlan Shire	$3,500
Leeville Public School	Habitat and Homes for Leeville Gliders	Richmond Valley	$3,500
Lucas Heights Community School	Sensory Garden - Support Unit	Sutherland Shire	$3,500
Manning Adventist Bush School	Bush Food Garden and Propagation House	Mid-Coast	$3,500
Marayong Public School	Accessible Outdoor Learning Space for our School Community	Blacktown City	$3,500
Maria Regina Catholic Primary School	'Ribbit!' Let's Grow Together in our Habitat Sensory Garden	Northern Beaches	$3,500
Mater Maria Catholic College Warriewood	Warriewood Waste Warriors	Northern Beaches	$3,500

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
McCarthy Catholic College Emu Plains	A Sustainable Riparian Zone on the Nepean River	Penrith City	$3,500
Moorebank High School	Project Sensory Garden, The Art Courtyard, Moorebank High School	Liverpool City	$3,500
Muirfield High School	Muirfield Kitchen and Sensory Garden	Parramatta City	$3,500
Nambucca Valley Christian Community School	Engaging in the World of Native Bees	Nambucca Valley	$3,500
Oran Park Public School	Garden and Environment-Support Unit	Camden	$3,500
Raleigh Public School	Raleigh Public School Native Bee Project	Bellingen Shire	$3,500
Richmond Christian College	Richmond's Riches Kitchen Garden	Ballina Shire	$3,500
Ryde Public School	Sensory Garden & Outdoor Learning Environment	City of Ryde	$3,500
Ryde Secondary College	Ryde Secondary College: Enhancing Environmental Teaching & Learning	City of Ryde	$3,500
Shalvey Public School	Connecting to Country Garden	Blacktown City	$3,500
Shoal Bay Public School	Squeeze the Day Garden	Port Stephens	$3,500
St Bede's Catholic Primary School	Through the Senses we are Connecting with our Environment	Queanbeyan–Palerang Regional	$3,500
St Clair High School	The Farm	Penrith City	$3,500
St John Paul II Catholic College	Let's Clean Up Our School	Blacktown City	$3,500
St John's College Woodlawn	Restoration and Rehabilitation of College Rainforest	Lismore City	$3,500
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead	Land and Sea in Harmony	Lake Macquarie City	$3,500
St Rose Catholic Primary School	Bee Amazing	Northern Beaches	$3,500
Tallowood Steiner School	Welcoming Native Bees	Nambucca Valley	$3,500
The Beach School	The Beach School Water Wise Urban Food Garden	Northern Beaches	$3,500
The Entrance Public School	The Entrance School and Community Kitchen Garden	Central Coast	$3,500
Towradgi Public School	Outdoor Learning Area: Sensory Gardens, Towradgi Public School	Wollongong City	$3,500
Trinity Anglican College Albury	Refutree Project	Albury City	$3,500
Trinity Catholic Primary School Kemps Creek	Trinity's Waste Not Want Not Project	Penrith City	$3,500
Westmead Public School	Westmead Kitchen Garden	Cumberland	$3,500
Wyndham College	Wyndham's School Kitchen Garden	Blacktown City	$3,500
		Total	**$189,000**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $166,500

Major education projects

Every Bit Counts – Engaging Small Area Landholders

Awarded in 2017–18, this project engages lifestyle farm and small property owners across coastal New South Wales to improve land management practices.

This year the grantee developed resources and expanded small landholder networks in the Greater Sydney and South East regions.

In response to COVID-19, face-to-face engagements were replaced with a four-part webinar series for peri-urban landholders, a virtual farm walk, and an online presentation on the Who's Living on Your Land? camera monitoring project.

New major grant

Wildlife Heroes

Funded by the Trust, this new project is helping the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW) build the capacity of the wildlife rehabilitation sector. It will establish knowledge-sharing systems, improve community information, attract philanthropic co-investment and provide resources for wildlife carers.

FNPW has partnered with charity Two Green Threads to help care for the health of Australia's 10,000 wildlife carers. Podcasts were launched in June 2020 with 405 downloads recorded in the first six weeks. In collaboration with NPWS, online training resources and webinars covering wildlife species, governance and skills training were established in April 2020.

Immersive Learning in Local and National Parks in Western Sydney

Funded by the NSW Government's waste levy, in its second year this project has developed a digital hub with Stage 3 and 4 lesson plans for teachers to engage students on the natural environment of Sydney's west. Grantee NPWS has trialled geography fieldwork activities; partnered with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to plant trees in schools; and is continuing to develop the Junior Rangers in Schools program.

Table 8

Major education grant awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	Wildlife Heroes	Various	$1,470,613
		Total	**$1,470,613**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $1,039,037

Environmental Research Program

A $1 million program supporting research that solves environmental problems, replaces harmful industry operation methods and evaluates innovations to decrease environmental degradation in New South Wales

Achievements 2019–20

- Working with industry and stakeholders to identify the main barriers to efficient construction and demolition waste management. Developing a set of viable solutions for industry to divert the 45% of waste that is landfilled each year.
- Examining how perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in firefighting foam and household goods make their way into the water table. These can bioaccumulate and are toxic to some animals. By investigating soil properties as well as organic carbon and pH levels, CSIRO determined that a combination of these properties, rather than any single factor, is responsible for movement of PFAS into the water table. This is an important step towards predicting the ability of PFAS to contaminate environmental systems, and investigating preventative methods.

Grants awarded in 2019–20

Expressions of interest received
100

Applications invited
29

Funding sought
$5,164,878

Grants funded
6

Funding awarded
$1,065,033

Environmental Research Program outcomes 2015–17

65 innovative technologies or new methods or approaches to previously known work generated

172 resources and articles produced including articles published in academic journals and other scientific publications

Note: This data is drawn from reports submitted this year for 32 projects that continued after being funded in the 2015–17 grant years, with 13 of these projects (41%) now complete.

255 scientific or technical conferences and other events where the research has been presented

947 people contributed including 56 post-graduate students and 520 volunteers

97 organisations involved or assisting with these projects

Table 9
Environmental Research grants awarded in 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian National University	Measuring Connectivity and Ecohydrology Across the Darling River System	Statewide	$150,000
Big Scrub Landcare Inc.	Improving Genetic Diversity to Secure Rainforest Restoration Outcomes	Statewide	$200,000
Charles Sturt University	Society and Science: A New Approach to Wildlife Disease Surveillance	Wagga Wagga	$200,000
Macquarie University	Predicting the Impacts of Groundwater Abstraction on Groundwater Ecosystems	Statewide	$198,162
Mothers Ancestral Guardians Indigenous Corporation	Cultural Burning and New Soil Health Knowledge for Improved Fire Management	Wentworth	$149,875
University of New South Wales	Optimising Biodiversity Sampling by Citizen Scientists	Statewide	$166,996
		Total	**$1,065,033**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $1,154,932

Major research projects

New major grant

Beyond Fencing

The Trust awarded $516,223 to the University of NSW (UNSW) to reintroduce the greater bilby, burrowing bettong, western quoll and crest-tailed mulgara to a 'wild training zone' in the State's far west. UNSW will research whether these species can persist and adapt to controlled low densities of feral cats and foxes and whether they can accelerate natural selection related to predator awareness.

New major grant

Biocontrol Research for Weed Management

Research under this expanded program focuses on the following biocontrol agents and target weeds:

- stem-wilting bug for leaf cactus: host-specificity testing now complete
- thrips for broad leaf pepper tree: CSIRO has sourced 16 of the 23 non-target plant species
- rust fungus for balloon vine: CSIRO has sourced the target weed and 11 of the 24 non-target species.

The grantee also applied to release the biocontrol agent for sea spurge in 2019–20.

Cross-tenure Feral Deer Management

The project team commenced in late 2019 and has made significant progress despite a challenging start to 2020. The deer monitoring program is well underway, with 106 monitoring cameras covering an area of approximately 70 square kilometres across Kosciuszko National Park and privately managed lands. The team has also trialled aerial thermal surveys across the entire project site. They have finalised partnership agreements with local land managers and continue to work with Local Land Services and other research groups to share knowledge and collaborate on this cross-tenure project.

Developing Strategies for Effective Feral Cat Management

The project team was established this year, and predator and prey monitoring has commenced across the project field sites, despite the impacts of bushfires, flooding rain and COVID-19. In addition the team has begun assessments of a number of new control measures to understand their potential risks and benefits for use in New South Wales.

Table 10
Major research grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship	Biocontrol Research for Weed Management – Stage 3 – 2020 Implementation Plan	Statewide	$499,478
University of New South Wales	Beyond Fencing – Giving Threatened Species a Fighting Chance	Unincorporated Far West	$516,223
		Total	**$1,015,701**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $3,557,693

Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative

Australia's largest waste and recycling funding program, helping communities and businesses reduce waste to landfill

Trust funding available until 2020–21 under Waste Less, Recycle More 2	$57 million
Trust and EPA total funding 2013–21	$802 million
Projects funded 2019–20	32

Organics Infrastructure Fund

Supporting collection and recycling of organics and reducing food waste

Organics Collection Program – household and business streams

Up to $500,000 for business grants and up to $1.3 million for councils to divert organics from landfill

Household stream

- Applications received: 2
- Funding sought: $1,723,146
- Grants awarded: 2
- Funding awarded: $1,219,882

Business stream

- Applications received: 6
- Funding sought: $1,943,306
- Grants awarded: 3
- Funding awarded: $780,043

Table 11
Organics Collection Program grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Business stream			
Bega Valley Shire Council	Choose the Right Bin	Bega Valley Shire	$153,883
Bio-Renewables Riverina Pty Ltd	Albury Commercial Food Waste Collection	Albury	$368,625
CAL Technologies Pty Ltd	CAL Technologies Commercial Food Waste Diversion Project	Sutherland Shire, Georges River, Canterbury-Bankstown, Bayside	$257,535
		Total	**$780,043**
Household stream			
Inner West Council	Food Organics Service for Apartments	Inner West	$814,640
Snowy Valleys Council	FOGO Service Delivery in Snowy Valleys Council	Snowy Valleys	$405,242
		Total	**$1,219,882**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $1,803,566

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

Providing approximately $65 million since 2013 for a broad range of projects that process organic waste or support food donation

The Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) (OILS) Program includes five streams:

1. organics processing infrastructure
2. business organics recycling
3. food donation
4. product quality
5. transfer stations.

500,000 tonnes = extra organics processing capacity that can be used in New South Wales thanks to the OILS program

Funding awarded 2019–20

Applications received
31

Funding sought
$17,389,480

Grants funded
17

Funding awarded
$8,501,450

Table 12
Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1: Organics processing			
Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd	ANL Badgerys Creek FOGO Tunnel Processing	Liverpool CIty	$2,915,000
Bettergrow Pty Limited	Wetherill Park Organics Recovery and Recycling Facility	Fairfield CIty	$1,455,907
Lockhart Shire Council	Lockhart Organics Processing Facility	Lockhart Shire	$132,400
Richmond Valley Council	Richmond Valley FOGO Composting Facility	Richmond Valley	$240,720
Snowy Valleys Council	Snowy Valleys Council Composting Facility	Snowy Valleys	$946,924
WormTech Pty Ltd	Worm Tech Pty Ltd – Carrathool Organics Facility Expansion	Murrumbidgee	$756,924
Stream 2: Business organics recycling			
AMP Capital Investors Limited	Macquarie Centre Public Area Food Waste Organics Collection	CIty of Ryde	$178,300
Council of the City of Sydney	Plates to Parks – Recycling Food Waste Locally	CIty of Sydney	$304,740
David Jones Pty Limited	Organic Food Waste Project	CIty of Sydney	$106,569
Taronga Conservation Society Australia	Wild About Recycling – Diverting Food Waste and Compostable Packaging	Dubbo Regional	$187,300
The University of Sydney	On-site Organic Waste Aerobic Digestor	CIty of Sydney	$376,560
Stream 3: Food donation			
Addison Road Community Organisation	WOW 2 Food! Inner West	Inner West	$72,270
Hope Care Bathurst	Food Rescue Regional Distribution – Our Next Step	Bathurst Regional	$160,000
OzHarvest	OzHarvest Food Rescue Capacity Increase	CIty of Sydney	$199,889
Providential Homes Inc.	Food for the Homeless 2020	Blacktown CIty	$84,319
SecondBite Melbourne	SecondBite NSW Operational Expansion	Various	$304,200
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW	Illawarra Fresh Food Connection	Wollongong CIty	$79,428
		Total	**$8,501,450**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $6,390,733

Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Program

Accelerating and stimulating investment in waste and recycling infrastructure to increase cost-effective recycling of waste materials from households and businesses to help meet the NSW 2021 recycling targets

Grants awarded in 2019–20

Applications received
36

Funding sought
$136,156,265

Grants funded
4

Funding awarded
$17,589,425





Top: The Boral Berrima cement works
Above: The Cleanaway-ResourceCo facility in Wetherill Park, Sydney

Table 13
Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Program grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Boral Cement Limited	Berrima Kiln Chloride Bypass	Wingecarribee Shire	$4,684,425
Cleanaway Pty Ltd	The Cleanaway, PACT and Asahi Beverages Food-grade rPET Project	Blacktown City	$4,800,000
SUEZ Recycling & Recovery Australia	Chullora Fibre Beneficiation Facility	Canterbury-Bankstown	$4,800,000
SUEZ Recycling & Recovery Australia	Chullora Plastics Beneficiation Facility	Canterbury-Bankstown	$3,305,000
		Total	**$17,589,425**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $2,558,942

Improved Systems for Household Problem Wastes – Community Recycling Centres Program

Providing free drop off centres for NSW household problem wastes

Household problem wastes accepted free of charge:

- paints
- motor, cooking, hydraulic and transmission oils
- household and car batteries
- fluorescent and compact fluorescent lighting
- gas cylinders
- smoke detectors

Community recycling centres (CRCs) open to the public: 92

NSW households with access to a CRC: over 75%

Grants awarded 2019–20

Applications received
7

Funding sought
$1,428,421

Grants awarded
6

Funding awarded
$1,125,625

Table 14

Community Recycling Centres Program grants awarded 2019–20

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Blue Mountains City Council	Blaxland CRC	Blue Mountains City	$83,875
Camden Council	Camden Council Community Resource Recycling Centre	Camden	$200,000
Council of the City of Ryde	Macquarie Park CRC Facility	City of Ryde	$291,750
Parkes Shire Council	Parkes Waste Facility – Community Recycling Centre	Parkes Shire	$150,000
Parramatta City Council	Parramatta Community Recycling Centre	Parramatta City	$200,000
Wollondilly Shire Council	Wollondilly Shire Council Community Recycling Centre	Wollondilly Shire	$200,000
		Total	**$1,125,625**

Milestone payments for active grants in 2019–20: $176,362

Milestone payments for active grants made across other programs in 2019–20:

- Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund: $502,527 under the Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program
- Landfill Consolidation Fund: $2,679,175 under the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Program
- Recycling Innovation Fund: $439,507 under the Innovation in Priority Problem Wastes Management Program
- Organics Infrastructure Fund: $1,950 under the Love Food Hate Waste Program

CASE STUDY

Reducing the environmental impact of cement through waste to energy

Cement production is extremely energy intensive. Thanks to a Trust grant of more than $4 million, the largest cement producer in New South Wales, Boral, has adapted its kiln to use 20% less coal by firing up with solid waste-derived fuels (SWDFs).

Solid waste fuels can include construction, demolition and timber wastes, or even used tyres, diverting what can often be problematic and polluting wastes from landfill. Given that Boral's Berrima cement kiln supplies around 60% of the State's cement, the Trust has helped to reduce energy footprints at hundreds of building sites across New South Wales.

The grantee uses an automated crane and conveyor system to deliver SWDF to the kiln. This is the first cement kiln in New South Wales to use SWDFs, and the cutting-edge technology includes encapsulating the conveyor to reduce dust. Thanks to the Trust's support, the grantee has reduced carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions by 65,000 tonnes a year.

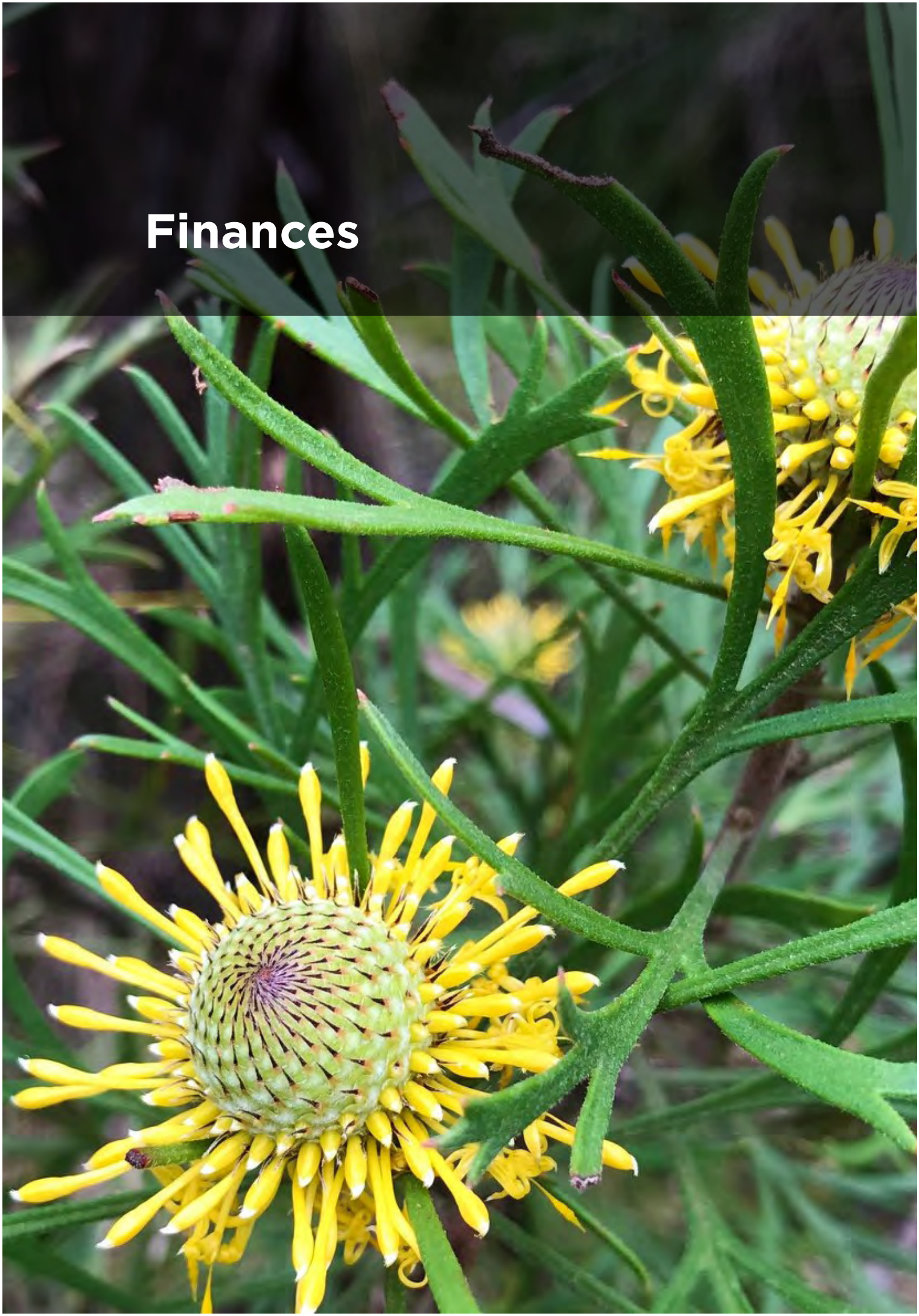
The project was awarded the 2019 NSW Environmental Innovation Award from Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia, the peak body in Australia for the heavy construction materials industry.

This financial year the Trust also awarded Boral another Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Program grant of more than $4 million for a chloride bypass system, increasing the kiln's SWDF capacity to 100,000 tonnes a year and allowing Boral to replace a total of 30% of its coal usage.

What are SWDFs?

Solid waste-derived fuels can be construction, demolition or timber waste – even used tyres. They divert potentially problematic and polluting waste from landfill, while being repurposed as energy.

Finances



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Environmental Trust

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Environmental Trust (the Trust), which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2020, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2020, 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* (PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015.

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

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Trust in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles 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
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

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

Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 12, Sydney NSW 2001 | **t** 02 9275 7101 | **f** 02 9275 7179 | mail@audit.nsw.gov.au | audit.nsw.gov.au

Other Information

The Trust's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the statement signed by the members of the Trust.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

The Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to:

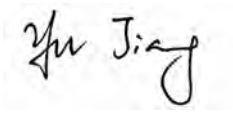
- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Trust carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial statements
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Reiky Jiang
Director, Financial Audit Services

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

15 October 2020
SYDNEY

Environmental Trust
Statement by Members
for the year ended 30 June 2020

Pursuant to section 41C (1C) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, we declare on behalf of the Environmental Trust that:

(i) 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;

(ii) the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2020 and the financial performance of the Environmental Trust for the year ended 30 June 2020; and

(iii) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Matthew Kean MP
Chair

Date: 15.10.20

Kate Wilson
in my capacity as Secretary/Trust Member as at 30 June 2020

Date: 13th October 2020

BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	Actual 2020 $'000	Budget 2020 $'000	Actual 2019 $'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses	2(a)	5,155	5,464	7,375
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	50,683	51,353	69,950
Total expenses excluding losses		**55,838**	**56,817**	**77,325**
Revenue				
Grants and contributions	3(a)	46,845	52,003	69,300
Other income	3(b)	9,212	2,988	8,245
Total revenue		**56,057**	**54,991**	**77,545**
Net result		**219**	**(1,826)**	**220**
Total Comprehensive Income		**219**	**(1,826)**	**220**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	Actual 2020 $'000	Budget 2020 $'000	Actual 2019 $'000
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,080	1,100	4,874
Receivables	6	3,069	1,131	1,573
Total current assets		**7,149**	**2,231**	**6,447**
Total assets		**7,149**	**2,231**	**6,447**
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	7	3,387	378	2,904
Total current liabilities		**3,387**	**378**	**2,904**
Total liabilities		**3,387**	**378**	**2,904**
Net assets		**3,762**	**1,853**	**3,543**
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds		3,762	1,853	3,543
Total equity		**3,762**	**1,853**	**3,543**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	$'000	$'000
Balance at 1 July 2019	3,543	3,543
Net result for the period	**219**	**219**
Total other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	**3,762**	**3,762**
Balance at 1 July 2018	3,323	3,323
Net result for the period	**220**	**220**
Total other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	**3,543**	**3,543**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	Actual 2020 $'000	Budget 2020 $'000	Actual 2019 $'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Grants and subsidies		(50,683)	(51,353)	(69,948)
Other		(6,903)	(5,802)	(7,031)
Total payments		**(57,586)**	**(57,155)**	**(76,979)**
Receipts				
Grants and other contributions		46,845	52,004	69,300
Other		9,947	2,988	9,252
Total receipts		**56,792**	**54,992**	**78,552**
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	11	**(794)**	**(2,163)**	**1,573**
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		**(794)**	**(2,163)**	**1,573**
Opening cash and cash equivalents		4,874	3,263	3,301
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5	**4,080**	**1,100**	**4,874**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Reporting entity

The Environmental Trust (Trust), is a NSW government entity, as constituted by the *Environmental Trust Act* 1998, and is a reporting entity under the *Public Finance and Audit Act* 1983.

The Trust is an independent statutory body established by the NSW government to fund a broad range of organisations to undertake projects that enhance the environment of NSW. The Trust is empowered under the *Environmental Trust Act* 1998, and its main responsibility is to make and supervise the expenditure of grants. The Trust is administered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for the Environment. At 30 June 2020, the members of the Trust were the Deputy Secretary of Policy, Strategy and Science within DPIE, and representatives from local government, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and NSW Treasury.

The 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. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. Refer note 1(j).

The Trust's financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Chair and Member of the Trust on the date the accompanying statement was signed.

(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);
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the Act) and Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015; and
- Treasurer's Directions issued under the Act.

Financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, except where specified otherwise.

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, which is the Trust's presentation and functional currency, except in note 13 which is in whole dollars.

(c) Statement of compliance

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

(d) 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..

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

(e) 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.

(f) Insurance

A range of insurances are carried by DPIE through the Treasury Managed Fund. This coverage extends to the operations of the Trust. Insurance cover is reviewed annually to ensure adequacy.

(g) 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 or approved budget proposals) 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.

(h) Equity and reserves – accumulated funds

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

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

(i) Effective for the first time in 2019-20:

The Trust applied AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* for the first time. The nature and effect of the changes as a result of adoption of these new accounting standards are described below. The Trust does not have any operating leases and was therefore not impacted by the application of AASB 16 Leases. Several other amendments and interpretations apply for the first time in the 2019-20 financial year, but do not have an impact on the financial statements of the Trust.

AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15)

AASB 15 supersedes AASB 111 *Construction Contracts*, AASB 118 Revenue and related interpretations and it applies, with limited exceptions, to all revenue arising from contracts with customers. AASB 15 establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from contracts with customers and requires that revenue be recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

AASB 15 requires entities to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers. The standard also specifies the accounting for incremental costs of obtaining a contract and the costs directly related to fulfilling a contract. In addition, the Standard requires relevant disclosures.

In accordance with the transition provisions in AASB 15, the Trust has adopted AASB 15 retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially adopting the standard recognised at the date of initial application, i.e. 1 July 2019. The Trust has used the transitional practical expedient permitted by the standard to reflect the aggregate effect of all the modifications that occurred before 1 July 2019 when:

- identifying the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations
- determining the transaction price
- allocating the transaction price to the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations.

Adopting the above practical expedients did not significantly affect the financial statements.

The adoption of AASB 15 did not have an impact on Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and on Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2020.

AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB1058)

AASB 1058 replaces most of the existing requirements in AASB 1004 Contributions. The scope of AASB 1004 is now limited mainly to contributions by owners (including parliamentary appropriations that satisfy the definition of contribution by owners), administrative arrangements and liabilities of government departments assumed by other entities.

AASB 1058 applies to income with a donation component, i.e. transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable a not-for-profit entity to further its objectives; and volunteer services. AASB 1058 adopts a residual approach, meaning that entities first apply other applicable Australian Accounting Standards (e.g. AASB 1004, AASB 15, AASB 16, AASB 9, AASB 137) to a transaction before recognising income under AASB 1058.

Not-for-profit entities need to determine whether a transaction is/contains a donation (accounted for under AASB 1058) or a contract with customer (accounted for under AASB 15).

AASB 1058 requires recognition of receipt of an asset, after the recognition of any related amounts in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards, as income:

- When the obligations under the transfer is satisfied, for transfers to enable an entity to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that will be controlled by the entity.
- Immediately, for all other income within the scope of AASB 1058.

In accordance with the transition provisions in AASB 1058, the Trust has adopted AASB 1058 retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying the standard at the date of initial application, i.e. 1 July 2019. The Trust has adopted the practical expedient in AASB 1058 whereby existing assets acquired for consideration at significantly less than fair value principally to enable the Trust to further its objectives, are not restated to their fair value. The adoption of AASB 1058 did not have an impact on Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2020.

(ii) Issued but not yet effective:

NSW public sector entities do not early adopt new Australian Accounting Standards, unless Treasury determines otherwise. The following new Australian Accounting standards have not been applied and are not yet effective:

- AASB 1059 *Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors*
- AASB 2018-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards* – Deferral of AASB 1059
- AASB 2019-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards* – References to the Conceptual Framework
- AASB 2019-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform*
- AASB 2019-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of GFS Measures of Key Fiscal Aggregates and GAAPIGFS Reconciliations*

The Trust has assessed the impact of the new standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective and considers the impact to be not material.

(j) COVID-19 and delayed 2020-21 NSW Budget

The Trust receives its funding under appropriations as grant funding from DPIE, which receives appropriations from the Consolidated Fund. Appropriations for each financial year are set out in the Appropriation Act for that year. Due to COVID-19, the State Budget and related 2020-21 Appropriation Bill has been delayed and it anticipated to be tabled in Parliament in November/December 2020. However, pursuant to section 4.10 of the "Government Sector Finance Act 2018 (GSF Act)", the NSW Treasurer has authorised Ministers to spend specified amounts from the Consolidated Fund. This authorisation is current from 1 July 2020 until the earlier of 31 December 2020 (or another day prescribed by the regulations) or enactment of the 2020-21 annual Appropriations Act. Therefore, it is appropriate for the 2019-20 financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Although COVID-19 has not resulted in any significant impact on the Trust's operations as it is funded by appropriations via the DPIE, it has impacted on the ability of some grantees to achieve their obligations as required under grant agreements. The Trust is in discussions with the affected parties to either delay or amend milestones or return unspent grant funds. Where considered appropriate, a provision for impairment has been raised. Refer notes 6, 12 and 14.

2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

Recognition and measurement of key expense items are discussed separately below.

(a) Other operating expenses

	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Corporate and specialist support	4,435	3,931
Impairment of assets and bad debts*	282	2,764
Fees for services	392	596
Advertising, printing and publishing	1	38
Auditor's remuneration – audit of the financial statements	37	36
Travel	5	10
Other	3	–
	5,155	**7,375**

*Impairment relates to debtors from whom the Trust has requested the return of unspent grants. The amount in 2018-19 includes $2.4 million receivable from a debtor who has gone into liquidation. Refer notes 3(b) and 6.

Recognition and measurement

Corporate and specialist support

Specialist and administrative services, including administration of grants are provided by DPIE. The fair value of corporate and specialist services is charged to the Trust under a Service Agreement with DPIE.

Impairment of assets and bad debts

The amount allowed for impairment is the difference between the carrying amount of the receivables and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the net result for the year. Refer note 6.

(b) Grants and subsidies

	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
State and Local Governments*	29,813	52,136
Other	19,890	16,925
Commonwealth Government	980	889
	50,683	**69,950**

* The 2018-19 amount included a one-off grant to the Environment Protection Authority for the alternative waste treatment support package of $15 million, and $11.9 million for the Growth Centres program which transferred from the Trust to DPIE on 1 July 2019.

Recognition and measurement

Grants are generally recognised as expense when the Trust transfers control of the contribution. The Trust is deemed to have transferred control when the grant is paid or is payable.

3. REVENUE

Recognition and measurement

Until 30 June 2019, income was recognised in accordance with AASB 111 Construction Contracts, AASB 118 Revenue and AASB 1004 *Contributions*.

From 1 July 2019, income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 or AASB 1058, dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15. Comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue are discussed below.

(a) Grants and other contributions	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
NSW Government funding*	-	69,300
Grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations *	46,845	-
	46,845	**69,300**

*The above grants include recurrent funding of $44.3 million (2019: $68.3 million) from DPIE, the principal department in the Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster and $2.5 million grant from DPIE towards the Saving Our Species program (2019: $1.0 million)

Recognition and measurement

Until 30 June 2019

Income from grants (other than contribution by owners) was recognised when the Trust obtained control over the contribution. The Trust was deemed to have assumed control when the grant was received or receivable.

Contributions were recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services were recognised when and only when a fair value of those services could be reliably determined, and the services would be purchased if not donated.

From 1 July 2019

Grants are received by the Trust to support its service delivery objectives and the funding agreements typically specify purpose of grants.

Revenue from grants with sufficiently specific milestones/performance obligations and agreed funding against each milestone is recognised as and when the Trust satisfies its performance obligation by transferring promised goods/achieving milestones.

Where the total funding amount in a contract is not allocated to distinct milestones/performance obligations and specifies purpose only, revenue is recognised when the Trust obtains control over the funds i.e. obtains cash.

No element of financing is deemed present as funding payments are usually received in advance or shortly after the relevant obligation is satisfied.

Revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal will not occur. This based on past experience and terms specified in the contract.

Receipt of volunteer services is recognised when and only when the fair value of those services can be reliably determined, and the services would have been purchased if not donated. Volunteer services are measured at fair value. As at 30 June 2020, the Trust did not use any volunteer services (2019: nil).

(b) Other income	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Fines (Court awarded)	1,283	264
Refunds by grantees of unspent grants*	7,929	7,981
	9,212	**8,245**

*includes $0.3 million in 2019-20 (2019:$2.8 million) where revenue was impaired as a doubtful debt. Refer notes 2(a) and 6.

Recognition and measurement

(i) Refunds by grantees of unspent grants

Refunds are recognised by the Trust in the period in which the unspent grant amounts by grantees gets identified by or advised to the Trust through the grant acquittal process.

(ii) Fines (Court awarded)

Fines are recognised in the period in which the Land and Environment Court orders payment of fine to the Environmental Trust for an environmental offence.

4. STATE OUTCOME DESCRIPTION

The operations of the Trust contribute to the following State Outcome:

Resilient and sustainable environment and energy

Protecting and preserving our environment to support a healthy New South Wales while securing an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy future.

Since, the total operations of the Trust contribute to the above, separate State Outcome statements are not required.

5. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Cash at bank and on hand	4,080	4,874
	4,080	**4,874**

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank.

Cash and cash equivalent assets recognised in the Statement of Financial Position are reconciled at the end of the financial year to the Statement of Cash Flows as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents (per statement of financial position)	4,080	4,874
Cash and cash equivalents (per statement of cash flows)	**4 080**	**4,874**

Refer note 12 for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

6. CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Trade debtors	5,627	3,761
Expected credit loss	(3,124)	(2,842)
Accrued income	274	238
GST receivable	292	416
	3,069	**1,573**
Movement in the allowance for expected credit loss:		
Balance at 1 July	2,842	78
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in net result (refer note 2(a))	282	2,764
Balance at 30 June	**3,124**	**2,842**

Details regarding credit risk of trade debtors that are neither past due nor impaired, are disclosed in note 12.

Recognition and measurement

All purchases or sales of financial assets are recognised and derecognised on a trade date basis. Purchases or sales of financial assets require delivery of assets within the time frame established by regulation or convention in the marketplace.

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at the transaction price.

Subsequent measurement

The Trust holds receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. Changes are recognised in the net result for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Impairment

The Trust assesses for expected credit losses (ECLs) for all debt financial assets not held at fair value through profit or loss. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the Trust expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables, the Trust applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. It recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Trust has established a provision matrix based on its historical credit loss experience for trade receivables, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the receivables. The provision matrix considered the impact of COVID-19 and recent natural disasters and took into account the following:

- increased credit risk associated with debtors as a result of poor trading conditions
- higher receivables balances (i.e. exposure at default) due to recent credit deferment policies of Government and/or late payment
- lost time value of money, if contractual payment dates are extended or amounts are expected to be received later than when contractually due.

7. CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Creditors	1,237	698
Accrued expenses	2,150	2,206
	3,387	**2,904**

Details regarding liquidity risk, including a maturity analysis of the above payables, are disclosed in note 12.

Recognition and measurement

Payables 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. Gains and losses are recognised in net result when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the amortisation process.

8. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

There were no commitments as at 30 June 2020 (2019: nil).

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

Contingent liabilities:

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2020 (2019: nil).

Contingent assets:

The Trust may be entitled to receive refunds of unspent grant monies from grantees. These refunds may occur in circumstances such as withdrawals from grant programs by grantees or where grantees are unable to achieve milestones within acceptable timeframes. It is not practical to accurately estimate the financial amounts of these contingent assets. Refer note 3(b).

10. BUDGET REVIEW

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 below.

(a) Net result

The actual net surplus of $0.2 million was favourable by $2 million against the budgeted deficit of $1.8 million. Surplus was a result of higher than budgeted revenue of $1.0 million and under expenditure of $1.0 million. Major expenses and revenue variances were due to:

	$ million
Expenses	
– Reduction in government funded grant expenses under waste and environment levy envelope due to delays by Trust in commencing grants and slower than budgeted progress by grantees. As part of the 2019-20 State Budget process, the Trust obtained approval to reallocate the majority of these grants to future years.	5.2
– Additional grant expenditure, funded from returned grants from grantees, partly offset by lower operating expenses during the COVID-19 lockdown.	(4.2)
Total under expenditure	**1.0**
Revenue	
– Higher than budgeted refund of grants and receipt of Court awarded fines.	6.2
– Reallocation of government funding to future years to correspond with the timing of expenses reallocated through the State Budget process (refer above).	(5.2)
Total higher than budgeted revenue	**1.0**
Variance in net result	**2.0**

(b) Assets and liabilities

Net assets were higher than budget by $1.9 million mainly due to increased funds owed to the Trust from grantees. The $3 million increase on budget in cash was offset by a similar increase in payables due to the timing of grant payments and accruals at the end of 30 June 2020.

(c) Cash flows

Net decrease in cash of $0.8 million in 2019-20 was lower than the budgeted net reduction by $1.4 million. This is mainly due to higher than budgeted cash received from grantees as refunds and receipt of Court awarded fines.

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

	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Net cash used on operating activities	(794)	1,573
Increase/(decrease) in receivables	1,496	1,194
Decrease/(increase) in creditors	(483)	(2,547)
Net result	**219**	**220**

12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

The Trust 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 the Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks.

(a) Financial instrument categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Class:				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	N/A	4,080	4,874
Receivables[1]	6	Receivables (amortised cost)	2,777	1,157
			6,857	**6,031**

Financial liabilities	Note	Category	2020 $'000	2019 $'000
Class:				
Payables[2]	7	Financial liabilities (at amortised cost)	3,387	2,904
			3,387	**2,904**

Notes

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

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

The Trust determines the classification of its financial assets and liabilities after initial recognition and, when allowed and appropriate, re-evaluates this at each financial year end.

(b) Derecognition 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, if the Trust has not retained control.

Where the Trust has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset continues to be recognised to the extent of Trust's continuing involvement in the asset. In that case, Trust also recognises an associated liability.

The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the Trust has retained.

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Trust could be required to repay.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the net result.

(c) Financial risks

(i) Credit risk

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

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

The Trust seeks to minimise its credit risk associated with financial assets through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards.

Cash

Cash comprises bank balances within the NSW Treasury Banking System.

Receivables – trade debtors

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.

The Trust applies the AASB 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade debtors.

To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The expected loss rates are based on historical observed loss rates. The historical loss rates are adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information on macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the customers to settle the receivables. The Trust has identified that the GDP and economic growth outlook are the most relevant factors, and accordingly adjusts the historical loss rates based on expected changes in these factors.

Trade debtors are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery include, amongst others a failure to make contractual payments for a period of greater than 90 days past due.

The loss allowance for trade debtors as at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2019 was determined as follows:

	30 June 2020 $'000					
	Current	**<30 days**	**30-60 days**	**61-90 days**	**>91 days**	**Total**
Expected credit loss rate	-	-	100.0%	-	89.5%	-
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	-	1,957	282	213	3,175	5,627
Expected credit loss	-	-	(282)	-	(2,842)	(3,124)

	30 June 2019 $'000					
	Current	**<30 days**	**30-60 days**	**61-90 days**	**>91 days**	**Total**
Expected credit loss rate	-	-	-	-	99.3%	-
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	661	237	-	-	2,863	3,761
Expected credit loss	-	-	-	-	(2,842)	(2,842)

Notes

The analysis excludes statutory receivables, prepayments, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7. Therefore, the 'total' will not reconcile to the receivables total in note 6.

(ii) Liquidity risk

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

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

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced.

Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in 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. The applicable rate of interest for the period was 9.08% (2019: 9.96%). No interest was paid for the period ended 30 June 2020 (2019:nil). The table below summarises the maturity profile of Trust's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

Maturity Analysis and interest rate exposure of financial liabilities

$'000

		Interest Rate Exposure				Maturity Dates		
	Weighted average effective interest rate	Nominal amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	< 1 year	1 -5 years	> 5 years
At 30 June 2020								
Payables	-	3,387	-	-	3,387	3,387	-	-
At 30 June 2019								
Payables	-	2,904	-	-	2,904	2,904	-	-

Notes

1. The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities based on the earliest date on which the Trust can be required to pay.

(iii) Market risk

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

(iv) Interest Rate Risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through the Trust's interest-bearing liabilities. Under the Treasury banking system, the Trust does not earn any interest and 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. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a change in the circumstances or arrangements between the Trust and the Treasury.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

(a) Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Trust, directly or indirectly.

(i) The Trust's key management personnel compensation is as follows:

	2020 $	2019 $
Trust sitting fees	1,870	1,320
Total	1,870	1,320

Trust sitting fees are paid to the members of the Trust, who are external to the NSW government agencies. The key management personnel compensation excludes the Minister for the Environment and the Secretary of the Trust. Ministerial compensation is paid by the NSW Legislature, not by the Trust. No compensation is paid by the Trust to the Secretary of the Trust.

Based on advice provided by key management personnel and NSW Treasury, and the transactional reviews undertaken, the Trust did not enter into any transactions with key management personnel, their close family members and any entities controlled or jointly controlled by them during the year.

(ii) Other transactions with key management personnel and related entities

During the year, the Trust entered into transactions, mainly payments of grants, with other agencies that are controlled/jointly controlled/ significantly influenced by the NSW Government.

Grant payments allow the Trust to meet State Outcome (refer note 4) and grants to the NSW government agencies in aggregate are a significant component of its operations (refer note 2(b)). In 2019-20, total grants in the amount of $19.2 million (2019: $12.6 million) were paid to DPIE, whose Deputy Secretary of Policy, Strategy and Science is also the Secretary of the Trust. The Trust members approve the award of grants to recipients based on documented processes and procedures, which include evidence-based support such as grant guidelines, application forms, business cases, business plans and independent technical reviews.

Where a grant application from DPIE is identified, a conflict of interest is disclosed by the Secretary of the Trust at the meeting, which is minuted. The Secretary also refrains from voting in these instances. In 2019-20, the Trust also paid $4.4 million (2019: $3.9 million) to DPIE for specialist and administrative services as well as its share of corporate services. The fair value of these services is charged to the Trust under a Service Agreement with DPIE and disclosed in note 2(a). The Trust receives government funding as a recurrent grant through the Cluster principal department - DPIE. Refer note 3(a).

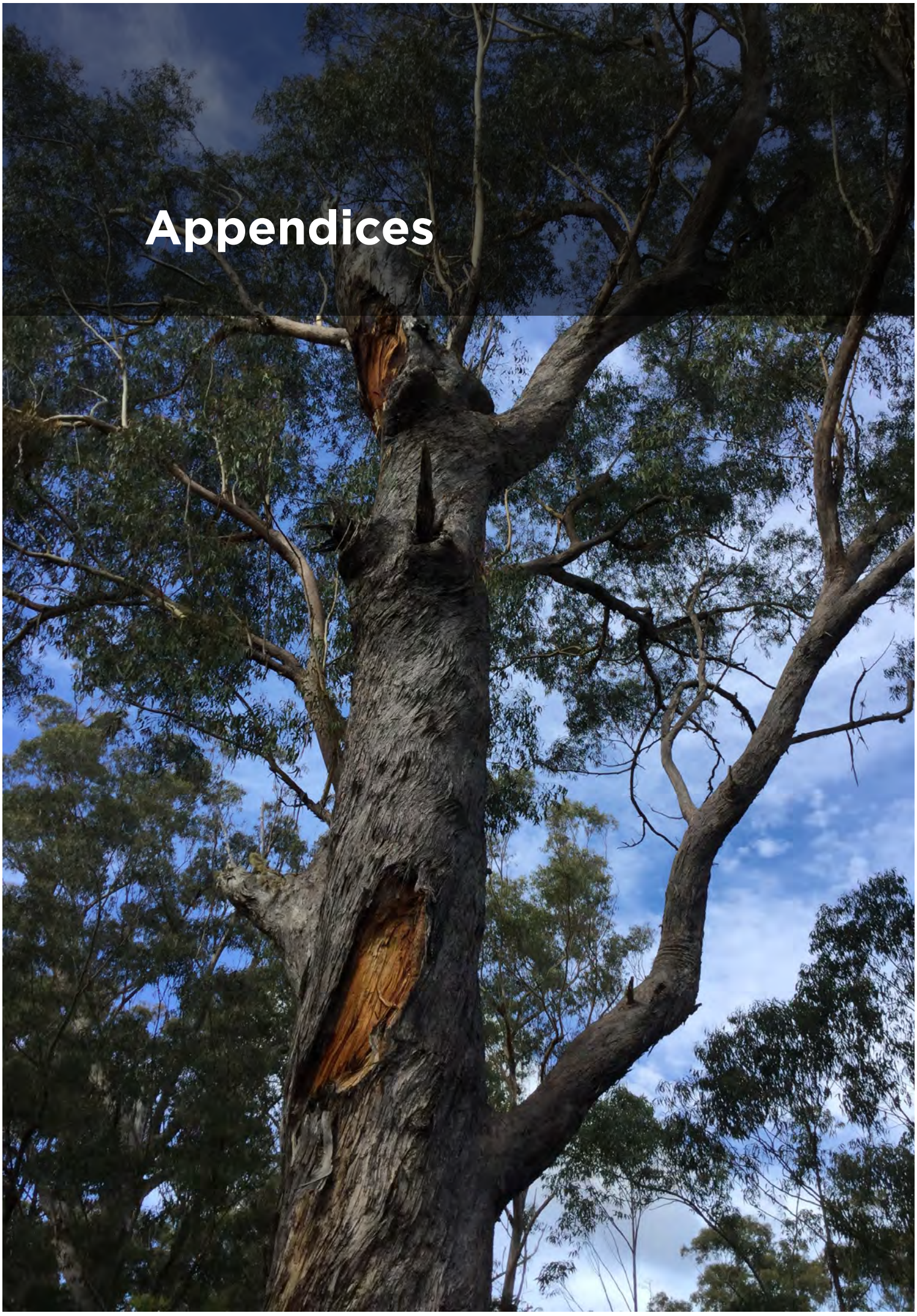
14. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

As at 30 June 2020, the Trust assessed the impact of COVID-19 on the fair value of its financial assets, namely receivables. This was based on historical sales information, expectation of macroeconomic conditions and outlook at the time of assessment. Given continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 factor, it is possible that post 30 June 2020 there may be some new evidence that impacts this fair value assessment materially.

There are no other 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

	2018–19	2019–20
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives and support	$77 million	$55 million
Number of contestable programs and other small grant programs running	22	22
Number of major programs and projects running	32	32
Number of new contestable grant projects approved	234	154
Number of new major programs and projects approved	11	5
Number of applications / expressions of interest processed	538	504
Number of grant payments processed	529	439
Number of pollution clean-up payments, large-scale pollution and emergency pollution grants	1	0

Under the Environmental Trust Act, grants should be expended within three years, however the Trust may approve or delegate an extension. In light of extraordinary circumstances this year, the Trust changed its administrative delegations up until 30 June 2021 to allow certain Trust staff to:

- extend grants by up to 18 months due to delays caused by drought, bushfires and COVID-19
- approve variation of deliverables and project outcomes, provided high-level objectives are maintained.

Section 15(5) of the Environmental Trust Act allows the Trust to waive the condition of requiring a grant to be expended within three years.

Extensions and variations approved this year are as follows:

- Australian National University – Adaptive Evolution of Eucalyptus Trees Under Future Climates
- Byron Shire Council – Byron Habitat Corridors: Ensuring a Future for Threatened Fauna
- Central Coast Council – Mt Alison Reserve Rehabilitation and Management
- Direct Group Industries Pty Ltd – Expansion of Ingleburn Wood Re-use and Recycling Facility
- Duffys Forest Residents Association Inc. – Rehabilitation of a Heritage-listed Icon at the Home of Skippy
- Federation University – Enhancing Habitat Values for Threatened Species on Nanya Station
- Forbes Shire Council – NetWaste Region: Forbes Community Recycling Centre
- Grima Environmental Services Pty Ltd – Grima Resource Recovery Facility Expansion
- Hovells Creek Landcare Group Inc. – Habitat Restoration at the Grassy Box Gum: K2W Flyways Interface
- Hunter Wetland Centre Australia – Restoring Wetland EECs and Protecting Threatened Waterbirds
- Lake Macquarie City Council – Restoring the Headwaters of Jewells Wetland
- Lithgow City Council – Community Recycling Centre
- Loop Organics Pty Ltd – Hunter Valley Composting and Processing Facility
- New England Weeds Authority – Tackling Mexican Water Lily in the Oxley Wild Rivers Catchment Northern NSW
- Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium – Protecting and Restoring Toonumbar from Bell Miner Associated Dieback
- North-West Recycling Centre – Green Waste Only Expansion Project
- Office of Environment and Heritage – Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication
- Office of Environment and Heritage – Restoring Big Island Seabird Nesting Habitat for Burrowing Birds

- Orange City Council – Model for Increasing FOGO Uptake in Multi-unit Dwellings
- Plastic Forests Pty Ltd – Albury Resource Recovery and Recycling Facility
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council – MUDs Organics Recovery Project
- Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust – Increasing the Adaptive Potential of Restored Plant Assemblages
- SAGE – Cook to Grow Project
- SecondBite Melbourne – SecondBite Fresh Food Rescue and Redistribution Expansion in NSW
- Shoalhaven City Council – Heritage Estates Erosion Control on Public Land
- Shoalhaven Landcare Association Inc. – Reintroduction of Stuttering Frog to Cambewarra Range
- South Coast Plant Hire Pty Ltd – Shoalhaven Recycling MRF Enhancement & Expansion
- South East Local Land Services – Cutting the Coral: Core Improvements for the Minnamurra River
- South East Local Land Services – Milton Rocks: Restoring Connectivity Between Escarpment and Sea
- Southern New England Landcare Ltd – Closing the Gap: Functional Habitat for Threatened New England Fauna
- Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) – Healing Old Wounds: Restoring Posidonia Australis in Mooring Scars
- Tweed Shire Council – Rous River Riparian Restoration
- University of Newcastle – Developing a Theoretical Model for Improving Waste Management
- University of New South Wales – Implementing an Action Toolbox to Conserve Coastal Upland Swamps in the Sydney Basin.
- Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd – Horsley Park Wood Processing for Energy Recovery
- Wagga Wagga City Council – Wagga Wagga Community Recycling Centre
- Walcha Council – Woolbrook Landfill Closure and Conversion to Waste Transfer Station

Structure and management of the Trust

The Environmental Trust Act outlines the Trust's governance structure as Trust members, Trust committees and Trust staff who are housed within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The Trust funds the costs of administering its grant programs and staff salaries. The Department provides support services including IT, finance and human resources.

The Trust administration's major functions are:

- researching, designing and implementing new programs
- developing and managing program governance
- providing technical and other assistance to grantees
- coordinating technical committee assessments
- 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
- reviewing and evaluating programs and procedures.

Grants administration

Trust administrative governance is rigorous and includes project and financial reporting, payment schedules and other requirements. The Trust pays funds in instalments in advance or through milestone payments except for very short or small projects.

The Trust's subcommittees and technical review committees play an important role in assessing grant applications, keeping the Trust informed of project outcomes, advising on program business plans, monitoring program implementation and providing ongoing advice to the Trust.

Applicants for most Waste Less, Recycle More infrastructure programs must provide a cost–benefit analysis for their projects based on NSW Treasury's *NSW Government Guidelines for Economic Appraisal*. These analyses are reviewed by independent experts who report their findings to the technical review committee to assist with the overall assessment of proposals. A Probity Auditor reviews all program documentation and observes all technical review committee meetings to ensure the decision-making process meets the highest standards of integrity.

Through the new grants management system (GMS), the Trust is transitioning to improving grants management. Key features of the GMS include an outcomes-based planning and reporting design, a consistent grants administration process, and standard controls to ensure best practice by staff.

Organisational performance

Trust staff are employed within the Department and subject to its administration and organisational performance programs. 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 is available in the *NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Annual Report 2019–20*.

Assets

The Trust has no physical assets that require risk management or associated insurance activities.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Trust programs include an integrated MER framework, with measurable environmental outcomes for each funding program. Grantees report on performance indicators, enabling the Trust to assess project and program achievements and consider broad progress towards statewide environmental goals.

Risk management, insurance activities and business continuity

The Department supports the Trust to manage risks.

In 2019–20 the Department continued to implement its enterprise-wide risk management framework across its business and the Cluster entities to which it provides risk management services. The framework reflects its commitment to provide a consistent and systematic process to manage risks across the Cluster. It is consistent with the international risk management standard (ISO 31000–2018) and the *NSW Treasury Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector* (TPP15-03). It provides the principles and tools for risk management practice and culture within the Department and Cluster. In June 2020 the Department's revised Risk Management Policy was published with applicability across the Department and Cluster entities.

During 2019–20 the Department revised its Business Continuity Management Framework based on the international business continuity standard (ISO22301:2019) and developed a comprehensive set of tools to support business continuity planning, impact analysis and crisis management to ensure critical activities can be continued in the event of disruption. These tools and related support are available to manage any business continuity event for the Trust.

The Trust's risk management includes independent grant assessment processes, formal authorisation and payment procedures under explicit delegated authority, written grant agreements, and approved grantee business plans. A grant agreement clause indemnifies the Trust. There are processes for tracking the progress and payment of grants, a procedures manual and regular audits of procedures.

The Trust is covered by a range of insurances held by the Department with the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

Audit and review

Internal audit

During the reporting period the Trust was supported by the Department's internal audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector (TPP15-03). Following the machinery of government changes in 2019, the Trust was brought under the remit of the Department of Planning Industry and Environment. The Chief Audit Executive (CAE) and internal audit function for the Trust is provided by the Department's Internal Audit Branch, Legal and Governance Division. The internal audit function provides independent and objective review and advisory services designed to improve operations, risk management, controls and governance processes.

Audit and risk committee

The Trust falls under the remit of the Department's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). During the reporting period, the Chief Audit Executive reported to the ARC in relation to the Trust. The ARC met during 2019–20.

External reviews

The Audit Office of New South Wales conducts an annual review of the Trust's financial statements. This year the Audit Office has undertaken a performance audit of the waste levy and grants for waste infrastructure which has included a review of a selection of the Trust's waste infrastructure programs and grants. The Audit Office is expected to release its reports at the end of 2020.

The Trust's competitive grants programs are evaluated every five years and major project grants are independently evaluated.

External reviews were conducted this year for the following grant programs:

Community Bush Regeneration Program

The Natural Resources Commission started evaluating this program in February 2020. Twelve project locations were selected across the State for detailed field assessment, however these were postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Pending completion, the finalised program evaluation is expected to be presented to the Trust in late 2020.

Major Projects program

The Natural Resources Commission conducted an independent review of this program, including the biennial prospectus process. It found the program's governance processes are sound, and program design and oversight are robust. The report made a number of recommendations, and Trust administration has responded to them positively.

Ethics

Ethics and Integrity

The Department launched its *Code of Ethics and Conduct* on 1 April 2020. The Code is web-based and is a resource to support staff working on Trust programs to understand and comply with their obligations. Prior to the new Code being adopted, employees of the Department observed the compliance obligations of the relevant policies that applied prior to the machinery of government change in July 2019.

The Code of Ethics and Conduct underpins the Department's compliance framework, which includes:

- systems to assist employees with their personal compliance obligations (declaration and management of conflicts of interest, approval of secondary employment, senior executive private interests and gifts, benefits and hospitality)
- the Fraud and Corruption Control Framework and Policy
- the *Public Interest Disclosure Policy* and procedure (which includes access to an anonymous reporting tool)
- Lobbying of Government Officials Policy.

Public Interest Disclosures Act

Under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*, each public authority is required to prepare an annual report on their obligations under this Act. This information for the Trust is captured in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Annual Report as all public interest disclosures are managed centrally by the Department.

Corporate governance

Public access to information

Under Schedule 3 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, the Trust is a subsidiary agency for the purpose of the GIPA Act. Any formal applications for information from the Trust are dealt with by the Department and included in the Department's statistical information.

Service-related complaints

Details of feedback, including any complaints, in relation to the Trust are received through the NSW Government Feedback Assist platform and are included in the Department's statistical information.

Internal audit and risk management statement

Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement for the 2019-2020 Financial Year for the Environmental Trust

I, Dr Kate Wilson, Secretary, Environmental Trust am of the opinion that the Environmental Trust has internal audit and risk management processes in operation that are, excluding the exceptions described below, compliant with the eight (8) core requirements set out in the *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector*, specifically:

Core Requirements

Risk Management Framework		
1.1	The agency head is ultimately responsible and accountable for risk management in the agency	**Compliant**
1.2	A risk management framework that is appropriate to the agency has been established and maintained and the framework is consistent with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009	**Compliant**
Internal Audit Function		
2.1	An internal audit function has been established and maintained	**Non-Compliant**
2.2	The operation of the internal audit function is consistent with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing	**Compliant**
2.3	The agency has an Internal Audit Charter that is consistent with the content of the 'model charter'	**Compliant**
Audit and Risk Committee		
3.1	An independent Audit and Risk Committee with appropriate expertise has been established	**Non-Compliant**
3.2	The Audit and Risk Committee is an advisory committee providing assistance to the agency head on the agency's governance processes, risk management and control frameworks, and its external accountability obligations	**Compliant**
3.3	The Audit and Risk Committee has a Charter that is consistent with the content of the 'model charter'	**Compliant**

Membership

The Chair and members of the Audit and Risk Committee are:

Role	Name	Start Term Date	Finish Term Date
Independent Chair	Penny Hutchinson	1 February 2020	31 January 2023
Independent Member	Brian Blood	1 February 2020	31 January 2023
Independent Member	Julie Elliott	1 November 2019	31 October 2023
Independent Member	Alan Zammit	1 November 2019	31 October 2023

Note. Audit and Risk Committee oversight for ET was previously provided by the former Office of Environment Heritage Audit and Risk Committee arrangements which continued to meet in the latter half of 2019 to complete the 2018-19 financial reporting cycle. The Environmental Trust transitioned to the principal department let shared Audit and Risk Committee in early 2020.

This Audit and Risk Committee has been established under a Treasury approved principal department led shared arrangement with the following statutory bodies:

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Land Administration Ministerial Corporation
- Environmental Trust
- Lord Howe Island Board
- Ministerial Development Corporation
- Water Administration Ministerial Corporation.

Departures from Core Requirements

I, Dr Kate Wilson, Secretary, Environmental Trust advise that the internal audit and risk management processes for the Environmental Trust depart from the following core requirements set out in the *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector:*

The circumstances giving rise to these departures have been determined by the Portfolio Minister and the Environmental Trust has implemented the following practicable alternative measures to meet the core requirements:

Departure Non-compliant	Reason for departure and description of practicable alternative measures being implemented
Core Requirement 2.1 Establishment of Internal Audit Function	The Environmental Trust (the Trust) has a small workforce of Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) staff. The Department's internal audit function provides services to the Trust, which reduces impacts on the Trust's resources and operations. The Department's Chief Audit Executive will fulfil the role of Chief Audit Executive for the Trust and considers the Trust in the internal audit program.

Core Requirement 3. 1 Audit and Risk Committee	A Departmental-led shared Audit and Risk Committee will provide independent oversight and advice for the operations of the Environmental Trust. The Department led Audit and Risk Committee will review the Trust's financial statements for each financial year. The Department's Legal and Governance Division supports the Trust in risk management practices, internal audit and the management of the ethical matters. The relationship between the Department's governance functions and the Trust allows for a single audit and risk committee to receive reports on the operations and management of the Trust.

These processes including the practicable alternative measures demonstrate that the Environmental Trust has established and maintained frameworks including systems processes and procedures for appropriately managing audit and risk within the Environmental Trust.



Dr Kate Wilson
Secretary
Environmental Trust

Date: 24/09/2020

Agency Contact:

Simonne Daly
Executive Director Governance
02 9585 6184

Cyber Security Policy Attestation statement

Cyber Security Annual Attestation for the 2019-2020 Financial Year for

NSW Environmental Trust

I, Kate Wilson, Trust Secretary NSW Environmental Trust, am of the opinion that the NSW Environmental Trust have an Information Security Management System in place via Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster Corporate Services and have managed cyber security risks in a manner consistent with the Mandatory Requirements set out in the NSW Government Cyber Security Policy.

Governance is in place to manage the cybersecurity maturity and initiatives of Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

Risks to the information and systems of Department of Planning Industry and Environment have been assessed and are managed.

There exists a current cyber incident response plan for Department of Planning Industry and Environment which has been tested during the reporting period.

The Department of Planning Industry and Environment Cluster Corporate Services has maintained certified compliance with ISO 27001 Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems - Requirements by an Accredited Third Party (BSI) during the 2019/2020 financial year (Certificate Number is IS 645082).



Kate Wilson
Trust Secretary
NSW Environmental Trust

Date: 27/08/2020

Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust

As defined in section 6 of the Environmental Trust Act, the Trust consists of five members:

- Minister for Energy and Environment (as Chairperson)
- Secretary of NSW Treasury
- Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage (now Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment)
- 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).

In 2019–20 the Trust met five times via a combination of face-to-face and online meetings.

Members of the Trust and meeting attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
The Hon. Matt Kean MP	Chairperson from 1 May 2019 Minister for Energy and Environment (statutory appointment)	5	5
Ms Jenny Merkley	Executive Director, Premier, Education and Customer Service, NSW Treasury (Permanent Deputy for Secretary of NSW Treasury from 28 November 2016)	4	5
Mr Jim Betts	Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (1–7 July 2019)	No meetings held in this time	N/A
Mr Brendan Bruce	Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (8 July – 13 September 2019) Acting Deputy Secretary, Policy, Strategy and Science	No meetings held in this time	N/A
Ms Melanie Hawyes	Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (16 September – 3 April 2020) Deputy Secretary, Policy, Strategy and Science	3	3
Dr Kate Wilson	Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (from 6 April 2020) Acting Deputy Secretary, Policy, Strategy and Science	2	2
Professor Donald White	Chairperson Nature Conservation Council of NSW (9 December 2019 – 14 November 2022)	5	5
Councillor Linda Scott	President of Local Government NSW (6 September 2018 – 5 September 2021)	5	5

Membership of Trust Subcommittees

Trust subcommittees provide input on program business plans, oversee program governance arrangements and provide ongoing advice to the Trust. This year six subcommittees assisted the Trust in managing its grant programs, under section 9 of the Environmental Trust Act. Membership of the subcommittees that met in 2019–20 is as follows:

Aquatic Subcommittee (River Connections)

Mr Graeme Enders (Chairperson)
Director South West Branch, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dr Lee Baumgartner
Associate Professor, Charles Sturt University

Ms Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Association

Mr Rory Treweeke
Industry member, Australian Floodplain Association

Mr Gerard Tuckerman
Manager, Natural Systems, NSW Mid Coast Council

Mr Robin Heath
Chief Executive Officer, Dorrigo Plateau Local Aboriginal Land Council

Dr Jane Roberts
Ecological Consultant, Jerrabomberra Wetlands Advisory Panel

Ms Beth Rickwood
Manager, Major Projects, NSW Environmental Trust

Biodiversity and Green Corridors Subcommittee

Ms Tina Bidese (Chairperson)
Director Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

Ms Marina Slavez (Acting Chairperson February 2020 – July 2020)
Acting Director Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

Ms Susy Cenedese
Strategy Manager, Environment, Local Government NSW

Mr Tim Low
Project Officer, Invasive Species Council

Dr Peter Mitchell
Community representative

Ms Bronwyn Petrie
Representing NSW Farmers Association

Dr Peter Turner (until 24 March 2020)
Team Leader, Department of Primary Industries

Community and Sustainability Subcommittee

Dr Tony Wilkins (Chairperson)
Principal, AP Wilkins and Associates

Ms Susy Cenedese
Strategy Manager, Environment, Local Government NSW

Dr Greg Walkerden
Senior Lecturer, Planning and Environmental Management, Macquarie University

Professor Don White
Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mr Richard Davies (Alternate Karen Paroissien)
Senior Team Leader, Community Engagement, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Mr Paul Flemons
Manager, Digital Collections and Citizen Science, Australian Museum Research Institute

Contaminated Land Management Subcommittee

Ms Phillippa Biswell (Chairperson)
Environmental Project Officer – Earth Scientist, Sutherland Shire Council

Mr Ian Gregson
Principal Environmental Consultant, GHD

Ms Kylie Piper
Projects & Education Manager, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

Dr Alexandra Pulkownik
School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

Ms Beth Rickwood
Manager, Major Projects, NSW Environmental Trust

Nature Based Tourism Subcommittee

Ms Julie Emerson (Chairperson)
Community representative

Ms Samantha Crosby
Lead – Learning Specialist, Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands

Mr Rod Hillman
Chief Executive, Ecotourism Australia

Ms Sonia McIvor
Director, Marketing, Destination NSW

South Coast Forests Subcommittee

Ms Tina Bidese (Chairperson)
Director Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

Ms Sally Bayley
Sustainability Manager, Sustainable Solutions

Mr Rob McKinnon (Alternate)
Senior Project Officer, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr Michael Hood
Director Forestry, NSW Environment Protection Authority

Mr Mlladen Kovac
Director Economics, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Ms Maria Matthes
Community representative, Ecological Consultant

Membership of Trust Technical Review Committees

Under section 9 of the Environmental Trust Act, technical review committees assess and recommend grant applications, and may provide program guidance and review progress and final reports. Membership of each committee that met during 2019-20 is set out below.

Contestable grant programs

Eco Schools Program

Mark Caddey (Chairperson)
Senior Project Officer, Sustainability Programs, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Ms Brigitte Herrmann
Support Teacher Transition, NSW Department of Education

Ms Sue Martin
Member of Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW)

Mr Brian Williams
Procurement Manager, Catholic Education Office

Ms Lisa Taylor
Teacher, Independent Schools

Ms Tristen Cannell
Teacher, NSW Department of Education

Environmental Education Program

Ms Roz Hall (Chairperson)
Former Director, Business and Community Programs, Office of Environment and Heritage

Ms Karen Paroissien
Senior Programs Officer, Community Engagement, Community Compliance, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Ms Erika Van Schellebeck
Sustainability Education and Engagement Consultant

Mr Michael Corke
Biodiversity Project Officer, Tweed Shire Council

Mr Christopher Kennedy
Senior Planning Officer, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Environmental Research Program

Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)
Former Director, Environmental Protection Science, Office of Environment and Heritage

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

Dr Brent Jacobs
Associate Professor and Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

Professor Deirdre Lemerle
Adjunct Research Professor, Charles Sturt University

Dr Derek Van Dyk
Ex-Director, Strategic Research Partnerships and Pre-Award, Macquarie University

Dr Greg Summerell
Director, Ecosystem Management Science, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Protecting our Places Program

Professor Jack Beetson (Chairperson)
Executive Director, Literacy for Life Foundation

Ms Connie Chatfield
Former-Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Local Government NSW

Mr Danny Hirschfield
Team Supervisor, Sydney Bush Regeneration Company

Mr Joshua Brown
Project Manager - Aboriginal Strategy, Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Mr Stuart Jordan
Senior Policy Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC)

Ms Rhonda O'Donnell
Board Member, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Ms Maria Woods (Chairperson)
Board Member, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services

Mr James Dawson
Senior Team Leader, Ecosystems and Threatened Species – Illawarra, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Ms Kris Hely
Bush Regeneration Consultant, New Earth Regeneration

Ms Mary-Lou Lewis
Committee Member, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Mr Justin Sauvage
Manager Environment and Community Services, Lord Howe Island Board

Ms Kirsty McIntyre
Senior Policy Officer, NRM, Local Government NSW

Mr Chris Scott
State Management Committee, Landcare NSW

Ms Louise Brodie
Executive Committee member, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Mr Roger Lembit
Independent Ecological Consultant

Ms Vivien Howard
Strategy and Investments Advisor, Central Tablelands Local Land Services

Waste Less, Recycle More grant programs

Improved Systems for Household Problem Wastes – Community Recycling Centres Program

Mr David Coleman (Chairperson)
Managing Director, Asterisk One

Mr Ryan Collins
Recycling Programs Manager, Planet Ark

Mr Spyro Kalos
Manager MobileMuster

Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Program

Ms Sabina Wills (Chairperson)
CEO, Keep Victoria Beautiful

Ms Geraldine Busby
Principal, Eva Environmental

Mr Rodney Clare
Member, Australian Industrial Ecology Network Pty Ltd

Ms Gerianne Robles
Program Lead Recycling Infrastructure Development, Sustainability Victoria

Professor Veena Sahajwalla
Director, ARC Green Manufacturing Research Hub, University of New South Wales

Organics Collections Program

Mr Justin Lang (Chairperson)
Program Manager Local Government, Green Industries SA

Ms Liz Quinlan
Senior Policy Officer – Waste, Local Government NSW

Mr John Street
Chairperson, Hawkesbury Environment Network, representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

Mr Brock Baker (Chairperson)
Independent technical expert in waste and recycling sector

Mr Justin Lang
Program Manager Local Government, Green Industries SA

Dr James Turnell
Senior Technical Officer, Unit Coordinator, School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England

Mr Michael Wood
Director, Oakwood Consultants Pty Ltd

Contact Information

Public access and Trust offices

The Trust's contact details are:

Address: 4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box: Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Telephone: +61 2 8837 6093
Email: info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/environmental-trust

The office is open from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

Publications

Visit the Trust's website for grant program guidelines, application forms and annual reports from 2001–02 to 2019–20.

Abbreviations

ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
CEN	Community Environment Network
COVID-19	the disease caused by the 2019–20 coronavirus
CRR	council roadside reserves
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
FNPW	Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife
FOGO	food organics and garden organics
GIPA Act	*Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
GMS	grants management system
LALC	local Aboriginal land council
MAGIC	Mothers Ancestral Guardians Indigenous Corporation
MER	monitoring, evaluation and reporting
NCC	Nature Conservation Council
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
NSW	New South Wales
PFAS	perfluoroalkyl substances
POP	Protecting our Places
RAM	rapid assessment methodology
SoS	Saving our Species
SWDF	solid waste-derived fuel
UNSW	University of NSW
WLRM	Waste Less, Recycle More

Photographs

Page	Title and source
3	Volunteers and field officers identifying orange hawkweed (*Pilosella aurantiaca*). Photo: Rebecca Mooy/DPIE
5	Birds nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus*) in Strickland State Forest. Photo: Wendy Farley
6	Header background image: Landscape on the Narriearra station in Far West New South Wales. Photo: John Spencer/NPWS
6	Grey grasswren (*Amytornis barbatus barbatus*). Photo: Jeff Hardy/DPIE
7	Narriearra Station contains several landscapes previously unrepresented in national parks. Photo: John Spencer/NPWS
7	Mist rises near the escarpment in Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park. Photo: Greg Todd/NPWS
7	Blue Mountains Ash (*Eucalyptus oreades*). Photo: Greg Todd/NPWS
8	Header background image: Mountain Tree Heath, Trochocarpa montana, Barrington Tops National Park. Photo: John Spencer/DPIE
11	Community outreach on koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) rehabilitation on the Tomaree Peninsula. Photo: Port Stephens Council
12	Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera Phrygia*). Photo: Stuart Cohen/DPIE
14	Squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). Photo: Pavel German/DPIE
16	Setting up a motion camera to monitor fauna. Photo: Richard Cassels/DPIE
22	Aboriginal people sharing and applying cultural knowledge around a malleefowl geoglyph. Photo: Mal Ridges/DPIE
23	Header background image: Fire Moss (*Ceratodon purpureus*). Photo: Lorraine Oliver/DPIE
29	Header background image: Bark texture Scribbly Gum Track Jervis Bay National Park. Photo: Michael Van Ewijk/DPIE
32	Header background image: Swan Lake, Conjola National Park. Photo: Michael Van Ewijk/DPIE
35	The Boral Berrima cement works. Photo: Boral
35	The Cleanaway-ResourceCo facility in Wetherill Park, Sydney. Photo: Cleanaway-ResourceCo
39	Drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*). Photo: Nicole Heta/DPIE
40	Header background image: Mungo National Park, Mallee Stop Walking Track, Willandra Lakes World Heritage Region. Photo: John Spencer/DPIE
57	Large old growth, hollow-bearing blackbutt on basalt-derived fertile soil. Photo: Shelley Braithwaite
58	Header background image: Six foot walking track. Photo: Stephen Alton/DPIE

