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The NPWS team searching for Hawkweed in a remote location along Doubtful Creek, in the Jugungal Wilderness Area. Photo: Liesl Grant/DPIE

Acquisition - Langidooon-Metford Stations. Photos: John Spencer/DPIE

Saving our Species - Australian bustard (*Ardeotis australis*). Photo: Nicola Brookhouse/DPIE

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Environment, Energy and Science,
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)
Phone: 1300 361 967 (Environment, Energy and Science enquiries)
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 361 967
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 361 967

Report pollution and environmental incidents

Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or info@environment.nsw.gov.au

See also www.environment.nsw.gov.au

For more information contact the NSW Environmental Trust

Phone: +61 2 8837 6093

Fax: +61 2 9895 6548

Email: info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

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

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Environmental Trust

The Hon. Matt Kean MP
Treasurer and Minister for Energy and Environment
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Treasurer

We are pleased to present to you the 2020-21 annual report for the NSW Environmental Trust, prepared in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*, for your presentation to the NSW Parliament.

During a year where recovery from catastrophic environmental impacts was underway, the COVID-19 pandemic led to setbacks to some projects. The Trust enhanced its support where needed and encouraged grantees to adaptively manage their projects where issues were being encountered.

This year the Trust provided more than \$62 million for the delivery of environmental projects through research organisations, industry, community groups, Aboriginal organisations and government agencies.

Funded projects included biological weed control, feral animal control, and reducing waste and its environmental impact, with further support for rehabilitating bushfire-affected areas and re-establishing habitat. In addition, the Land Acquisition Program acquired over 107,000 hectares, with funds helping to secure an addition to Cudgen Nature Reserve on the north coast, which will bring greater, permanent protection for our precious koalas.

In 2020-21, the Trust committed over \$172 million to four 'new government priority' projects that will be implemented over the next four to ten years. These projects will support clean technology innovation, develop four feral-predator-free areas across New South Wales, assess the health of national parks and allow for scientific assessment to underpin national park management, and further the acquisition of land for the national parks estate that will deliver significant on-ground conservation outcomes. The Trust's funding in these areas reflects its priorities - addressing climate change environmental impacts, threatened species recovery, and land acquisition for the national parks estate - and ensures its ongoing commitment to the most critical environmental issues.

Yours sincerely

Dr Paul Grimes
NSW Environmental Trust

Prof Don White
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 development of educational programs in both the public and private sectors to 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 2020–21, Trust staff were employed within the Grants Branch of the department's Environment, Energy and Science (EES) Group. For issues of compliance (such as disability inclusion action plans, workforce diversity, multicultural policies and services and work health and safety etc) please refer to the *NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Annual Report 2020–21*.

Highlights of 2020–21

In 2020–21, the Trust spent more than \$62 million to deliver 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 continued to be impacted by fire, drought, flood, and COVID-19, affecting both our grantees' ability to deliver projects and the involvement of their partners.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 challenges and impediments did not ease this year, but we congratulate grantees and their partners for their ingenuity, resilience and persistence as they adaptively managed their projects to deliver exceptional outcomes.

Accelerating new government priority projects

This year the Trust awarded or made commitments towards funding a record \$172 million for four new NSW Government priority projects:

Clean Technology Innovation

The Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program is a cornerstone of the Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030, the beginning of joint efforts between the government, researchers and industry to support a prosperous low-emissions future. Clean Technology Innovation is one of three focus areas and will create an environment where innovation is supported and new technologies are domestically developed, tested and used in the market. This year the Trust committed \$70 million to three projects as part of this investment:

- Research and Development Grants Program: a \$40-million contestable grant program that will be administered by the Trust and will start in 2021–22
- NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub (Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer): a \$15-million grant to accelerate research and development and drive the commercialisation and uptake of clean technologies in New South Wales

- Developing and Adopting Low Emissions Standards: a \$15-million commitment for the investigation, development and adoption of voluntary benchmarks, standards and labels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across NSW industry.

NSW Rewilding Initiative

The Trust awarded a 10-year, \$20.289 million grant to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), which along with matching funding from NPWS, will develop four feral-predator-free areas across New South Wales.

These will be in Western Sydney, Central New South Wales, North-east New South Wales and South-east New South Wales, and will total around 45,000 hectares, one of the most significant threatened fauna restoration projects in NSW history.

Once feral animals including cats and foxes have been removed, 28 locally extinct species (23 threatened) including the bilby, eastern quoll and eastern bettong, can be reintroduced into the four predator-free areas. With the restoration of essential ecosystems through this process, there will be measurable conservation benefits for at least another 30 threatened species.

Land acquisition

Over seven years, \$75 million will be provided to NPWS for the acquisition of land that will deliver on-ground conservation outcomes through the continued development of a world-class reserve system for NSW. Land acquired will be protected and managed, in perpetuity, under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). Building the NSW national park system is a dynamic, incremental process, responsive to changing priorities, threats, constraints and information, and staged over decades. Reserve establishment requires ongoing commitment because it has a long-term outlook, evolves slowly over time, and progress towards conservation goals is rarely linear and difficult to predict.

Under the project, lands purchased will be based on long-standing criteria consistent with NSW statutory instruments; State, national and international planning instruments; and NPWS management instruments governing the purpose and implementation of the reservation of land for the national park system.

Performance Scorecards

The National Park Performance Scorecards initiative (Scorecards) will assess the health of national parks, over time, using key ecological indicators. This \$7-million, four-year program will allow scientific assessment to underpin national park management. The first phase of the pilot program covers 30% of national parks across the state including Royal National Park; the World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains Area; Kosciuszko National Park; Macquarie Marshes; and the Sturt – Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park complex.

Scorecards will allow both the public and park managers to track populations of key threatened species (e.g. koalas, mountain pygmy-possums, brush-tailed rock-wallabies, Wollemi pines) and key threats such as feral animals, weeds and fire.

The results of the pilot will be analysed to inform further rollout of the program.

Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication

Weed-detector dogs, NPWS staff and enthusiastic volunteers were key to progressing the hawkweed eradication project this year.

This project was funded in 2018–19 to help eradicate orange and mouse-ear hawkweed in the Snowy Mountains through increased surveillance and delimitation, weed control, and improving early detection through public education and innovative behaviour change campaigns.

Over 200 hectares of mouse-ear hawkweed sites in the Snowy Mountains were surveyed, with two new sites found adjoining existing sites, one at Strzelecki Creek and one at Mount Twynam. The new area of mouse-ear hawkweed covers 0.033 square metres.

Good weather allowed drone detection units to survey for orange hawkweed across more than 3000 hectares of high-priority public

and private land. Drones completed an impressive 2479 hectares of surveillance. Three new locations were found: one by a fauna researcher; one by a bushwalker and past hawkweed volunteer; and the third by a drone. The project team uncovered 72 new sites, the majority in new locations, covering 3500 square metres. Plans are on-track for capturing remote aerial images at the three retained orange hawkweed study sites to determine remote detection capabilities.

Improving inland river health through the River Connections program

With an eye to improving the health of inland rivers, this year for the first time the Trust funded River Connections, a long-term collaborative program engaging community and government organisations in integrated river management. The Trust awarded approximately \$9 million to a 10-year project: 'Refreshing River Management – New partnership and stewardship pathways for improving river health'. This project will be led by Murray Local Land Services, who will head a consortium of 15 project partners from government, industry, research and community.

The project aims to bring enduring social and ecological change to river management, embracing activities such as fencing, watering points, riverbank revegetation and control of feral pests.

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 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.

This year around \$28 million was awarded for projects that will help to reduce waste and increase recycling. Programs funded this year included the Organics Collection Program (for

local councils) and Remanufacture NSW to boost re-use and recycling in response to the ban on export waste such as paper, plastic and car tyres.

This year was the first time the Trust offered the Remanufacture NSW program. This program offers co-funding for waste and recycling infrastructure to help the resource recovery sector respond to Australia's waste export ban. The program is co-funded by the Australian Government through the Recycling Modernisation Fund, and the NSW Government through Waste Less Recycle More. It is delivered by the Trust in partnership with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The first round of Remanufacture NSW offered up to \$35 million and targeted the materials that are the subject of the ban, being unbeneficiated waste plastic, glass and tyres.

Contestable grant programs

In 2020–21 the Trust awarded over \$16 million under its traditional contestable grant programs, including:

- around \$14 million for projects that will enhance and restore natural habitat through rehabilitation and regeneration activities, including projects with Aboriginal communities
- more than \$1 million to support environmental education
- over \$1 million for research projects that will inform approaches to untangling the causes of tree dieback.

Enhanced reporting and service offering for grantees

The Trust's grants management system (GMS) continues to help standardise grant management across Trust programs.

This year grantees submitted 142 applications across four programs through the GMS. Several updates have been made to enhance the user experience and streamline the end-to-end processing of grants. A grantee's progress can now be actively monitored through detailed reports and dashboards.

The *Grants News* newsletter was launched in November 2020. Every three months, the latest grants news from the Trust and the EES Coast, Estuary and Floodplain grants programs (administered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) is emailed to more than 1000 subscribers.

Grants News provides updates on landmark projects, grant announcements and grant round openings. Already, the newsletter has far exceeded standard measures of engagement for electronic newsletters, such as opening and click-through, with new subscribers signing up every quarter.

Interested in subscribing, or browsing old issues? Go to environment.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/nsw-environmental-trust/about-the-nsw-environmental-trust/grants-newsletter.



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

\$24.93 million paid to NPWS to acquire high conservation value land



Over **107,000** hectares purchased for national parks



Achievements 2020-21

- Acquired over 107,000 hectares across seven properties
- Acquired land includes 1710.7 hectares for koala conservation



Aerial view of Langidoon and Metford Stations

Increasing the national parks estate by Trust-funded land acquisition:

Langidoon Station	35,555 hectares
Metford Station	24,914 hectares
Koonaburra Station	45,534 hectares
Tapin Tops	268.5 hectares
Maria	469.4 hectares
Mt Numeralla	900 hectares
Cudgen Nature Reserve	72.8 hectares

Species protected through land acquisition in NSW:

Acacia melvillei shrubland
Koalas *Acacia loderi* shrubland
Australian bustard
 blue-billed duck brush-tailed phascogale
Major Mitchell's cockatoo parma wallaby
 turquoise parrot
 yellow-bellied glider
 green-thighed frog yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat
glossy black-cockatoo little bent-wing bat white-fronted chat
 Manning River turtle
 pink cockatoo spotted-tail quoll

This year the Trust provided over \$24 million to NPWS for the acquisition of land for the national parks estate. This included the purchase of the following two properties:

Langidoon and Metford stations

Covering over 60,000 hectares in the NSW Far West, 65 kilometres east of Broken Hill, this is a landscape of sandplains and stony desert, Gibber Chenopod Shrublands, floodplain woodlands along watercourses and a lake system that provides habitat for a range of migratory bird species. This purchase is a major contribution to the goal of maintaining a park system to protect the full range of habitats in New South Wales. Four landscapes and 25 out of 33 ecosystems found here are essentially unprotected elsewhere in the biogeographic region.

Importantly, the new reserve will protect over 20,000 hectares of *Acacia loderi* Shrublands, endangered in New South Wales, and potential

habitat for at least 14 threatened fauna species, mainly birds, including the Australian bustard, white-fronted chat, pink cockatoo, blue-billed duck and freckled duck. The properties contain important Aboriginal heritage including artefacts such as grinding plates and stones and hold considerable significance for Aboriginal people.

Cudgen Nature Reserve

The 73-hectare property at Bogangar, 17 kilometres south of Tweed Heads, adjoins Cudgen Nature Reserve in the Tweed local government area. Adding 73 hectares to the reserve will increase the size of the largest remnant of native vegetation on the Tweed Coast and safeguard coastal land in a rapidly growing beach suburb. The acquisition supports core koala habitat, offering preferred koala feed trees to a population at high risk of extinction.

Table 1
Land Acquisition grant awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	Land acquisition	Statewide	\$75,000,000
Total			\$75,000,000

A new grant as part of the Trust's 'new government priority' funding was awarded in 2020-21 to support this ongoing program. The new grant will provide \$75 million over seven years to NPWS for the acquisition of land that will deliver on-ground conservation outcomes through the continued development of a world-class reserve system for New South Wales.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

A \$4-million program promoting environmental stewardship by providing grants to community and government organisations to reduce environmental degradation and pollution, protect important ecosystems, and improve capacity for environmental restoration.

Achievements 2020-21

- More than 2300 trees planted on Blackburn Island, with almost 50 volunteers, to prepare the site for translocation of the Lord Howe Island phasid
- Revegetation of 200 hectares of superb parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) habitat near Narrandera, connecting more than 400 hectares of vegetation, aided by citizen science
- Installation of 27 artificial habitat structures, enabling movement of threatened squirrel gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) and enhancing the endangered ecological community, White Box-Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
- 6.4 hectares of Bangalay Sand Forest and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest endangered ecological communities are regenerating at Bellambi Lagoon through 340 hours of volunteer bushcare effort

Grants awarded in 2020-21



Applications received
67



Funding sought
\$8,745,087



Grants funded
31



Funding awarded
\$4,403,097

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program outcomes



7879 hectares regenerated by native regrowth after weeding, fencing, erosion control or pest control



1359 hectares revegetated by planting or direct seeding



228 organisations adopted improved land management practices



4570 volunteers contributed 125,019 hours

474 contractors employed for 82,536 hours



9508 people attended **336 training and other events**



2031 students (primary, secondary and tertiary) involved for over 6430 hours

Note: This data is drawn from 143 projects that were funded in the 2016-18 grant years, with 28 of these projects (20%) now complete. Several of these projects have had extensions due to drought conditions, bushfires, floods and the impact of COVID-19.

Table 2
Restoration and Rehabilitation grants awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Barragal Landcare Group Inc.	Connecting Woodland Communities in Barragal Lagoon Catchment	Wollondilly Shire	\$126,106
Bega River and Wetlands Landcare Group Inc.	Stage 2 – Bega River Wetlands: riparian corridor enhancement and armouring for extreme events	Bega Valley Shire	\$110,905
Bellingen Landcare Inc.	Mylestom to Tuckers Rock Coastal Vegetation Corridor Regeneration	Bellingen Shire	\$170,000
Big Scrub Foundation	Science saving two endangered rainforest ecological communities	Lismore City	\$108,000
BirdLife Australia	Southern NSW Birds on Farms Project	Albury City	\$169,995
Bowling and Bookham Districts Landcare Group Inc.	Habitat Hops from Burrinjuck to Bango – Stages 4-6	Yass Valley	\$114,600
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (EaTS Team)	Restoring the critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub ecological community	Randwick City	\$151,900
Federation University Australia	Further arid woodland restoration on Nanya Station	Wentworth Shire	\$165,376
Friends of the Koala Inc.	Extending wildlife corridor restoration works in partnership with rural landowners to create greater connectivity for koalas on Lismore's Wilson River floodplain Stage 2	Lismore City	\$169,992
Goonengerry Landcare Group	Restoration and linkage of Wilsons and Coopers creeks	Lismore City	\$167,710
Hay Trees on Plains Landcare Group	Restoring native species and rehabilitating ecosystems in the Hay Shire	Hay Shire	\$112,139
Hornsby Shire Council	Restoration of Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest in Hornsby Shire	Hornsby Shire	\$141,958
Hovells Creek Landcare Group Inc.	Hovells Creek erosion control project stage 2	Hilltops	\$170,000
MidCoast Council	Protecting and restoring riparian zones and freshwater refuge pools in the Manning catchment	MidCoast	\$169,340
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Barking Owls in the Bungawalbin Catchment (BOBCat)	Richmond Valley	\$170,000
Nature Glenelg Trust	Minyumai wetland restoration project, adjacent to Bundjalung National Park	Richmond Valley	\$115,000
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Restoration of the Endangered Cauliflower Soft coral	Port Stephens	\$124,294
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Protecting the Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon	Cabonne	\$149,614

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	Restoring natural values of the Dunbogan Crowdy Bay habitat corridor	Port Macquarie-Hastings	\$129,311
Petaurus Education Group Inc.	Burrumbuttock's squirrel glider LAMP project – maintaining momentum, monitoring and making the next leap	Greater Hume	\$170,000
Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)	Greener pastures: Co-restoration of Posidonia seagrass and White's seahorse in NSW estuaries	Port Macquarie-Hastings	\$169,312
The Mulloon Institute	Molonglo Catchment Rehydration Initiative	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	\$170,000
Threatened Species Conservancy	Harrow Wattle Recovery Program, Seeding the Future	Wentworth Shire	\$114,999
Tweed Landcare Inc.	Filling the Biodiversity Gaps connecting Tweed Coast to Border Ranges – Stage 7	Tweed Shire	\$164,600
Wellington Caves, Dubbo Regional Council	Bring back the bats	Dubbo Region	\$71,773
Western Landcare NSW Incorporated	FWRRA Landscape Erosion Filters	Central Darling Shire	\$107,250
Western Local Land Services	Willandra Creek landholders protecting Sandhill Pine Woodland	Carrathool Shire	\$154,100
Western Local Land Services	Erosion Control and Habitat Restoration for Grey Range Thick-billed Grasswren	Unincorporated Far West	\$168,960
Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare Inc.	Upper Wilsons and Coopers Creek Catchments: Restoring Rainforest in Times of Change 2020	Byron Shire	\$155,863
Workways Australia trading as Envite Environment	Bungawalbin Ecological Restoration after Bushfire	Richmond Valley	\$170,000
Yass Urban Landcare Inc. trading as Yass Landcare Inc.	Restoring the Riparian Corridor of the Yass River	Yass Valley	\$50,000
Total			\$4,403,097

Community and government funding streams were combined in 2020–21

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020–21: \$3,469,697

CASE STUDY

Protecting and improving critical habitat for reptiles in the Central Tablelands



We never underestimate the power of our volunteers – particularly when it comes to protecting and enhancing the environment for our native flora and fauna.

Central Tablelands Landcare, working with 12 committed landholders, sought and co-ordinated volunteers to work on projects to protect and revegetate rocky outcrops in the region. Their enthusiasm led to a total of 600 hours of volunteer work.

Landcare's careful assessment of potential sites gave priority to 16 hectares of rocky outcrop habitat comprising the critically endangered Box-Gum Woodland ecological community.

The work included planting 2400 plants and constructing wildlife-friendly fencing. This has connected key regional wildlife corridors via stepping stones of paddock trees, remnant vegetation and reserves to enable movement of native animals.

Native species are benefitting – reptiles such as the pink-tailed legless lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) and Cunningham's skink (*Egernia cunninghami*), along with birds and pollinating insects, are making use of the improved habitat. Landholders report that trees planted under the project have led to an increase in birds and insects taking advantage of the enhanced shelter and breeding habitat.

Central Tablelands Landcare has greatly appreciated the support of the landholders and volunteers who made these projects possible.



Top: Rocky outcrop habitat refuge near Molong

*Above: Garden skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*) found in a rocky outcrop*

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 Year 6 of their project, their final Trust-funded year, or have entered the project's maintenance phase, which is funded by grantees and their project partners. Maintenance, monitoring and reporting activities will continue until Year 10 in 2026.

Most projects were affected by the 2019–20 bushfires, floods and COVID-19. However, grantees adaptively managed their projects successfully, with most delivering their expected project outcomes for 2020–21.

The Trust ran a workshop in 2021 where grantees showcased their project successes, discussed challenges, and shared their learnings and plans for project monitoring during the grantee-funded phase of the project from Years 7 to 10.

Achievements 2020–21

- Establishment of five translocation enclosures for the crimson spider orchid, sand-hill spider orchid, and Oaklands Diuris (donkey orchid) in the south-east Riverina Region. Hand pollination of the thick lip spider orchid was completed, resulting in collection of approximately 12,000 seeds for seed banking and use in germination trials.
- Significant advances in knowledge of threats affecting the Bells Turtle, including important nesting areas and appropriate management strategies in the Northern Tablelands
- Protection and management of private land in the Border Ranges area to improve the condition and connectivity of black-striped wallaby habitat

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020–21: \$1,194,699.

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



1284 hectares of degraded habitat regenerating after weeding



123,321 seedlings planted



415 hectares of native habitat revegetated by planting



3330 hectares of habitat protected through fencing



2,018 volunteers contributed **60,797 hours** of work towards conservation or regeneration activities



2114 people participated in 124 training events in conservation or regeneration activities



273 educational resources developed so far

Note: This data reflects what has been reported to date and is drawn from the fifth-year reports submitted by the five SOS partnership projects awarded in 2014, and fourth-year reports from the four SOS partnership projects awarded in 2015.

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 associated project partners have navigated unprecedented challenges over the past year to deliver on-ground activities and research. Many of the projects had to be either extended or modified to maximise long-term environmental benefits.

Staff from the Trust's principal implementation partner, the Saving Our Species Program, have provided significant support to achieve these outcomes.

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020–21: \$1,482,376.



Glandular frog (Litoria subglandulosa), one of the target species in the project led by the University of Newcastle to improve the conservation outcomes of vulnerable amphibian fauna in protected habitats.

Achievements 2020–21

- On World Environment Day, 150 volunteers planted 1500 *Allocasuarina littoralis* trees on private property near Bungendore to provide food for glossy black-cockatoos
- While undertaking Albert's lyrebird surveys in the Northern Rivers, several threatened species were recorded for the first time in the survey area including a flightless rainforest ground-beetle and the threatened rainforest vine, *Carronia multisepelea*. The main breeding habitat for the endangered southern pink underwing moth was also located
- Citizen scientists and students deployed acoustic loggers to research threatened mountain stream frogs and improve the conservation of vulnerable amphibian fauna in protected habitats
- University of Newcastle researchers froze and stored sperm of the endangered stuttering and glandular frogs in a biobank to provide a genetic backup in the face of increasing extinction risk from chytrid fungus

CASE STUDY

Lowland Lyrebird Links in the Tweed Caldera

Their calls can be heard echoing through the gullies of the last remaining pockets of Lowland Rainforest threatened ecological communities, a dawn chorus you can hear if you are up early on a chilly winter morning.

Tweed Shire is a stronghold for the vulnerable Albert's lyrebird (*Menura alberti*), a reclusive, mostly ground-dwelling bird, whose habitat within a small area of far south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales is under threat due to habitat clearing and fragmentation, weed encroachment, and feral pests.

Albert's lyrebird has specialised habitat requirements. It prefers rainforests or the wettest wet sclerophyll forests with slow decomposition rates, a deep leaf-litter layer, and woody debris in which the birds forage for insects and their larvae.

Breeding takes place over winter, and it is then, usually at dawn, that the famous call of the male bird is most clearly heard. Their loud, intricate song includes spectacular mimicry of other animal species and is accompanied by a dance to attract a mate.

In display, the male spreads its tail forward over its head and body and shivers its tail while calling loudly. The nest is built in a rocky, protected area. Females lay a single egg and exclusively look after the young.

The Lowland Lyrebird Links project, a partnership between Tweed Shire Council, Birdlife Northern Rivers, Tweed Valley Landcare, and private landholders, aims to conserve the species.

The project is well-underway in its third year of implementation: eight hectares of primary weed control has largely cleared lantana and other invasive weeds on sites at Mount Nullum and Numinbah. Sites are showing strong natural regeneration and calling can be heard from a stable population of Albert's lyrebirds.

During restoration work and pest animal surveys, exciting discoveries were made. This includes high regeneration of the threatened species *Cassia marksiana*. Past surveys at Mount Nullum had failed to locate these and other threatened plant species previously recorded on Mount Nullum, and the discovery adds considerably to the significance of the Lowland Lyrebird Links project.



Albert's lyrebirds (*Menura alberti*) image taken by remote sensor camera on Mount Nullum in the Tweed Shire.

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 sixth year of this \$8 million program with 15 projects underway.

Achievements 2020-21

- Consolidated works on 13 sites near Gleniffer on the mid-north coast through secondary weed control across 29 hectares, complemented by the planting of 600 koala feed trees
- Two in-perpetuity conservation agreements signed in the Wingecarribee region will ensure the protection of 600 hectares of high-quality habitat on private land
- 21 new landholder agreements in the Yass region resulted in the planting of 11,495 tubestock and 58 kilometres of eucalypt and acacia direct seeding
- Three 'Greenteam' groups of volunteer private landholders formed within the Central Coast region to work on each other's properties. These groups logged 272 hours of follow-up weeding on eight properties participating in the project

Bush Connect Program outcomes since 2015



4093 hectares of new bushland corridors created



1693 hectares of degraded bushland currently under regeneration



100 contractors employed for 36,585 hours on conservation activities



171,005 seedlings planted and **50 kilograms** of native seed sown, helping to revegetate **729 hectares**



112 kilometres of fencing installed



1764 volunteers contributed **94,040 hours** to on-ground works

Note: This data comes from 10 of 15 stage 5 reports.

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020-21: \$782,656.

River Connections Program

Co-funding for large-scale, long-term, collaborative community-government organisations, over 10 years, to develop new approaches for integrated river management that can deliver improved health outcomes for NSW inland rivers at a landscape scale

Riparian and aquatic habitat diversity and variable water flows are critical components of healthy river systems. A total of 97% of river length in New South Wales has been altered by river regulation, habitat modification, land-use practices and introduced pests and weeds. Although there have been previous attempts to integrate catchment management practices, the lack of an agreed approach to integrate river and riparian land management, coupled with a diversity of values among river managers and users, has often seen efforts operating in isolation, albeit striving for a similar purpose. A focus on single or localised outcomes has inadvertently resulted in continued degradation of riverine ecosystems.

This year, Murray Local Land Services was awarded approximately \$9 million for their project: Refreshing River Management - New partnership and stewardship pathways for improving river health. It will head a consortium of 15 partners from government, industry, research and community organisations who will collaborate to improve 2500 hectares of riparian and river health in three pilot areas in the Murray and Riverina regions.

The consortium will deliver a portfolio of on-ground initiatives over the next 10 years to achieve enduring social and ecological change around river management. These will include engagement with primary producers to apply sustainable land management practices, and the removal of five in-stream barriers, combined with installation of 17 in-stream woody debris and riparian erosion-control structures to enhance water quality and passage and habitat opportunities for native fish including endangered southern pygmy perch.

This project is expected to demonstrate a best practice approach to holistic river management which can be replicated across the State.

Table 3
River Connections grant awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Murray Local Land Services	Refreshing River Management - New partnership and stewardship pathways for improving river health	Statewide	\$8,999,200
Total			\$8,999,200

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020-21: \$761,586.

Major restoration and rehabilitation projects

New major grant

NSW Rewilding Initiative

In March 2021, the Trust awarded a 10-year grant to NPWS for \$20.289 million. This grant will be used to establish four feral-predator-free areas across New South Wales: in Western Sydney, Central New South Wales, North-east New South Wales, and South-east New South Wales, and will total around 45,000 hectares.

The project proposes one of the most significant threatened fauna restoration projects in NSW history.

The loss of native animals affects the land. Species decline affects the overall health

of ecosystems because many animals have important roles, including turning over soil, increasing water infiltration, seed and spore dispersal, and population management through predation.

Once feral animals including cats and foxes are removed, it will enable 28 locally extinct species to be re-introduced, (23 of which are threatened) including the bilby, eastern quoll and eastern bettong, and will deliver a measurable conservation benefit for at least another 30 threatened species.

Table 4
NSW Rewilding grant awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	NSW Rewilding Initiative	Statewide	\$20,289,044
Total			\$20,289,044

Contaminated Land Management Program - Council Gasworks

The Contaminated Land Management - Council Gasworks Program provides funding to eligible councils to assist with the investigation and remediation of former council gasworks sites. In 2020-21, the Trust awarded:

- up to \$200,000 for investigation of a former council gasworks site in Dubbo
- up to \$200,000 for investigation of a former council gasworks site in Wellington
- up to \$200,000 for investigation and up to \$500,000 for remediation of a former council gasworks site in Tamworth.

Table 5
Contaminated Land Management grants awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Tamworth Regional Council	Tamworth Regional Gasworks Investigation and Remediation	Tamworth Region	\$700,000
Dubbo Regional Council	Dubbo Legacy Gasworks	Dubbo Region	\$200,000
Dubbo Regional Council	Wellington Legacy Gasworks	Dubbo Region	\$200,000
Total			\$1,100,000

Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication

This project was funded in 2018-19 to contribute to the eradication of orange and mouse-ear hawkweed in the Snowy Mountains through increased surveillance and delimitation, weed control, and improving early detection through public education and innovative behaviour change campaigns.

NPWS staff, volunteers and weed detector dogs surveyed over 200 hectares and treated all known sites in the Snowy Mountains for mouse-ear hawkweed. Two new sites were located, both adjoining existing sites, one at Strzelecki Creek and one at Mount Twynam. The new area of mouse-ear hawkweed covers 0.033 square metres.

Good weather conditions resulted in teams, including drone detection units, surveying more than 3000 hectares of high-priority sites across public and private land for orange hawkweed. Drones completed an impressive 2479 hectares of surveillance. Three new locations were uncovered: one by a fauna researcher, one by a bushwalker and past hawkweed volunteer, and the third by drone. Together the team uncovered a total of 72 new sites, the majority in new

locations, covering 3500 square metres. Plans are on-track for capturing remote aerial images during the 2021-22 season at three retained orange hawkweed study sites, to determine remote detection capabilities. These three sites will be intensively monitored to prevent spread or seeding. All other plants found before April 2020 were treated, and the study sites have been prioritised for treatment in 2021.

Bushfire relief for wildlife rehabilitators

The impact of the catastrophic 2019-20 bushfires still resonates with many people. NPWS is implementing the final year of rescue and rehabilitation projects for injured and displaced wildlife by providing funding and training to wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians, supported by emergency response planning.

In partnership with the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, \$500,000 in devolved grants were awarded to volunteer rehabilitators for recovery projects and in preparation for future bushfires. Around 200 volunteers have been trained in bushfire awareness and response.



Hawkweed Volunteers and NPWS Officers tackle a variety of terrain on the Main Range in the search of Mouse-ear Hawkweed. Inset: Orange Hawkweed flower cluster.

A manual for firefighters on wildlife emergency response, developed by Taronga Conservation Society, is almost complete and will be available to all NSW firefighters, and 20 places on the Taronga wildlife care training program for vets and vet nurses have been subsidised and filled. This training program aims to increase the capacity of the veterinary sector during emergency events to ensure good animal welfare and wildlife rehabilitation outcomes.

A seven-week trial of a 'televet' service for wildlife was completed to increase veterinary access and support for wildlife rehabilitators and is being evaluated to determine future opportunities.

Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program – Phase 2

Flying-fox populations are in decline due to threats such as habitat loss and extreme weather events. Critical work is underway to discover and share ways to enhance, restore or create flying-fox habitat that reduces conflict with humans, with \$5 million awarded to Local Government NSW in 2018 for this 10-year project.

During the past year, Trust funding under the program has supported activities such as the design and publication of information on the Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program Phase 2. The information includes camp and foraging mapping documents from Phase 1, along with foraging mapping datasets on the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal.

The project also provides funding for eligible councils, through two funding streams: Flying-fox Camp Habitat Restoration and Flying-fox Foraging Habitat Restoration. A new Partnership Advisory Group was established to develop the grant program guidelines and assess applications. The Flying-fox Camp Habitat Restoration funding stream was launched in December 2020, with 24 priority councils invited to express interest. Discussions have begun with 10 councils. The Flying-fox Foraging Habitat Restoration stream opened for applications in June 2021.



Lord Howe Island Woodhen

Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication

The most technically complex eradication project in the world, the Lord Howe Island (LHI) Rodent Eradication Project aimed to remove invasive ship rats (*Rattus rattus*) and house mice (*Mus musculus*) from the island – integral to supporting the unique biodiversity of the island.

It comprised a complex baiting process, removal of other introduced species, captive breeding of native birds and ongoing monitoring.

The project is now complete and its success is already evident with rapid recovery of native species and the improved natural environment on the island.

Project activities and highlights include:

- over 23,000 bait stations installed across the island, including inside all buildings
- 19 rounds of ground baiting and over 76 hours of aerial baiting
- 20 introduced masked owls removed
- goats were permanently removed from the island
- 234 LHI woodhens and 129 currawongs captured and kept in captivity by Taronga Zoo during eradication; upon release anecdotal evidence shows prolific breeding across the island
- approximately 200 chickens and 70 cattle dispatched before the eradication
- over 130 staff recruited, more than double normal staffing

- ongoing biosecurity inspections on vessels and aircraft
- extensive community engagement, including individual weekly phone calls to every leaseholder during baiting
- four external rodent-detector dogs and four handlers supplemented the LHI Board's existing two dogs and three handlers.
- fortnightly biosecurity checks at Port Macquarie wharf facility during the eradication phase, now a permanent contract to conduct dog checks
- a comprehensive biosecurity network fully installed, including kill devices and detection equipment, and checks conducted according to an ongoing schedule
- an incursion response plan prepared, and procedures put in place for any future rodent detection.

After the completion of the project, Lord Howe Island was rodent free for 16 months until a recent rodent detection in April 2021. A number of rats were found and eradicated. The outbreak is under investigation.

Lord Howe Island Weed Eradication

This program aims to remove at least 25 priority weeds from the island using a range of methods including new and innovative technologies.

Results so far have shown a 90% reduction in the top 10 priority weeds.

Without exotic rodents which extensively browse on native and invasive plants, the remaining weeds, along with lower priority invasive species, can be tackled before they re-establish. The project is trialling the use of drones, already shown to detect priority weeds at surrogate sites on the NSW North Coast.

LHI poses challenges due to its variable terrain and issues with weather and migrating seabirds. Work was done on gaining aviation approvals and fine-tuning software before releasing such weapons as herbicide-infused paintballs and paintball markers to reach weeds in hard-to-access sites. There is confidence in the program's methods and success, and there is excellent support from the local community.

Milestone payments for all active major restoration and rehabilitation grants in 2020–21: \$7,133,925.

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 in 2020-21



Applications received
30



Funding sought
\$2,093,485



Grants funded
13



Funding awarded
\$847,549

Note: The 2020-21 financial year included the approval of two Protecting our Places funding rounds due to a program realignment.

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 2020-21

- Planting of 5170 trees, shrubs and grasses over 4.5 hectares, across two project sites including at the significant cultural site in the Hexham Wetlands
- Carbon dating at a site in the Northern Tablelands confirmed well over 2000 years of occupancy by the Anaiwan People which led to protection of a significant cultural axe grinding site
- The Trust organised 10 capacity-building workshops for 2020-21 grantees at Nowra, Naree, Maitland, Gunnedah and Tamworth

Protecting our Places Program outcomes



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



100 Aboriginal people on Country who contributed **3411 hours**



481 volunteers who contributed over **4500 hours**, **15 contractors** employed for more than **1270 hours**



416 people attended **45 training events**



45 organisations actively collaborating on these projects

Note: This data is drawn from five 2017 projects and three 2018 projects that have been approved to progress to Stage 2 implementation. Progress has been delayed for many of these projects due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Table 6
Protecting our Places grants awarded 2020–21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
All Sustainable Futures Inc.	Jerrinja Aboriginal Cemetery 'Roseby Park' Development Project	Shoalhaven City	\$60,000
Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Cultural Management of Sites and Places	City of Newcastle	\$47,780
Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council	Healing Country with Cultural Burns	Lake Macquarie City	\$80,000
Budjiti Traditional Owners	Cultural burning program to protect woodland and wetlands on Naree and Yantabulla stations	Bourke Shire	\$54,000
Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	Fire and Weed Management for CHDLALC-owned Land at Yurruun.Ga	Coffs Harbour	\$80,000
Gumbaynggirr Jagun Aboriginal Corporation	Gumbaynggirr-led regeneration of koala habitat with Bellinger Landcare and Private Landowners	Bellingen Shire	\$59,300
Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Lands Council	Bugalwen Jagun (to get well Country)	Lismore City	\$60,000
Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council	Connecting with Wiradjuri Country in Blayney Shire	Orange City	\$79,493
The Gully Traditional Owners Incorporated	Garguree Stage 5 – Restoring the Cultural and Environmental Values of The Gully Aboriginal Place	Blue Mountains City	\$73,300
Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council	Nulla Nulla Restoration Program	Kempsey Shire	\$80,000
Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council	Land and Sea Rangers working to restore a culturally significant bushland site at Duranbah Beach	Tweed Shire	\$80,000
Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Surveying, mapping and implementing works program to conserve and restore Country	Upper Hunter Shire	\$36,970
Yawiriawiri Murri Ganuur Descendants Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ancestral Camp Revitalisation	Tamworth Region	\$56,706
Total			\$847,549

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020-21: \$377,398.



Rocky Knob viewed from Kau-Ma Park, Fletcher

CASE STUDY

Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council – protecting culture and Country at Rocky Knob

Rocky Knob is a highly significant Aboriginal site and special place to the Awabakal People. Its ecological value sits with its landscape, as a remnant of littoral rainforest within the large Hexham Swamp.

It is also an Aboriginal site that is connected to others in the Newcastle region through song and story lines.

Recently, there has been significant residential development near Rocky Knob. Through the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council's Protecting Our Places project, the biodiversity of Rocky Knob has been enhanced. Precious subsurface artefacts are now protected. A 4.5-hectare swamp forest vegetation buffer has been increased, improving wildlife habitat and reducing the impact of development. Fox baiting, with Indigenous people working alongside Hunter Local Land Services and NPWS, is helping to protect nesting wetland bird species.

In recognition of this highly successful Trust-funded project, the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council was awarded the 2020 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Award.



Swamp forest vegetation buffer near Rocky Knob

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 2020-21



Applications received
61



Funding sought
\$8,470,553



Grants funded
9



Funding awarded
\$1,101,656



Landholders learning to manage biodiversity and firewood collection

Achievements 2020-21

- Ongoing implementation of the [Coastal Emu Register](#) and [Clarence Koala Register](#) to encourage community action. Since its launch in October 2018, the registers have noted 1531 koala sightings, and 606 emu sightings
- Engagement and education of more than 1000 Northern Rivers community members in koala care. Through more than 40 awareness-raising events, Friends of the Koala have educated community members on how to identify whether a koala is in need of care, provided support for koala recovery, and coordinated community-led environmental action

Environmental Education Program outcomes



578 training and awareness raising events delivered to **26,271** people



7505 students (primary, secondary and tertiary) involved for **17,580** hours



310 partnerships with government and community organisations



540 educational products and resources produced



1136 volunteers contributed **9398** hours

Note: The Environmental Education Program was not offered in 2018 as the program was being redesigned based on program evaluation recommendations. This data is drawn from 26 projects that were funded in the 2016-2017 grant years, with 15 of these projects (58%) now complete.

Table 7
Environmental Education grants awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bellinger Landcare Inc.	Building the Bellingen Shire Regenerative Farming Network	Bellingen Shire	\$59,997
City of Canterbury Bankstown	Enabling Healthier Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Country through On-Country Classrooms	City of Canterbury Bankstown	\$60,000
Local Land Services Staff Agency	Environmental Markets Leadership Program	Gilgandra Shire	\$249,957
Macquarie University	Enabling Healthier Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Country through On-Country Classrooms	Moree Plains Shire	\$59,908
Petaurus Education Group Inc.	Building biodiversity relationships within the Burrumbuttock and surrounds farming community	Greater Hume	\$56,733
Southern Cross University	Regenerative Agriculture Mentorship Program	Lismore City	\$250,000
Sydney Olympic Park Authority	Neighbours Nurturing Nature – a Park Care Community Volunteer Program	Parramatta City	\$60,000
Waverley Council	Power to the Future: Harnessing Intergenerational Knowledge for Collective Climate Change Impact	Waverley	\$55,700
Western Murray Land Improvement Group Inc.	Resilient Pasture Systems for a Changing Climate	Murray River	\$249,361
Total			\$1,101,656

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020-21: \$324,438.



CASE STUDY

Improving thermal performance of housing for air quality and biodiversity outcomes

Z-NET Uralla is a group of enthusiastic volunteers guiding the transition to renewable and sustainable energy in the Uralla Shire.

For the third year Z-NET is managing 'The Elephant in the Woodlands', a project that focuses on impacts of firewood collection from woodlands. The aim is reduced reliance on firewood collected for winter heating – and to make that which is gathered more sustainable and low-impact through training landholders and firewood collectors.

Home energy reviews of more than 100 homes in the shire showed that at least half had gaps around doors and windows that have now been sealed. Most of these households found this improved the thermal comfort of their homes, therefore reducing their reliance on firewood.

Z-NET Uralla has provided sustainable design and building advice for five new homes and 12 renovations. The project has reached a local and national audience of more than 11,400 people through engagement including face-to-face workshops, social media and development of online resources. Liaison with more than 180 Uralla Shire residents has created community-led environmental action, and digital engagement has created awareness about sustainable firewood, biodiversity and improving thermal performance of housing.

Major education projects

New major grant

Performance Scorecards

The National Park Performance Scorecards initiative (Scorecards) will allow the health of national parks to be assessed over time, using key ecological indicators. This \$7-million program will allow scientific assessment to underpin the management of the NSW national parks estate. The first phase of the program will be delivered as a pilot and cover 30% of national parks including Royal National Park, the World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains Area, Kosciuszko National Park, Macquarie Marshes, and the Sturt – Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park complex.

Scorecards will allow both the public and park managers to track populations of key threatened species (e.g. koalas, mountain pygmy-possums, brush-tailed rock-wallabies, Wollemi pines) and key threats such as the abundance of feral animals and weeds, and fire.

The results of the pilot will be analysed and inform further rollout of the program across the NSW national parks estate.

Table 8

Performance Scorecards grant awarded 2020–21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	Performance Scorecards – Improving the ecological health of NSW national parks	Statewide	\$7,050,921
Total			\$7,050,921

Every Bit Counts – engaging small landholders for on-ground environmental outcomes

This project commenced in 2018 and connects managers of small properties and farms in coastal New South Wales with information, knowledge, experiences and peer-to-peer support networks to improve best practice land management.

Achievements this year include:

- successful engagement between Local Land Services, community-led networks and small landholders, with many landholders participating in events and other engagement activities
- further development of the ‘Every Bit Counts’ web portal to include additional resources, events and local network information designed for small landholders
- the *Blockies Bootcamp* email newsletter, providing plain-English land management basics and advice for small landholders, sent to nearly 2000 subscribers
- 20 case studies showcasing good practices on small landholdings.

Immersive Learning in Local and National Parks in Western Sydney

In its third year, this project connects school children with on-ground environmental management so they can be an integral part of data gathering.

Highlights include:

- designing and developing a 10-week, syllabus-linked, hands-on applied learning program for delivery in Western Sydney; this is part of the NPWS Junior Rangers program in partnership with the NSW Department of Education
- delivering the Junior Rangers program to 330 primary school students in Western Sydney
- developing a partnership with Greening Australia to integrate the Premier's Priority tree planting activities into the Junior Rangers program, including new online resources
- Junior Rangers planting over 350 plants as part of the Premier's Priority tree planting program
- Grose View Public School winning the 2021 Greater Sydney Regional Landcare Award under the Junior Landcare Team category. This recognises the school's achievements through the Junior Rangers program. The judging panel noted that it is a 'terrific educational initiative' and pleasing to see the link between theory, curriculum and on-ground work.

Plant Sure – Environmentally Safe Ornamental Plant Scheme

The Plant Sure project started in 2017 and aims to develop a voluntary certification scheme to reduce the number of high-risk (weedy) ornamental plants cultivated, supplied, sold or installed in New South Wales. Phase 2 of the project – implementation – continues to build on the research and development undertaken during Phase 1.

This year the project achievements included:

- Macquarie University building on Phase 1 research to refine the Ornamental Plant Decision Support Tool and Cultivar Tool and completing 300 ornamental plant invasive risk assessments to identify plants of low, medium and high invasiveness

- consortium partners (including Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT; Australian Institute of Horticulture; Department of Planning, Industry and Environment; and Department of Primary Industries) helping to deliver education workshops and webinars on the invasive risk of garden ornamentals to over 500 government, industry and community stakeholders
- establishing a website gardeningresponsibly.org.au, including a citizen science platform, to enable more people to conduct rapid assessments of invasive risks for the more than 30,000 cultivated plant species
- identifying different certification options that could be adapted and used by the scheme; preliminary testing is underway with 10 growers and supply chain partners
- conducting consumer insight market research involving over 1000 people across New South Wales, aged 18 to 84, with an active interest in gardening. The research showed that 83% of consumers would choose a 'certified gardening responsibly' plant over a non-certified product, and 23% of people would pay more for the certified plant.

Wildlife Heroes

Wildlife Heroes commenced in 2019 and helps the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife support and build the NSW volunteer wildlife rehabilitation sector and ensure its capacity and sustainability.

This year the project achievements included:

- building on activities to improve the health and safety of volunteers as part of the Caring for Carers campaign, along with support to increase their capacity to handle native animals
- recording and releasing a second series of the Wildlife Heroes podcast, with 379 listens in the first five weeks
- offering vaccination grant rounds for both rabies (lyssavirus) and Q fever vaccinations for wildlife rehabilitators and vets; as at the end of the financial year, around 40 people have received vaccinations or boosters through this project

Major education projects

- launching the Wildlife Friendly Vet campaign in early 2021, with Wildlife Heroes sponsoring a regional engagement tour that brought together general practice veterinarians, wildlife carers, rescue organisations, and members of the public. This helped build positive relationships, sharing how the sector can work together to give Australian wildlife the quality treatment and care it deserves.
- building the Wildlife Heroes social media coverage, providing resources and project updates via the wildlifeheroes.org.au website (8000 views) and Facebook group (450 members) as well as posting on Facebook (55,000 engagements).

New major grant

Keeping Cats Safe at Home

This four-year behaviour-change project started in January 2021. It aims to reduce the impact of domestic cats on wildlife by encouraging cat owners to keep their cats safe at home. The project will work with councils, other local stakeholders and an expert behaviour change consultant to design and implement place-based behaviour change strategies. Project impact will be monitored through an ecology research project with the University of New England. Ten councils from across New South Wales were selected to partner on the project through a competitive expression of interest process. Councils include urban, regional and remote, and coastal and inland areas, which have a variety of cat-management challenges. Behaviour change strategies will be implemented from early 2022.



Community consultation for Keeping Cats Safe at Home began in Walgett Shire in conjunction with the RSPCA NSW Healthy Pet Day, during which 22 cats, including this ginger tom, were microchipped and desexed.

Table 9

Keeping Cats Safe at Home grant awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals NSW	Keeping Cats Safe at Home	Statewide	\$2,547,393
Total			\$2,547,393

Milestone payments for all active major education grants in 2020-21: \$2,042,561

Environmental Research Program

A \$1-million program that focuses on supporting applied research projects related to eucalyptus dieback in New South Wales

Grants awarded in 2020-21



Expressions of interest received
20



Applications received
12



Funding sought
\$2,425,075



Grants awarded
6



Funding awarded
\$1,197,911

Achievements 2020-21

- Macquarie University facilitated important community connections and environmental stewardship with Darug custodians in Yellomundee Regional Park, Western Sydney, including a cultural burn with over 100 attendees, two Aboriginal women’s camps, a school camp for 150 local students, and cross-cultural sharing and learning.
- University of New England used cutting-edge techniques to study changes in soil properties and develop seven scientific publications to disseminate findings on environmental planting design. Findings suggest the choice of tree species and density of plantings are essential factors.
- University of Newcastle used genomic sampling and assessment to detect the presence of potentially harmful algal blooms in Ross Wallbridge Reserve. Research will help ongoing management of the reserve and improve understanding of the physiology of harmful algal blooms.

Projects awarded under the 2020-21 round themed ‘Untangling the causes of tree dieback’, will support applied research on eucalyptus dieback to:

- address knowledge gaps in research
- provide evidence to support policy and practice change for ecosystem management
- inform the effective management of risks to community values.

Environmental Research Program outcomes



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



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



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



742 people contributed including 57 post-graduate students and 468 volunteers



72 organisations involved or assisting with these projects

Note: This data is drawn from 30 projects that continued after being funded in the 2016-18 grant years, with nine of these projects (30%) now complete.

Table 10
Environmental Research grants awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian National University	Climate and dieback resilience of tableland and mountain eucalypt species of south-east Australia	Snowy Monaro Region	\$199,205
Australian National University	Environmental drivers, landscape determinants and control of snow gum dieback	Snowy Monaro Region	\$200,000
CSIRO - Land and Water	Untangling the role of mycorrhizal mutualisms in eucalypt dieback to enhance revegetation outcomes	Statewide	\$200,000
Macquarie University	Characterising the (a)biotic soil factors associated with bell miner associated dieback in eastern New South Wales	Statewide	\$199,999
University of New England	Causes, projections and reversal of eucalypt decline and dieback on the New England Tablelands	Armidale Region	\$200,000
Western Sydney University	Determining the physiological underpinnings of eucalypt dieback in New South Wales	Statewide	\$198,707
Total			\$1,197,911

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2020-21: \$1,257,350.

Major research projects

New major grant

Clean Technology Innovation

A low-emissions future is the aim of the \$750-million Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program, a cornerstone of the NSW [Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030](#). This joint effort between the NSW Government, researchers and industry is one of three focus areas creating an environment to support innovation, including the domestic development, testing and use of new clean technologies. In March, the Trust committed to providing \$70 million over four to 10 years to fund three projects in the clean technology sector.

The funding will support a decarbonisation innovation hub, research and development of clean technologies via contestable funding grant rounds, and investigation of the voluntary uptake of low-emissions standards for industry.

The hub will accelerate the development and adoption of clean technologies, reducing emissions while generating economic benefits for the State. A new grant of \$14,999,468 was awarded to the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer for the project.

To support the hub, the Trust will establish and administer a \$40-million contestable

grants program to deliver funding for clean technology research and development. This program will focus on early-stage development and application of new low-emissions technologies, services and intellectual property.

A scoping study funded by the Trust this year will firstly guide development and adoption of low emissions solutions in specific industry and government sectors to contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in NSW. It will inform development of a future Low Emissions Standards project with advice and evidence to help robust business planning. It will achieve this through a review of existing related policies, programs and standards, determination of priority sectors and implementation pathways, consultation with industry, and project development.

A new grant of \$250,000 was awarded to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to commission the scoping study and business plan development. The Trust committed a further \$14.75 million to the subsequent development of low-emission standards.

Table 11

Clean Technology Innovation grants awarded and commitments made 2020–21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	Net Zero Plan: Developing and adopting low-emissions standards seed funding	Statewide	\$250,000
To be determined	Net Zero Plan: Developing and adopting low-emissions standards	Statewide	\$14,750,000 committed
Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer	NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub	Statewide	\$14,999,468
NSW Environmental Trust (administration of the program)	Research and development contestable grant program	Statewide	\$40,000,000 for grants
Total			\$69,999,468

Beyond Fencing

Feral cats and foxes have caused havoc in many of our wild areas. Sturt National Park in the NSW Far West has been at the centre of research to control these pests. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is leading a project that will reintroduce the greater bilby, burrowing bettong, western quoll, and crest-tailed mulgara to a 'wild training zone' and research whether these species can persist and adapt to controlled low densities of feral cats and foxes. A key technique being trialled is the Felixer Grooming Trap which is an automated tool to help reduce the number of cats and foxes.

Year 1 of the 10-year project has started well, with project teams established and ecological monitoring methods developed to monitor predator-prey populations including spotlighting and a remote camera grid.

All relevant scientific licences and ethics permits have been approved, along with a 12-month field trial. Project-critical equipment such as remote cameras and satellite tracking collars for feral cats have been ordered, ready for deployment to field sites.

Feral deer management

Through a \$9.21 million proof-of-concept project awarded in 2018-19, NPWS is researching the emerging issue of feral deer. Cost-effective, humane and coordinated techniques to complement existing control methods across diverse landscapes are being developed in south-east Kosciuszko National Park and adjoining landholder properties.

The project is making steady progress in its second year, with positive stakeholder support and field data collection underway. Construction of fenced vegetation plots, scientific approvals and licences, and thermal surveys were some of the activities completed during the first half of the year. The second half of the year saw the project team establish contracts for vegetation monitoring, pasture monitoring, photography and videography, and support a PhD student.

In a first for Australia, the project team successfully completed aerial-assisted netting of feral sambar and red deer, with 10 caught and fitted with GPS tracking collars before release. This will provide insights into currently unknown movement and behaviour. The collars

are transmitting well, and the team aims to complete further collaring next year.

Developing strategies for effective feral cat management

A \$14.68-million five-year grant, which commenced in 2019, is supporting effective, integrated management strategies for feral cats in north-east, south-east and western New South Wales. The University of New England is developing innovative online monitoring tools, including automated individual feral cat identification algorithms, and will refine existing control techniques, test new ones and develop a tool to predict and plan for cat control.

This year saw surveying and monitoring at all sites for predators (feral cats, foxes and wild dogs, including dingos) and for prey (birds, reptiles, small and medium-sized mammals). Additional live trapping of prey species to establish baseline levels of diversity and abundance will enable robust comparisons following planned experimental management programs. The project team also began trialling different trapping techniques for feral cats ahead of telemetry work in future years.



Spotted-tailed quolls are captured and released to monitor populations before and after invasive predator control programs

New and existing major grant

Biocontrol research for weed management

This program aims to undertake research to reduce weeds and their impact through biocontrol.

Achievements for the year include:

- application for release of the rust fungus *Puccinia rapipes* for African boxthorn biocontrol, and the stem-wilting bug *Catorhintha schaffneri* for leaf cactus biocontrol
- community-based release of the recently introduced biocontrol agent for wandering trad, the leaf smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis*; more than 7000 infected stems were released to more than 150 sites; 50 monitoring plots were established across 14 sites; data shows no impact on native species
- release approved for a biocontrol agent for sea spurge, the blight fungus *Venturia paralias*, starting with two sites on the NSW South Coast; stem lesions were observed on sea spurge when the sites were revisited
- release of a recently introduced biocontrol agent for Hudson pear, the cochineal *Dactylopius tomentosus*, impacting several sites; around 33,000 cochineal-infected cladodes were released at 41 sites.

The 2018 Major Projects Prospectus process identified options to expand the Biocontrol program to provide funding each year to advance research for new weed species and related biocontrol agents, with the aim of preparing the agents for broadscale release.

As part of the ongoing Biocontrol program, a new grant of \$499,834 was awarded to the



Top: Gathering baseline vegetation data before the release of the leaf smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* in a wandering trad infestation at one of the monitoring sites near Macquarie Pass, NSW

Above: Experimental releases of the blight fungus *Venturia paralias* in a sea spurge infestation at a beach on the NSW South Coast.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The funding will support the release and evaluation of new approved biocontrol agents for sagittaria (*Sagittaria platyphylla*) and sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), and research on the most promising biocontrol agents for parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) and leafy elodea (*Egeria densa*).

Table 12
Biocontrol grant awarded 2020–21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Biocontrol Research for Weed Management – Stage 3 – Implementation Plan No 3	Statewide	\$499,834
			Total \$499,834

Milestone payments for all active major research grants in 2020–21: \$4,712,321.

Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative

Australia’s largest waste and recycling grant program, helping communities and businesses reduce waste to landfill

Trust funding made available up to 2020–21 under Waste Less, Recycle More II	\$57 million
Trust and NSW EPA total funding through Waste Less, Recycle More I & II (2013–21)	\$802 million
Australian and NSW government funding under Remanufacture NSW	\$35 million
Alternative Waste Technology transition package funding through the NSW Government	\$16.25 million
Projects funded in 2020–21	31

Alternative Waste Treatment Transition Package

In 2020–21, an additional \$16.25 million in funding was available under the Phase 2 Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) Transition Package. This funding supports councils that have been affected by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) decision to no longer allow land application of mixed waste organics

output. The funding was available to eligible councils under the Organics Collection Program as well as to councils and AWT operators under the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program.

The grants awarded with this funding are indicated below with an asterisk*

Organics Infrastructure Fund

Supporting collection and recycling of organics and reducing food waste

Organics Collections Program - household stream

Up to \$1.3 million for councils to divert organic waste from landfill

16,433 tonnes per year is the projected volume of organic waste to be diverted from landfill through a new or enhanced kerbside service thanks to the Organics Collections Program

53,140 households are to receive a new or enhanced organics recycling service in this round, thanks to the Organics Collections Program

Grants awarded in 2020-21



Applications received
9



Funding sought
\$5,091,083



Grants awarded
8



Funding awarded
\$2,669,314

Table 13

Organics Collections Program grants awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Household stream			
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Cootamundra Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Introduction	Cootamundra-Gundagai Region	\$103,000
Federation Council	Rural and Remote FOGO Federation Council	Federation	\$45,960
Hay Shire Council	Hay Shire Council FOGO Collection Program	Hay Shire	\$89,953
Murray River Council	MRC Central and West Districts FOGO Collections	Murray River	\$321,914
Parramatta City Council	City of Parramatta Food Organics in Multi-unit Dwellings (MUDs)	Parramatta City	\$225,000*
Randwick City Council	FOGO Collection and Processing in Single-unit Dwellings (SUDs)	Randwick City	\$1,119,748*
Tamworth Regional Council	Tamworth Regional Council Organic Collections	Tamworth Region	\$502,000
Wollongong City Council	Wollongong City Council FOGO Collection Rollout	Wollongong City	\$261,739
Total			\$2,669,314

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

Funding a broad range of projects that process organic waste or support food donation

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

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

In 2020-21, funding was offered under two streams: Stream 1 - organics processing infrastructure and Stream 5 - transfer stations. No applications were received under Stream 5.

Grants awarded in 2020-21



Applications received
4



Funding sought
\$1,411,470



Grants awarded
1



Funding awarded
\$1,000,000

Table 14

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grant awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1: Organics processing			
Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	Woodlawn Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Transition Project	Goulburn Mulwaree	\$1,000,000*
		Total	\$1,000,000

Remanufacture NSW

Supporting the NSW resource recovery sector’s response to changes brought about by the decision to ban the export of unbeneficiated waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres. Remanufacture NSW ensures New South Wales leads by example and maximises recycling and re-use activities while keeping materials within the productive economy. The Australian Government is also contributing \$25 million to this program

Grants awarded in 2020-21



Applications received
54



Funding sought
\$111,340,874



Grants awarded
22



Funding awarded
\$24,154,082

In 2020-21, up to \$35 million was available under two streams:

- **Stream 1: Infrastructure** – to support the establishment of new recycling infrastructure and equipment. Grants of \$100,000 to \$5 million were available.
- **Stream 2: Trials** – to support innovative trials to address waste export ban materials. Grants of \$50,000 to \$1 million were available.

Table 15

Remanufacture NSW grants awarded 2020-21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1: Infrastructure			
7 Star Tyres Pty Ltd	Tyre processing expansion project	City of Canterbury Bankstown	\$745,184
Australian Recycled Plastics Pty Ltd	Narrabri plastic reprocessing capacity expansion	Narrabri Shire	\$2,090,000
Brickwood Holdings Pty Ltd	Blacktown food grade recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE) integration	Blacktown City	\$553,608
City of Newcastle Council	Materials processing facility	Newcastle City	\$5,000,000
Coffs Harbour Paper and Oil	Coffs Region Plastics Recycling	Coffs Harbour City	\$636,000
Gilgandra Shire Council	Enhancement of the Gilgandra Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Gilgandra Shire	\$143,500
Kurrajong Waratah	Kurrajong MRF upgrade to increase circular economy outputs	Wagga Wagga City	\$520,810
NSW Glass Recyclers Pty Ltd	NSW Glass Recyclers Processing Upgrades	Mid-Coast	\$228,265
Shoalhaven City Council	Glass, plastic and textile remanufacturing MICROfactory	Shoalhaven City	\$500,000

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Sulo MGB Australia Pty Ltd	Upgrade moulding centre for mobile waste containers	Central Coast	\$2,083,606
Traco Pty Ltd	Sydney tyre recycling and rubber products plant capacity upgrades	Strathfield	\$524,347
Tyrecycle Pty Ltd	Tyrecycle New South Wales off-the-road (OTR) processing plant	Penrith City	\$2,888,915
Upcycled Building Materials Australia Pty Ltd	Save Board Australia	Fairfield City	\$1,739,128
Valley Industries Limited	Recycled plastics – capacity expansion	MidCoast	\$422,500
Vinidex Pty Limited	Vinidex recycling equipment upgrade	Cumberland City	\$762,000
VIP Packaging	Recycled content for HDPE packaging	City of Canterbury Bankstown	\$492,200
Visy Industries Australia Pty Ltd	Glass recovery maximisation project	Penrith City	\$2,546,758
WeCollect Pty Ltd	Mobile plastics and e-waste recycling factory	Various	\$159,936
Total			\$22,036,757

Table 16
Remanufacture NSW grants awarded 2020–21

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 2: Trials			
Allmould Plastics Pty Ltd	Full circular project	Orange City	\$179,500
Vinidex Pty Limited	Corrugated conduit made from PVC recycle	Cumberland City	\$910,000
VIP Packaging	Pail rationalisation and incorporation of recycled content trial	City of Canterbury Bankstown	\$177,825
Viscount Rotational Mouldings Pty Ltd	Rotomoulding with post-consumer plastics	Campbelltown City	\$850,000
Total			\$2,117,325

Milestone payments made across all WLRM programs for active grants in 2020–21:

- Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund: \$3,844,741 under the Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program
- Landfill Consolidation Fund: \$661,879 under the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grant Program
- Recycling Innovation Fund: \$344,587 under the Innovation in Priority Problem Wastes Management Program
- Organics Infrastructure Fund: \$2,976,543 under the Organics Collection Program and Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program
- Alternative Waste Treatment Transition Package: \$872,375 under the Organics Collection Program and Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program
- Community Recycling Centres Program: \$141,128.

CASE STUDY

Taronga Western Plains Zoo – Reducing carbon emissions by diverting organic waste away from landfill

Growing and producing food requires water, energy, land and fertiliser, so the less that is wasted the better. When you add the environmental cost of decaying food in landfill, we're all better off keeping food waste to a minimum.

Around half of landfill refuse is estimated to comprise food waste. As it decays it releases harmful methane gases – around a quarter of annual emissions in New South Wales.

Thanks to a \$187,300 grant from the Trust, Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo has taken a truly elephantine step toward reducing this environmental impact.

This project, funded through the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program, is diverting 150 kilograms of waste from landfill each day and converting it to a nutrient-rich product to enhance the region's characteristically arid and nutrient-depleted soils.

The zoo installed a HotRot organics processor on site, with a three-bin system encouraging zoo patrons to separate and recycle food waste. The new burgundy organics bins capture food scraps from the zoo's tourist operations as well as offcuts from preparing animal feed.

Organics collected from the bins are combined with the zoo's cornstarch-based food packaging and coffee cups. On-site processing in the HotRot creates a high-quality pelletised product to be used on gardens to help improve soil.



HotRot organics processor onsite at Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Taronga Western Plains Zoo is Climate Active carbon-neutral certified and continues to work towards reducing its operational greenhouse gas emissions. For more information see [Sustainability](#) on the Taronga Conservation Society website.

The Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program is delivered by the Trust in partnership with the NSW EPA.

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 by the Accountable Authority, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2021, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021, 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:

- have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable financial reporting requirements of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (GSF Act), the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2018* (GSF Regulation) and the Treasurer's Directions
- presents fairly the Trust's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

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.

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, the GSF Act, GSF Regulations and Treasurer's Directions. The Trustees' responsibilities also include 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

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

13 October 2021
SYDNEY

Environmental Trust
Statement by the Accountable Authority
for the year ended 30 June 2021

Pursuant to section 7.6(4) of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* ("the Act"), we state that these financial statements:

- have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the applicable requirements of the Act, the *Government Sector Finance Regulation 2018* and the Treasurer's directions, and
- present fairly the Environmental Trust's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.



Matthew Kean MP
Chair

Date: 11.10.21



Dr Paul Grimes
Trust Member

Date: 30/09/2021

BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Actual 2021 \$'000	Budget 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses	2(a)	4,953	5,700	5,155
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	57,569	67,704	50,683
Total expenses excluding losses		62,522	73,404	55,838
Revenue				
Grants and contributions	3(a)	63,027	70,200	48,845
Other income	3(b)	1,081	1,952	7,212
Total revenue		64,108	72,152	56,057
Net result		1,586	(1,252)	219
Total Comprehensive Income		1,586	(1,252)	219

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Actual 2021 \$'000	Budget 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	7,264	2,829	4,080
Receivables	6	794	3,068	3,069
Total current assets		8,058	5,897	7,149
Total assets		8,058	5,897	7,149
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	7	2,710	3,387	3,387
Total current liabilities		2,710	3,387	3,387
Total liabilities		2,710	3,387	3,387
Net assets		5,348	2,510	3,762
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds		5,348	2,510	3,762
Total equity		5,348	2,510	3,762

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2020		3,762	3,762
Net result for the year		1,586	1,586
Total other comprehensive income		-	-
Balance at 30 June 2021		5,348	5,348
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

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Actual 2021 \$'000	Budget 2021 \$'000	Actual 2020 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Grants and subsidies		(57,569)	(67,704)	(50,683)
Other		(5,630)	(5,700)	(6,903)
Total payments		(63,199)	(73,404)	(57,586)
Receipts				
Grants and other contributions		63,027	70,200	48,845
Other		3,356	1,952	7,947
Total receipts		66,383	72,152	56,792
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	11	3,184	(1,252)	(794)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS				
Opening cash and cash equivalents		4,080	4,081	4,874
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5	7,264	2,829	4,080

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Reporting entity

Environmental Trust (the Trust), is a NSW government entity, as constituted by the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, and is a reporting entity under the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (GSF Act).

The Trust is an independent GSF agency established by the NSW government to fund a broad range of organisations to undertake projects that enhance the environment of NSW. The Trust's 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 contributes to the State Outcome of delivering *resilient and sustainable environment and energy*. Refer [note 4](#).

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for the Environment. At 30 June 2021 the members of the Trust were the Coordinator-General, Environment, Energy 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.

The Trust's financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Chair and a Trust member 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 accruals basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations);
- the requirements of the GSF Act; and
- Treasurer's Directions issued under the GSF 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.

In the 2019-20 comparative details, the Trust reclassified a specific transaction between the line items 'grants and contributions' and 'other income' in the statement of comprehensive income and statement of cash flows. Refer [note 3\(a\)](#) and [note 3\(b\)](#). There is no change in the total revenue, equity and cash position of the Trust for the 2019-20 financial year.

(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

Effective for the first time in 2020–21:

The Trust applied AASB 1059 *Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* (AASB 1059) for the first time. The nature and effect of the changes as a result of adoption of this new accounting standard are described below.

Several other amendments and interpretations apply for the first time in the 2020–21 financial year, but do not have an impact on the financial statements of the Trust.

AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors

AASB 1059 is effective for the Trust from 1 July 2020. At the same time NSW Treasury Policy and Guideline Paper TPP 06-8: *Accounting for Privately Financed Projects* (TPP 06-8) was withdrawn effective from 1 July 2020.

Service concession arrangements are contracts between an operator and a grantor, where the operator provides public services related to a service concession asset on behalf of the grantor for a specified period of time and manages at least some of those services.

Where AASB 1059 applies, the grantor recognises the service concession asset when the grantor obtains control of the asset and measures the service concession asset at current replacement cost. At the same time the grantor recognises a corresponding financial liability or unearned revenue liability or a combination of both.

The Trust has no service concession arrangements and the adoption of this standard has nil impact on the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2021 or the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021.

Issued but not yet effective:

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

The following new Australian Accounting Standards have not been applied and are not yet effective (NSW Treasury mandate TC 20-08):

- AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* (effective from 1 July 2021)
- AASB 2020-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current* (effective from 1 January 2022)
- AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements 2018–2020 and Other Amendments* (effective from 1 January 2022)
- AASB 2020-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current* (effective from 1 January 2022)
- AASB 2020-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions: Tier 2 Disclosures* (effective from 1 January 2021)

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) Deemed appropriations

The Trust controls the Environmental Trust Fund which is a special deposits account established under section 18 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* into which is paid all of the money that is expended by the Trust in the exercise of its functions. The Trust therefore does not have any deemed appropriations and hence no disclosure under section 4.7 of the GSF Act on movement of deemed appropriations is required.

2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

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

(a) Other operating expenses	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Corporate and specialist support	4,329	4,435
Impairment of assets and bad debts	189	282
Fees for services	387	392
Advertising, printing and publishing	2	1
Auditor's remuneration – audit of the financial statements	38	37
Travel	1	5
Other	7	3
	4,953	5,155

Impairments relate to debtors from whom the Trust has requested the return of unspent grants. Refer [note 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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
State and Local Governments	42,379	29,813
Other	14,321	19,890
Commonwealth Government	869	980
	57,569	50,683

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

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (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 income are discussed below.

(a) Grants and other contributions	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations	63,027	48,845
	63,027	48,845

The above grants include recurrent funding of \$59.5 million (2020: \$44.3 million) from DPIE, the principal department in the Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster, \$2.5 million grant from DPIE towards the *Saving Our Species* program (2020: \$2.5 million) and \$1 million grant from DPIE towards major grants program (2020:\$2.0 million).

For the 2019–20 comparative, an amount of \$2.0 million was reallocated from 'other income – refund by grantees of unspent grants' to align with the nature of grant received from DPIE. Refer [note 1\(e\)](#) and [note 3\(b\)](#).

Recognition and measurement

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. The Trust does not have any revenue from grants with sufficiently specific milestones/performance obligations.

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 is 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 2021, the Trust did not use any volunteer services (2020: nil).

(b) Other income	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Fines (Court awarded)	-	1,283
Refunds by grantees of unspent grants*	1,081	5,929
	1,081	7,212

For the 2019–20 comparative, an amount of \$2 million was reallocated from 'refund by grantees of unspent grants' to 'grants and contributions' to align with the nature of funding received from DPIE. Refer [note 1\(e\)](#) and [note 3\(a\)](#).

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. Refer [note 6](#) and [note 9](#).

In the 2019–20 financial year, the Trust received refunds from a number of grantees from its contestable grants and major grants programs due to a number of factors, such as withdrawals by grantees and the inability of grantees to achieve milestones within acceptable timeframes, given the impacts of the drought, bushfires and COVID-19.

(ii) *Fines (Court awarded)*

Fines are recognised in the period in which the Land and Environment Court orders payment of fine to the 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

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	7,264	4,080
	7,264	4,080

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:

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents (per statement of financial position)	7,264	4,080
Cash and cash equivalents (per statement of cash flows)	7,264	4,080

Refer [note 12](#) for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

6. CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Trade debtors	1,019	5,627
Expected credit loss	(858)	(3,124)
Accrued income	-	274
GST receivable	633	292
	794	3,069
Movement in the allowance for expected credit losses:		
Balance at 1 July	3,124	2,842
Amounts written off during the year	(2,455)	-
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in net result (refer note 2(a))	189	282
Balance at 30 June	858	3,124

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.

7. CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Creditors	1,138	1,237
Accrued expenses	1,572	2,150
	2,710	3,387

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 2021 (2020: nil).

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

Contingent liabilities:

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2021 (2020: 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 \$1.6 million was higher than the budgeted loss of (\$1.2 million) by \$2.8 million. This favourable variance was a result of lower than budgeted expenses of \$10.8 million, partly offset by reduced revenue of \$8.0 million. Major expenses and revenue variances were due to:

	\$ million
Expenses	
– Reduction in grant expenses due to delays in commencing grants and slower than budgeted progress by grantees. As part of the 2020–21 State Budget process, the Trust obtained approval to reallocate the majority of these grants to future years.	10.1
– Lower than budgeted operating expenses across a range of categories.	0.7
Total under expenditure	10.8
Revenue	
– Reallocation of government funding to future years to correspond with the timing of expenses reallocated through the State Budget process (refer above).	(7.2)
– Lower than other income mainly as a result of 'nil' court awarded fines in the 2020–21 year. Courts are now allocating money directly to projects using Enforceable Undertakings	(0.8)
Total lower than budgeted revenue	(8.0)
Variance in net result	2.8

(b) Assets and liabilities

Net assets were higher than budget by \$2.8 million mainly due to an increase in cash (refer below) and lower than budgeted net receivables (receivables less payables). Receivables were lower due to reduced refunds of grants to the Trust and reduced payables were due to the timing of payment of outstanding invoices.

(c) Cash flows

Net increase in cash of \$3.2 million in 2020–21 was higher than the budgeted net reduction of (\$1.2 million) by \$4.4 million. This was mainly due to higher than budgeted net result of \$2.8 million, lower than budgeted receivables by \$2.3 million, partly offset by reduced payables of \$0.7 million.

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

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	3,184	(794)
Increase/(decrease) in receivables	(2,275)	1,496
Decrease/(increase) in creditors	677	(483)
Net result	1,586	219

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Class:				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	N/A	7,264	4,080
Receivables ¹	6	Receivables (amortised cost)	161	2,777
			7,425	6,857

Financial liabilities	Note	Category	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Class:				
Payables ²	7	Financial liabilities (at amortised cost)	2,710	3,387
			2,710	3,387

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 2021 and 30 June 2020 was determined as follows:

30 June 2021						
\$'000						
	Current	<30 days	30-60 days	61-90 days	>91 days	Total
Expected credit loss rate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	92.9%	
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	56	39	-	-	924	1,019
Expected credit loss	-	-	-	-	(858)	(858)

30 June 2020						
\$'000						
	Current	<30 days	30-60 days	61-90 days	>91 days	Total
Expected credit loss rate	-	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	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)

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 meet 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 year was 8.06% (2020: 9.08%). No interest was paid for the year ended 30 June 2021 (2020:nil). The table below summarises the maturity profile of Trust's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

	\$'000					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 2021								
Payables	-	2,710	-	-	2,710	2,710	-	-
At 30 June 2020								
Payables	-	3,387	-	-	3,387	3,387	-	-

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 the carrying value or interest paid/earned. 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:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Trust sitting fees	2,310	1,870
Total	2,310	1,870

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 DPIE member on the Trust. Ministerial compensation is paid by the NSW Legislature, not by the Trust. No compensation is paid by the Trust to the DPIE member.

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 2020–21, total grants in the amount of \$33.4 million (2020: \$19.2 million) were paid to DPIE, whose Coordinator General, Environment, Energy and Science is a member 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.

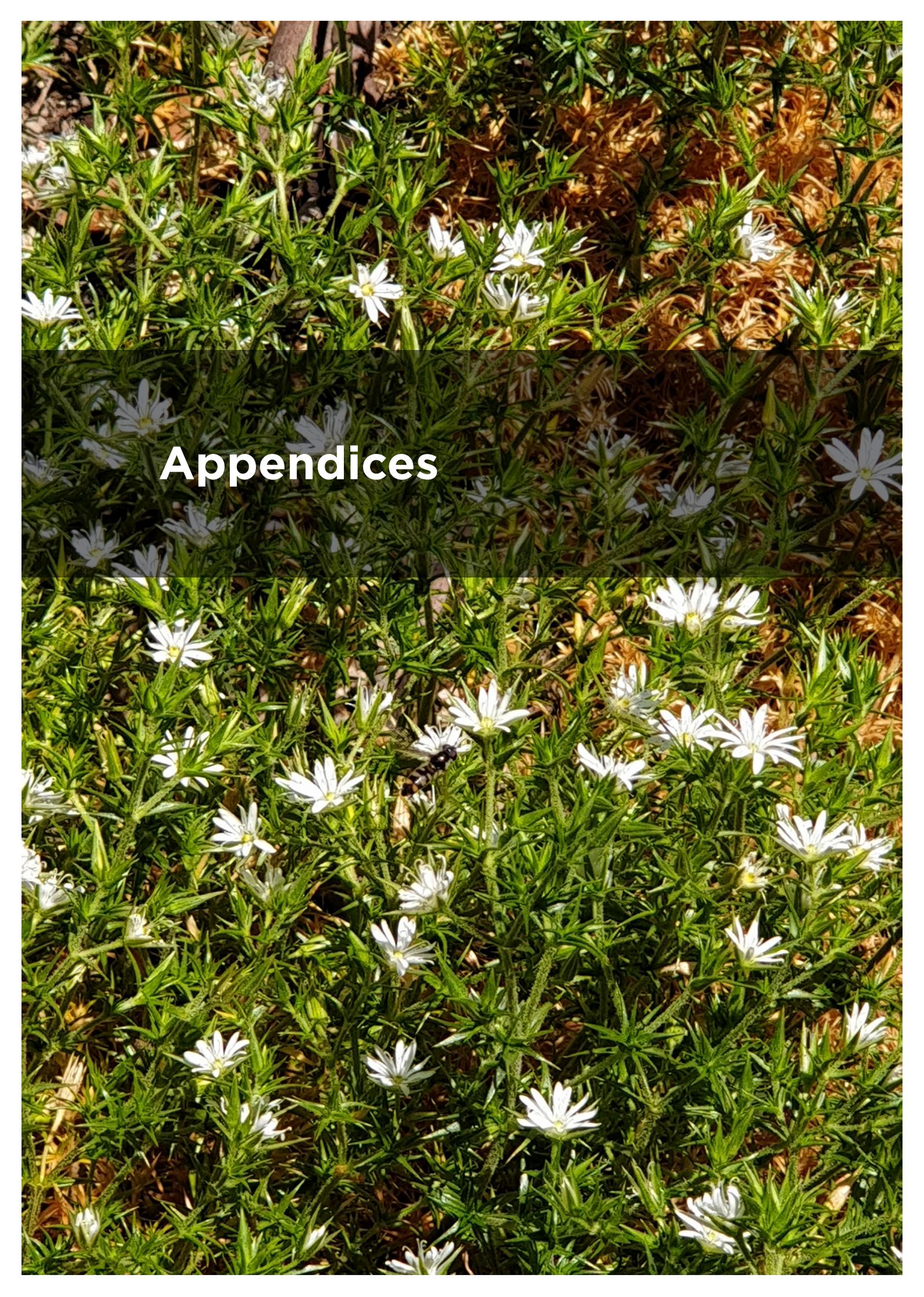
Where a grant application from DPIE is identified, a conflict of interest is disclosed by the DPIE member of the Trust at the meeting, which is minuted. The member also refrains from voting in these instances. In 2020–21, the Trust also paid \$4.3 million (2020: \$4.4 million) to DPIE for specialist 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 2021, the Trust assessed the impact of COVID-19 on the fair value of its financial assets, namely receivables. This was based on historical credit loss experience for trade receivables, which are mainly grantees; expectation of macroeconomic conditions and outlook at the time of assessment. It is unlikely COVID-19 will have a material effect on the net result or financial statements for the Trust for 2021.

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

Statement of affairs

Indicators of activity of administering the Trust

Table 17

	2020-21	2019-20
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives and support	\$62 million	\$55 million
Number of contestable programs and other small grant programs running	21	22
Number of major programs and projects running	32	32
Number of new contestable grant projects approved	91	154
Number of new major programs and projects approved	10	5
Number of applications / expressions of interest processed	245	504
Number of grant payments processed	314	439

Under the Environmental Trust Act, grants should be expended within three years, however, the Trust may approve or delegate an extension. Considering the extraordinary circumstances over the past year, the Trust approved a change in administrative delegations up until 30 June 2022 to allow delegated Trust staff to:

- extend grants by up to 18 months due to delays caused by drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19
- approve variations 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:

- Affective Services Australia Pty Ltd – Canterbury Road construction and demolition recycling facility
- Albury City Council – AWMC C&I and C&D MRF
- Australian National University – Knowledge to Action: co-design of climate adaptation strategies

- Australian National University – Adaptive evolution of eucalyptus trees under future climates
- Barragal Landcare Group Inc. – Restoring Shale Hill Woodland in Barragal Lagoon Catchment
- Barragal Landcare Group Inc. – Skilling up the community to reduce fox impacts in south-west Sydney
- Bellingen Shire Council – Restoring public reserves of the Never Never, Gleniffer – Stage 1
- Bellinger Landcare Inc. – Upper Bellinger River Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Connections
- Boral Cement Limited – Berrima kiln chloride bypass
- Bundanon Trust – Restoring Riverflat Eucalyptus Forest – Stage 1
- Central Tablelands Landcare Inc. – Planned woodland pathways – connecting our endangered communities
- Cessnock City Council – Citizens, science and woodland birds of Cessnock
- Charles Sturt University – Society and science: a new approach to wildlife disease surveillance
- Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council – Protecting koalas, threatened species and TECs at Mylestom

- CSIRO – Land and Water Flagship – Compostable plastics in green wastes: the lowdown on their breakdown
- CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship – Biocontrol Research for Weed Management
- CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship – Biocontrol Research for Weed Management – Stage 3
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NPWS – Gully stabilisation to protect endangered Box-Gum Woodland, Mcleods Creek Nature Reserve
- Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Trust – Protection and restoration of ‘Hungry Hill’ at Dungog Common
- Eurobodalla Shire Council – Weed finder – a self-help system for weed control
- Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation – Burning for healthy Country – not hectares
- Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife – Community Bush Regeneration Private Land Conservation Grants (small project stream)
- Greening Australia Ltd – One paddock at a time – practical solutions to restore critical woodland habitat on farms
- Hilltops Council – Currawong Creek Rehabilitation, Murrumburrah, NSW
- Hunter Local Land Services – Beyond the Bend – Wollombi Brook Riparian Rehabilitation Project, Broke, NSW
- Hunter Local Land Services – A Beacon in the Landscape – Recognising and Enhancing Habitat at Mount Breckin
- Hunter Local Land Services – Working Towards Eradication of Giant Reed on the Pages River in the Upper Hunter
- Hunter Wetland Centre Australia – Restoring wetland EECs and protecting threatened waterbirds
- Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation – Going Bingsings – protecting freshwater turtles from the impact of cane toads
- Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation – Good fire on helmet grassy habitats
- Ku-ring-gai Council – Duffys Forest endangered ecological community remnant consolidation
- Landcare Illawarra Inc. – Reconstructing EECs in Illawarra farmscapes
- Lane Cove Municipal Council – Batten Reserve: restore endangered vegetation and create habitat
- Local Government NSW – Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program
- Lord Howe Island Board – The Tide is Turning – Driving Weed Eradication on Lord Howe Island
- Lord Howe Island Board – Protecting Island Ecology – eradicating rodents from World Heritage Lord Howe Island
- Macquarie University – Scaling up green seawall designs
- Macquarie University – Darug Caring-as-Country – Creating Local Environmental Stewards
- Macquarie University – Evaluating and reducing the risk of floodplain wetland disconnection
- MidCoast Council – Stroud Community Recycling Centre and Transfer Station
- MidCoast Council – Backyard bushcare in Pacific Palms
- Murrumbidgee Landcare Association Inc. – More than just pretty trees: Restoring native habitat on Junee farms
- North Coast Regional Landcare Network Inc. – Rising strong: conserving biodiversity in a changing climate
- Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT Limited – PlantSure: Environmentally Safe Ornamental Plant Scheme
- Parkes Shire Council – Wetlands, Waders and Woodlands
- Polytrade Recycling – Plastics processing plant
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council – MUDs organics recovery project
- Port Stephens Council – Birubi Headland Sand Dune Restoration
- Port Stephens Council – Littoral Rainforest – Soldiers Point
- Port Stephens Council – Mambo – Managing and Monitoring Biodiversity Outcomes

- Queensland University of Technology – Promoting stewardship: identifying pathways to greater participation
- Remondis Australia Pty Ltd – Food waste collection for shopping centres and commercial properties
- SecondBite Melbourne – SecondBite fresh food rescue and redistribution expansion in NSW
- SOILCO Pty Limited – Kembla Grange Composting and Manufacturing Facility (KG CMF)
- Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council – Wattle Ridge IPA Cultural Walk Improvement Tamworth Regional Council – Tamworth Regional Organics Recycling Facility
- Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation – Rewilding Sydney’s remnant Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub
- Tweed Shire Council – Love cats, love wildlife
- University of New England, School of Environment and Rural Science – Developing Strategies for Effective Feral Cat Management
- University of Newcastle – The opportunistic physiology of harmful algal blooms in Port Stephens
- University of Sydney – Transgenerational plasticity and epigenetics – ocean change adaptation
- University of Wollongong – Let them eat Carotenoids: boosting corroboree frog immunity
- Western Sydney University – On-site analysis for intelligence gathering at pollution incidents.

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 help 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; and work health and safety. Further information on these policies and other organisational issues is available in the *NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Annual Report 2020-21*.

Assets

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

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Trust programs include an integrated monitoring, evaluation and reporting (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. The design of the new GMS incorporates MER principles to support the planning and successful delivery of funded projects.

Work began this year on reviewing the Trust's MER practices, with the view to developing an enhanced monitoring evaluation, reporting and improvement framework to better report on program and project outcomes and increase alignment with State outcomes. This work will continue into next year.

Risk management, business continuity and insurance activities

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment supports the Trust to manage risks.

In 2020-21, 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 international risk management standards (ISO 31000:2018) and the *NSW Treasury Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector (TPP20-08)*. It provides the principles and tools for risk management practice and culture within the department and cluster.

In December 2020, the department's revised Risk Management Procedure was published with applicability across the department and cluster entities. The procedure includes a standard risk register template and is supported by the department's Risk Management Policy, which was approved earlier in 2020. Further to these developments, alignment is now enabled between the Trust and the department's Enterprise Risk Register.

The department supports the Trust's risk management through a business partnering model operated from the Governance Division. Risk reviews were conducted quarterly during the year, involving senior management participation. Ad hoc advice and support were also provided as required.

In 2020-21, the department developed and implemented a uniform business continuity management (BCM) process applicable to all departmental employees and based on ISO 22301:2019. The process was rolled-out across entities that make up the Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster who have employees employed in or through the department.

The process includes a comprehensive document suite to support the preparation for, and response to, incidents and disruptive events that impact the department's critical business operations.

BCM documentation includes 'preparation' documents, which are required to plan, coordinate, and maintain the BCM process on

an ongoing basis, and 'response' documents which are required to activate and guide an appropriate business continuity response when disruption occurs.

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 NSW Treasury Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy. The Chief Audit Executive and internal audit function for the Trust is provided by the department's Internal Audit Branch, Governance and Legal Group. 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 Principal Department Led Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). During the reporting period, the Chief Audit Executive reported to, and management of the Trust presented to, the ARC. The ARC met during the 2020-21 financial year.

External reviews

The Audit Office of New South Wales conducts an annual review of the Trust's financial statements. The Audit Office also undertook a performance audit of the waste levy and grants for waste infrastructure which included a review of a selection of the Trust's Waste Less, Recycle More infrastructure programs and grants. The audit report was tabled in NSW Parliament on 26 November 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 Community Bush Regeneration Program. The Natural Resources Commission started

evaluating this program in February 2020 initially anticipating completion in late 2020. Continuing restrictions to on-ground survey work caused by COVID-19 have resulted in a revised completion date of September 2021. The final evaluation report is expected to be presented to the Trust in 2021-22.

Ethics and Integrity

In 2020-21, the department launched the Ethics Portal which provides an online, centralised and up-to-date resource for all employees to declare and comply with their obligations under the department's Code of Ethics and Conduct. In its development, the Ethics Branch undertook comprehensive consultation and engagement with all the business units within the cluster to ensure the Ethics Portal was both accessible and relevant to the compliance needs of all employees across the department. The Ethics Portal has strengthened reporting capabilities to ensure the department is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity.

The code underpins the department's compliance framework, which was supported by

- the new Ethics Portal, which manages declarations concerning conflicts of interest; code of ethics and conduct; senior executive private interests; and gifts, benefits and hospitality; as well as approvals of secondary employment
- the Fraud and Corruption Control Framework and Policy
- the Public Interest Disclosures Policy and Procedure (which includes access to an anonymous reporting tool)
- the Lobbying of Government Officials Policy
- training and resources to assist with the management of ethics-related workplace issues.

The department worked in collaboration with the NSW Ombudsman to ensure a robust framework that supports staff to raise workplace concerns and make reports of wrongdoing.

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. For the Trust, this information 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

Standing Order 52

During the reporting period, the NSW Legislative Council did not compel the Trust to produce any documents.

Service-related complaints

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

Public access to information

Under Schedule 3 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, the Trust is a subsidiary agency for the purposes of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act). Therefore, all statistical information about access applications required to be included in an annual report regarding the Trust, in compliance with section 125 of the GIPA Act and clause 8 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation, is included in the annual report for the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Privacy

Under clause 6 of the Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2010, the Trust must provide a statement of its actions to comply with the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIP Act). It must also provide statistical details of any reviews conducted by or on behalf of the department, under Part 5 of the PPIP Act.

The Trust complies with the department's Privacy Management Plan. The plan outlines how the department and its cluster agencies comply with the principles of the PPIP Act and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*. Officers in the department's Information Access and Privacy Unit also provide specialist privacy advice and training to departmental cluster staff.

In 2020–21, the Trust received no applications for review under Part 5 of the PPIP Act

Internal audit and risk management statement

Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement for the 2020-2021 Financial Year for the Environmental Trust

I, Tina Bidese, Secretary, Environmental Trust am of the opinion that the Environmental Trust has internal audit and risk management processes in operation that are, excluding the exemptions or transitional arrangements described below, compliant with the seven (7) Core Requirements set out in the *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the General Government Sector*, specifically:

Core Requirements

Risk Management Framework

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 1.1 | The Accountable Authority shall accept ultimate responsibility and accountability for risk management in the agency. | Compliant |
| 1.2 | The Accountable Authority shall establish and maintain a risk management framework that is appropriate for the agency. The Accountable Authority shall ensure the framework is consistent with AS ISO 31000:2018. | Compliant |

Internal Audit Function

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 2.1 | The Accountable Authority shall establish and maintain an internal audit function that is appropriate for the agency and fit for purpose. | Non-compliant |
| 2.2 | The Accountable Authority shall ensure the internal audit function operates consistent with the International Standards for the Professional Practice for Internal Auditing. | Compliant |
| 2.3 | The Accountable Authority shall ensure the agency has an Internal Audit Charter that is consistent with the content of the 'model charter'. | Compliant |

Audit and Risk Committee

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 3.1 | The Accountable Authority shall establish and maintain efficient and effective arrangements for independent Audit and Risk Committee oversight to provide advice and guidance to the Accountable Authority on the agency's governance processes, risk management and control frameworks, and its external accountability obligations. | Non-compliant |
| 3.2 | The Accountable Authority shall ensure that the Audit and Risk Committee has a Charter that is consistent with the 'model charter'. | Compliant |

Membership

The independent 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

Shared Arrangements

I, Tina Bidese, Secretary, Environmental Trust, advise that the Environmental Trust has entered into an approved shared arrangement comprising the following:

- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Environmental Trust and
- Lord Howe Island Board.

The resources shared include the Audit and Risk Committee, the Chief Audit Executive and the internal audit function. The shared Audit and Risk Committee is a Principal Department Led Shared Audit and Risk Committee.

Departures from Core Requirements

I, Tina Bidese, 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 former Treasury Policy TPP15-03 *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector*. The circumstances giving rise to these departures had previously been determined by the Portfolio Minister under the former Treasury Policy TPP15-03 and are applicable for the reporting period. The departures relate to similar core requirements under TPP20-08 being 2.1 and 3.1 which are reported as “Non-compliant” for the reporting period.

The departure from the Core Requirements is due to the agency implementing alternative approved arrangements to achieve compliance with policy requirements.

The Environmental Trust implemented the following practicable alternative measures to meet the core requirements:

TPP15-03 Departure Non-compliant	Reason for departure and description of practicable alternative measures being implemented
Core Requirement 2.1 Establishment of Internal Audit Function	<p>The Environmental Trust (the Trust) has a small workforce of Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) staff.</p> <p>The Department’s internal audit function provides services to the Trust, which reduces impacts on the Trust’s resources and operations.</p>

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Core Requirement 3. 1 Audit and Risk Committee</p>	<p>A Departmental-led shared Audit and Risk Committee will provide independent oversight and advice for the operations of the Environmental Trust.</p> <p>The Department led Audit and Risk Committee will review the Trust's financial statements for each financial year.</p> <p>The Department's Legal and Governance Division supports the Trust in risk management practices, internal audit and the management of the ethical matters.</p> <p>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.</p>

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.



Tina Bidese
Secretary
Environmental Trust

Date: 5 October 2021

Agency Contact:
Simonne Daly
Executive Director Governance
02 9585 6184

Cyber Security Policy Attestation statement



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

Cyber Security Annual Attestation Statement for the 2020-2021 Financial Year for Department of Planning Industry and Environment

I, Jim Betts, am of the opinion that the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) have managed cyber security risks in a manner consistent with the Mandatory Requirements set out in the NSW Government Cyber Security Policy and in alignment with DPIE's enterprise risk management framework.

Governance is in place to manage the cyber security maturity and initiatives of DPIE. Risks to the information and systems of DPIE have been assessed and are managed. There exists a current cyber incident response plan for DPIE which has been tested during the reporting period.

The DPIE 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 2020/2021 financial year (Certificate Number: IS 645082).

The DPIE Corporate Services has a Cyber Security Strategy in place to ensure continuous improvement and management of cyber security governance and resilience.

This attestation covers the following departments and agencies:

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Aboriginal Housing Office
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- Boundaries Commission
- Cape Byron Reserve Trust
- Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board
- Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission
- Environmental Trust
- Lands Administration Ministerial Corporation
- Local Government Grants Commission
- Local Government Remuneration Tribunal
- National Parks under Part 4A
- NSW Land and Housing Corporation
- Office of Strategic Lands (Planning Ministerial Corporation) (Corporation Sole)
- Regional Planning Panels (Northern, Southern, Western Hunter and Central Coast)
- Sydney District Planning Panels (Eastern City, North, South, Central City, West)
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee
- Water Administration Ministerial Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Betts'.

Jim Betts

Secretary

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Date: 07/09/2021

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
- 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 2020–21 the Trust met four 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)	4	4
Ms Jenny Merkley	Executive Director, Premier, Education and Customer Service, NSW Treasury (Permanent Deputy for Secretary of NSW Treasury from 28 November 2016)	3	4
Dr Kate Wilson	Trust Secretary from 6 April – 30 September 2020 Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	2	2
Dr Paul Grimes	Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment from 1 October 2020	2	3
Professor Donald White	Chairperson Nature Conservation Council of NSW (9 December 2019 – 14 November 2022)	4	4
Councillor Linda Scott	President of Local Government NSW (6 September 2018 to 5 September 2021)	4	4

A number of decisions were also made out of session.

The Trust Secretary, as elected by members, is Ms Tina Bidese, Director Grants, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

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 five subcommittees assisted the Trust in managing its grant programs, under section 9 of the Environmental Trust Act. Membership of the subcommittees that met in 2020–21 is as follows:

Biodiversity Subcommittee

Dr James Brazill-Boast (Chairperson)

Principal Ecologist, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Mr Michael Vyse

Science and Planning Manager, Greening Australia

Ms Katie McRobert

General Manager, Australian Farm Institute

Ms Nicole Maher

Community representative, Regional Landcare Coordinator, Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.

Ms Kirsty McIntyre

Senior Policy Officer – Environment, Local Government NSW

Dr Bryony Horton

Senior Team Leader, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Clean Tech Subcommittee

Ms Tina Bidese (Interim Chairperson)

Director Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

Dr Stephen White

Energy Efficiency Domain Leader, CSIRO

Mr Douglas McCloskey

Policy Officer, Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Ms Suzanne Toubourou

Executive Director, Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council

Ms Alison Scotland

Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Standards Australia

Contaminated Land Management Subcommittee

Ms Phillipa Biswell (Chairperson)

Environmental Project Officer – Earth Scientist, Sutherland Shire Council

Mr Ian Gregson

Principal Environmental Consultant, GHD

Ms Kylie Piper

Projects and Education Manager, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife

Dr Alexandra Pulkownik

School of Life Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

Ms Beth Rickwood

Manager, Major Projects, NSW Environmental Trust (until 25 May 2021)

Ms Leanne Hanvey

A/Manager, Major Projects, NSW Environmental Trust (from 28 May 2021)

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

Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Macquarie University

Professor Don White

Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mr Richard Davies

Senior Team Leader, Community Engagement, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Mr Paul Flemons

Manager, Digital Collections and Citizen Science, Australian Museum

Invasive Species Subcommittee

Mr Quentin Hart (Chairperson)

Manager, Invasive Species Strategy and Planning, Department of Primary Industries

Professor Kristine French

University of Wollongong

Ms Susy Cenedese

Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW

Dr Paul Downey

Community Representative, Paul Downey Consulting

Mr Bob Makinson

Community Representative, Bob Makinson Consulting

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 2020-21 is set out below.

Contestable grant programs

Environmental Education Program

Ms Roz Hall (Chairperson)

Former Director, Business and Community Programs, Office of Environment and Heritage

Ms Karen Paroissien

Senior Program Officer, Community Engagement, Biodiversity and Conservation, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Ms Erika Van Schellebeck

Sustainability Education and Engagement Consultant

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

Director and Professor, Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, Charles Sturt University

Dr Derek Van Dyk

Ex-Director, Strategic Research Partnerships and Pre-Award, Macquarie University

Dr Greg Summerell

Senior Team Leader, Fire and Culture 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

Aboriginal Programs Coordinator, Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Mr Stuart Jordan

Acting Community Economic Development Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC)

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Ms Maria Woods (Chairperson)

Former 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

Mr Chris Scott

State Management Committee, Landcare NSW

Mr Roger Lembit

Independent Ecological Consultant

Ms Vivien Howard

Strategy and Investments Advisor, Central Tablelands Local Land Services

Mr Alan McGufficke

State Management Committee, Landcare NSW

Mr Mathew Misdale

Bushland and Biodiversity Officer, Campbelltown City Council

Waste Less, Recycle More grant programs

Organics Collections Program

Mr Justin Lang (Chairperson)

Manager Local Government and Infrastructure, Green Industries SA

Mr Ken Wilson

Waste and Sustainability Coordinator, Clarence Valley Council

Ms Liz Quinlan

Senior Policy Officer – Waste, Local Government NSW

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

Mr Brock Baker (Chairperson)

Principal Consultant, Brock Baker Environmental Consulting

Mr Lachlan Jeffries

Managing Director, Jeffries Group

Mr Justin Lang

Manager Local Government and Infrastructure, Green Industries SA

Dr James Turnell

Senior Technical Officer – School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England

Mr Michael Wood

Managing Director, Oakwood Consultants Pty Ltd

Remanufacture NSW Program

Professor William Clarke (Chairperson)

Professor – School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland

Mr Rod Clare

Member, Australian Industrial Ecology Network (AIEN)

Mr Frank Klostermann

Principal, Full Circle Advisory Pty Ltd

Mr Han Michel

General Manager, E-three & Associates Pty Ltd

Ms Sabina Wills

Chief Executive Officer, Keep Victoria Beautiful

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

Publications

Visit the Trust's website for grant program guidelines, application forms and annual reports from 2001-02 to 2020-21.

Abbreviations

ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
AWT	alternative waste treatment
BCM	business continuity management
COVID-19	the disease caused by the 2019-20 coronavirus
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EES	Environment, Energy and Science
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
FOGO	food organics and garden organics
GIPA Act	Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
GMS	grants management system
LHI	Lord Howe Island
MER	monitoring, evaluation and reporting
NCC	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
POP	Protecting our Places
UNSW	University of NSW
WLRM	Waste Less, Recycle More

Photographs

Page	Title and source
5	Langidoon-Metford Stations (<i>Acacia loderi</i> shrubland threatened ecological community). Photo: John Spencer/DPIE
6	Aerial view of Langidoon-Metford Stations. Photo: John Spencer/DPIE
11	Rocky outcrop habitat refuge near Molong. Photo: Geraldine Brown, Central Tablelands Landcare
11	Garden skink (<i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i>) found in a rocky outcrop. Photo: Geraldine Brown, Central Tablelands Landcare
13	Glandular frog (<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>), one of the target species in the project led by the University of Newcastle to improve the conservation outcomes of vulnerable amphibian fauna in protected habitats. Photo: Stephen Mahony/DPIE
14	Albert's Lyrebirds (<i>Menura alberti</i>). Image taken by remote sensor camera on Mount Nullum in the Tweed Shire.
18	Hawkweed Volunteers and NPWS Officers tackle a variety of terrain on the Main Range in the search of Mouse-ear Hawkweed. Photo: Liesl Grant/DPIE
18	(inset) Orange Hawkweed flower cluster. Photo: Wendy Menz/DPIE
19	Lord Howe Island Woodhen. Photo: Jack Shick/DPIE
23	Rocky Knob viewed from Kau-Ma Park, Fletcher. Photo: Awabakal Local Aboriginal Council
23	Swamp forest vegetation buffer near Rocky Knob. Photo: Awabakal Local Aboriginal Council
24	Landholders learning to manage biodiversity and firewood collection. Photo: Z-NET Uralla
26	Sustainable wood collection workshop at Balala. Photo: Z-NET Uralla
29	Community consultation for Keeping Cats Safe at Home began in Walgett Shire in conjunction with the RSPCA NSW Healthy Pet Day, during which 22 cats, including this ginger tom, were microchipped and desexed. Photo: RSPCA
33	Spotted-tailed quolls are captured and released to monitor populations before and after invasive predator control programs. Photo: Tim Henderson
34	Gathering baseline vegetation data before the release of the leaf smut fungus <i>Kordyana brasiliensis</i> in a wandering trad infestation at one of the monitoring sites near Macquarie Pass, NSW. Photo: CSIRO
34	Experimental releases of the blightfungus <i>Venturia paralias</i> in a sea spurge infestation at a beach on the NSW South Coast. Photo: CSIRO
40	HotRot organics processor onsite at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Photo: Taronga Western Plains Zoo
41	<i>Caladenia tessellata</i> - Thick Lip Spider Orchid. Photo: Kylie Coutts-McClelland/DPIE
59	<i>Stellaria pungens</i> - Prickly Starwort. Photo: Geraldine Brown, Central Tablelands Landcare

