



three million people • complexity • **connectivity** • resilience

Sydneysiders are proud of their city, and with much justification. Sydney is Australia's largest city and is recognised internationally for its iconic architecture showcased against a backdrop of spectacular waterways, beaches and bushland.



About this Document

The target readership for this Annual Report is significant stakeholders such as policy makers and regulators within Australian, NSW and Local Governments and other agencies directly engaged in natural resource management leadership.

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with section 17 of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1998*, and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulations 2000*. It details the activities and achievements of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority for the year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 highlighting its contribution towards its Catchment Action Plan and Annual Investment Program. It includes statutory and financial information for the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority for 2008-2009 as required under the Act and Regulations.

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Scenic Sydney is simply sensational

For residents and visitors alike, the natural attributes of Sydney distinguish it as a unique and aesthetically appealing global city.

Sydneysiders have demonstrated they do not take their natural environment for granted. They value the health of the bushland fringing their neighbourhoods and the water quality of their rivers, estuaries and coastal regions.

People from all parts of Sydney hold a genuine concern for the ongoing resilience of their natural environment.

Over many decades large numbers of people have advocated on behalf of Sydney's environment. Thousands of people have invested "sweat equity", working as bushcare volunteers to weed and regenerate localities. Others have engaged the support of their political representatives at the Local, State or Australian Government level to extend resources to protect and preserve particular localities within Sydney.

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority has the flexibility to work with stakeholders who have a commitment to improving the health and resilience of natural resources across – and even beyond – Greater Metropolitan Sydney.

Delivering natural resource management across Sydney

Meeting community expectations

People across Sydney want to enjoy clean beaches and waterways. They want bushland reserves to survive and thrive; they want Sydney's natural assets to be protected and preserved. They hold an expectation that all levels of government will work together seamlessly and efficiently with a common vision to deliver policies and fund programs that ensure the resilience of our natural resources.

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has a vital role to play in meeting community expectations. We work across all levels of government; we work with community groups, industry, and other agencies to design, develop, deliver and monitor projects that foster vibrant natural resources in an urban landscape.

Meeting government and legislative expectations

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA works to implement its Catchment Action Plan (CAP) which is a strategic planning tool that identifies the key natural resource features the Sydney community wants to protect and improve.

The CAP outlines specific targets to be achieved to 2016.

The CAP reflects the needs of the region and a wide array of partners will help deliver these targets.

This Annual Report from the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority is intended to explain our role in delivering regionally-focussed natural resource management and showcase our highlights and achievements during the 2008-2009 financial year.

This Annual Report has been structured to explain:

- Our Locality and Area of Operation
- Who We Are
- Our Board and Structure
- What We do
- Sources of Funding
- Our Strategic Partnerships
- Case Studies
- Projects and Programs
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Looking Ahead
- Financial Reports

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Photograph: David Harasti
Posidonia australis – a sea grass bed at Little Manly Cove

Our vision

Community growth reconciled with nature.

An urban community that thrives within a valued natural landscape.

Our mission

To demonstrate how dynamic urban areas can be consistent with sustainable natural resource management.

To champion a Sydney community which has the knowledge and skills to achieve healthy waterways and bushland that all residents and visitors can enjoy, now and in the future.



Area of operations

The footprint of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA comprises the core of urban Sydney and its coastline.

From a starting point centred on Botany Bay, our catchment takes most of the area falling within a broad 40-kilometre arc, sweeping from landmark locations such as Stanwell Tops and the Royal National Park in Sutherland in the south, through Wollondilly and Campbelltown, Liverpool and Fairfield to Prospect Reservoir and Blacktown in the west, continuing north through the Hills District towards Thornleigh and Pymble, then following Mona Vale Road to Turrimetta Head near Narrabeen Lagoon.

Our area of operation also extends three nautical miles out to sea to the limit of the NSW State Waters. This is an area of 440 square kilometres, or some 15 per cent of the surface area of our region.

Our total area, including the offshore component is 2470 square kilometres. Our land area, excluding the marine component and Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay, is 1890 square kilometres.

Our Neighbouring CMAs:

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority almost entirely encircles the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. We share a small southern boundary with the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. We work cooperatively with both these CMAs to ensure specific natural resource programs are integrated and delivered efficiently.



Sub-catchments within our Catchment

From a landscape perspective, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA is comprised of 12 sub-catchments. Each of these sub-catchments requires specific management plans and project teams to address the distinct issues impacting on its natural resources. The sub-catchments are:

North

Northern Beaches
Middle Harbour
Lane Cove River

Central

Parramatta River
Duck River
Cooks River
Botany Bay
Eastern Beaches

South

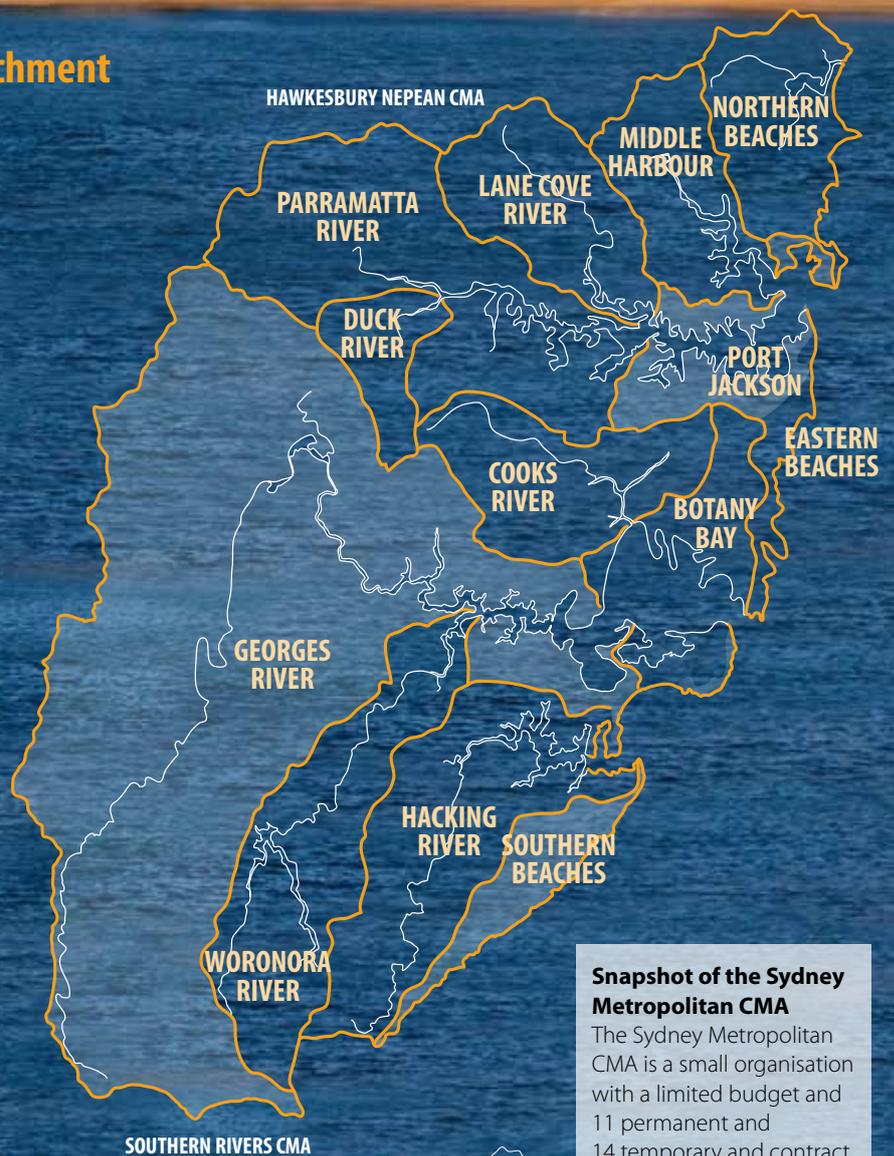
Georges River
Woronora River
Hacking River
Southern Beaches

Aboriginal Land Councils

There are six Local Aboriginal Land Councils operating within our region. For more information on how the Sydney Metropolitan CMA works with these stakeholders, see page 23.

Local Government areas

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Pittwater | 21 Leichhardt |
| 2 Warringah | 22 Marrickville |
| 3 Ku-ring-gai | 23 Sydney |
| 4 Hornsby | 24 Woollahra |
| 5 Baulkham Hills | 25 Waverley |
| 6 Parramatta | 26 Randwick |
| 7 Ryde | 27 Fairfield |
| 8 Willoughby | 28 Bankstown |
| 9 Manly | 29 Canterbury |
| 10 Hunters Hill | 30 Rockdale |
| 11 Lane Cove | 31 Botany Bay |
| 12 North Sydney | 32 Hurstville |
| 13 Mosman | 33 Kogarah |
| 14 Blacktown | 34 Liverpool |
| 15 Holroyd | 35 Camden |
| 16 Auburn | 36 Campbelltown |
| 17 Canada Bay | 37 Sutherland |
| 18 Strathfield | 38 Wollondilly |
| 19 Burwood | 39 Wollongong |
| 20 Ashfield | |



Snapshot of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is a small organisation with a limited budget and 11 permanent and 14 temporary and contract staff. We focus on working with key stakeholders to deliver projects and programs focussed on natural resource outcomes within our uniquely urban region. Our projects and programs are carried out across 39 Local Government areas with 46 NSW electorates and 26 Federal electorates.

Who we are

Charter

The most important role for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA – and one that is not being filled by any other entity in the region – is to connect diverse stakeholders as they work together towards shared targets for natural resources across the whole region.

Our unique point of difference

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is the smallest of the 13 NSW catchment management authorities, serving the largest urban population in Australia.

Sydney Metropolitan is the only NSW CMA with a specific focus on delivering natural resource management in an urban context.

Our foundation

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA was established under the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003* to deliver natural resource management in an urban context. At its inception in 2005 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA joined the 12 existing regional-scale catchment management authorities that were established in 2004. The purpose of the NSW CMAs is to prepare strategic natural resource management

plans and coordinate initiatives and activities under these plans that will contribute to the sustainable management of the natural resources of NSW. The overall targets for future trends in natural resource condition in NSW are set out in the NSW State Plan.

Native Vegetation Act 2003

Part of the rationale behind the establishment of the NSW CMAs was that they would function at a regional level and hold responsibility for implementation of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

The Act does not apply to the majority of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region. However, in keeping with the spirit of the legislation, Sydney Metropolitan CMA assumes an important role in coordinating the management of urban remnant native vegetation by identifying priority projects, working with local communities, and promoting consistent outcomes in the protection of such vegetation and control of weeds in the region. The Rapid Fauna Habitat Assessment project completed last year is an example of how we achieve this.

Our funding

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA receives funding from the NSW and Australian Governments and works strategically in partnership with Local Government, community groups, other government departments, industry and other entities to deliver programs and projects that improve Sydney's natural resources.

Our Board

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is an independent Statutory Authority governed by a Chair and a six -member Board that reports directly to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

Our governance and structure is explained in detail within this report. Sydney Metropolitan CMA project and administrative staff are employed by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Our Function

The specific functions of NSW CMAs as described in Section 15 of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*, are to:

- Develop Catchment Action Plans (CAPs)
- Provide loans, grants, subsidies or other financial assistance for catchment activities
- Enter contracts or do any work for the purposes of catchment activities
- Assist landholders to achieve the objectives of the CAP
- Provide educational and training courses and materials in connection with natural resource management (NRM)
- Exercise any other function relating to NRM as prescribed by the regulations.

What is a catchment?

Everyone lives in a catchment. Catchments are defined by the way water moves across a landscape. Because water runs downhill, a catchment starts at a high point in the landscape like a mountain, hill or ridge. This is called a divide or watershed.

The high point in a landscape can be the starting point for two or more catchments, with water flowing downhill in different directions.

Water makes its way to a major stream or river, and can pass through dams, lagoons or wetlands before eventually making its way to the ocean. Water may also travel underground to the lowpoint in a catchment.

In recent decades catchments have become a recognised way to manage and understand landscapes.

Human activity has a great impact on the health of a catchment. Humans use more water than other creatures, and people, either as individuals or within society make major changes to catchments.

The water that collects in a catchment often shows the effect of some or all of the activities and land uses that people are undertaking in that catchment.

Human activity upstream will affect those living and working downstream.

What is natural resource management?

For NSW catchment management authorities, natural resource management is defined in the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003* (Part 1, Section 5).

For the purposes of this Act, natural resource management extends to the following matters relating to the management of natural resources:

- (a) water, (b) native vegetation, (c) salinity, (d) soil, (e) biodiversity, (f) coastal protection, (g) marine environment (except a matter arising under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* or the *Marine Parks Act 1997*), (h) forestry, (i) any other matter concerning natural resources prescribed by the regulations.

Opposite page

Left Sydney Metropolitan CMA Chair, Philip Sansom with the Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett and the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, at Botany Bay on July 2.

Centre To mark World Wetlands Day on February 2 Sydney Metropolitan CMA Chair, Philip Sansom was an official guest at the opening of a fish passage project at Sydney Olympic Park.

Right Sydney Metropolitan CMA Chair, Philip Sansom with Deputy Premier, Carmel Tebbutt, Member for Coogee Paul Pearce and Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Lisa Corbyn at Clovelly on August 2.



Message from the Chairman

The highlight for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in 2008-2009 was being advised that our Catchment Action Plan had been approved by the Minister for Climate Change, the Environment and Water, the Deputy Premier the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has been working to deliver the targets identified in our CAP since our inception in 2005, but the formal adoption of the CAP means our work plan has been confirmed as being correct and appropriate for our unique and predominantly urban region.

Our CAP builds on the work of many dedicated people who have contributed to documents for environmental management prepared over the past decade and beyond. Special mention should be made of the Sydney Harbour Catchment Blueprint (2003), the Southern Sydney Catchment Blueprint (2003) and the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy (2005).

For me personally, the adoption of the CAP means both a completion and a new beginning. From 2001 to 2004 I was the Chair of the Southern Sydney Catchment Management Board and work from this group is strongly reflected in the Sydney Metropolitan CAP. It is satisfying to have seen an outcome for this work.

The new beginning comes with a great sense of personal fulfilment on being appointed Chair of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. That my appointment coincides closely with the adoption of the CAP means I will be able to continue in a role that provides leadership and continuity in driving projects and programs based on sound science and research to deliver positive natural resource management outcomes across urban Sydney.

This "new beginning" also means an opportunity to "get on with the job". To this end I must congratulate and commend the staff of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

In my role as both Deputy Chair and now Chair, I have had the opportunity to get to know staff members and discuss with them in some detail the projects they are delivering. In some cases our connections actually go back over 10 years. I am satisfied that as an organisation the Sydney Metropolitan CMA has been able to recruit and retain a committed band of professionals who have an obvious dedication and passion for their work. They demonstrate a real commitment to working with our partners in delivering their projects effectively.

Part of my role involves regular meetings with the other 12 NSW CMA Chairs. This perspective highlights for me the unique status of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA as the only CMA delivering Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the urban heart of Australia.

Sydney Metropolitan is the "hometown" CMA for 26 Federal and 47 NSW Members of Parliament and 39 Local Government Mayors. I am aware that although we are the smallest NSW CMA in size and budget, we are extremely visible. I am aware there is a broad expectation that we will "punch above our weight" when it comes to delivery of NRM outcomes.

This does not faze me – or the staff of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. I believe the staff and Board relish the challenge, and opportunity, that such scrutiny provides as we work together to deliver the NRM message to a wide and diverse audience across Sydney.

In my role as Chair I am aware of the strong support the Sydney Metropolitan and the 12 other NSW CMAs receive from our Federal and NSW Ministers. The regional model allows CMAs to work with the local community to deliver the best outcomes for natural resources.

During 2009 I have had the opportunity to participate in media and community events attended by our Ministers.

Writing this in October 2009, I look forward to working with the Hon John Robertson MLC as our new Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

Philip Sansom
Chairman

Letter to the Minister

20 October 2009

The Hon. John Robertson
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Level 30
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

Dear Minister

We have pleasure in presenting the 2008–09 Annual Report for the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, a Statutory body under the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*.

This report has been prepared for submission to Parliament and is in accordance with Section 17 of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2005*.

Yours sincerely

Philip Sansom
Chairman

Allan Ezzy (APM)
Acting Deputy Chair

Profile of Board Members



The Sydney Metropolitan CMA Board is responsible for the strategic direction of natural resource management in the Sydney Metropolitan region. The Board reflects the importance of the 39 Local Government and inter-council organisations in the complex institutional landscape of the Sydney region. Sydney Metropolitan CMA Board Members bring extensive scientific, technical, management and communication expertise to the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's decision making.

Councillor Philip Sansom

- Mayor, Hurstville City Council
(Elected September 2009)
- Former Chair of the Southern Sydney Catchment Management Board

Cr Philip Sansom was appointed Chair of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA on 22 June 2009. He was the inaugural Deputy Chair.

He was the Chair of the Southern Sydney Catchment Management Board 2001 to 2003. Cr Sansom has been involved in natural resource management for 17 years.

Since 2000 he has been a member of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Sydney South Region Advisory Committee.

Cr Sansom has been a Councillor for the Peakhurst Ward, Hurstville City Council from September 1991 to the present and has held the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Cr Sansom was a teacher for 26 years and now works with the NSW Department of Education and Training in Workforce Management.

Councillor Genia McCaffery

- Mayor, North Sydney Council
- President of the NSW Local Government Association

Cr Genia McCaffery holds a Bachelor of Economics degree with Honours in Government from the University of Sydney.

Cr McCaffery began work as a researcher with the National Trust. Her experience spans work in youth issues, unemployment, and public advocacy.

Cr McCaffery was elected as full-time Mayor of North Sydney by popular vote in 1995 and was re-elected in 1999, 2004 and

2008. As Mayor, Cr McCaffery is committed to managing development within North Sydney, responsible financial management of Council, protecting the environment, and maintaining strong community involvement in local government.

In October 2004, Cr McCaffery was elected President of the Local Government Association of NSW for a two-year term. Cr McCaffery was re-elected as President in 2006 and again in 2008. She has identified planning, natural resources management and infrastructure investment as the key issues to address during her term as President.

Cr McCaffery has been a member of the Local Government Executive since 1998. She is on the Board of the NSW Environment Protection Authority and the NSW Environmental Trust.

Cr McCaffery is married and has two children.

Councillor Allan Ezzy (APM) J.P.

- Deputy Chair Sydney Metropolitan CMA
- Holroyd City Councillor and former Mayor

Cr Ezzy has a Graduate Certificate in Management from Wollongong University. He has served extensively with Local Government, having been Mayor of Holroyd City Council for nine terms. He has had extensive experience in engaging with community groups, local business and with educational programs. His 19 years with the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust has provided him with considerable experience in managing the sometimes conflicting challenges of flood mitigation and riparian biodiversity, predominantly in an urban framework. He is a retired Senior Prosecutor with the NSW Police Service.

Committees

- Chairman of the NSW Floodplain Management Authorities
- Foundation Trustee of Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust
- Vice President, Local Government Association
- Member, Natural Resources Advisory Council
- Director, State Cover Insurance company
- Director, Metropole Insurance Pool

Mr Paul Zammit

- Former Member of NSW Parliament (Burwood/Strathfield 1984-1996) and Australian Parliament (Member for Lowe 1996-1998)
- Extensive business experience

Mr Zammit has more than 30 years experience in the Private and Public sectors, being a State Member of Parliament for some 12 years (NSW Parliament) before being elected to the Australian Parliament for some three years before returning to the private enterprise sector. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors of Australia and a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors since 1983, an unbroken period of more than 25 years.

During his term in the NSW Parliament Mr Zammit served as Assistant Minister to the then Premier of NSW, The Hon. Nick Greiner MP, and has served on, and chaired, numerous Parliamentary Standing and Select Committees. He has served as Chairman of the NSW Parliamentary Select Committee on Lead Poisoning as well as Chairman of the NSW Parliamentary Select Committee on National Parks and Wildlife (Aboriginal



Left to right

Philip Sansom
Genia McCaffery
Allan Ezzy
Paul Zammit
Suzanne Little
Nick Katris

Ownership) Bill. He has strong corporate governance experience and expertise.

He is currently the Managing Director of his family company, Zammit Sales, Marketing and Management Pty Ltd, a position held since its inception in 1998.

Ms Suzanne Little

Ms Little is an environmental scientist. She brings a wide perspective to the Board, ranging from her background in local Bushcare through to corporate management at several of Australia's major organisations with career experience in environmental management systems and innovative policy.

Ms Little was Environment Director for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games where 20 sustainable developments were constructed and became a showcase to the world. Other public sector environment roles have been with the Electricity Commission of NSW, Sydney Water's Priority Sewerage Program and two universities. As Australian Vice-President of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand in 2005-2007 she represented the views of environmental practitioners.

Among her corporate roles, Ms Little has been the environmental manager for three companies: Vodafone Australia, AGL and SAI Global. She was spokesperson for Ku-ring-gai Bushcare Association (800 volunteers) as its honorary Chair in 2004-06.

This year Ms Little prepared a submission on behalf of the Board, to the NSW Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Sustainable Procurement and is due to give evidence at the Hearing in August 2009. She will also give presentations on behalf of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA at conferences

in July and October on the topic of sustainable economics.

Councillor Nick Katris

- Kogarah City Councillor and former Mayor

Cr Katris has held a life-long interest in the management of our natural resources and heritage in the face of the inevitable pressures that stem from increased urbanisation and the urban renewal process.

Cr Katris's professional background, as an architect with post-graduate qualifications in Urban and Regional Planning, have made him acutely aware of the dynamics of the interactive forces that arise between the natural and built environments, and the importance of arriving at sustainable social and economic solutions and outcomes.

Cr Katris is a former Mayor of Kogarah City Council and is currently serving his fourth term as a Councillor. As a Local Government Association Representative he has had experience serving on various committees (including the Building Regulations Advisory Council of the Department of Planning and Sydney Water's Corporate Customer Council). He is the Chair of the Kogarah City Council Urban Planning and Design Working Party and Council's Estuary and Flood Plain Management Committee.

The Urban Planning Working Party, along with Kogarah Council's Steering Committee, has been responsible for the coordination of the development of Kogarah's Town Centre, which has won more than 15 design excellence and ecologically sustainable development awards. The Estuary and Flood Plain Management Committee (which Cr Katris has chaired for more than seven years) has been responsible for procuring more

than \$5 million in government grants to satisfy Council's goal of "Putting Total Water Cycle Management into Practice in Kogarah".

Cr Katris has also represented Council on the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and has served as Chair of Kogarah Community Services and as a committee member for the Australian Standards Association.

Inaugural Chair

Mr Bob Junor did not seek reappointment at the end of his term and retired in September 2008.

Board Activities – Stakeholder Strategic Liaison Program

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has introduced a Strategic Liaison Program to improve its approach to strategic collaboration with partners in natural resource management. Regular meetings are conducted with NRM agencies as part of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's vision for connectivity across all levels of government to assist in delivery of its Catchment Action Plan.

Board Bulletin

An electronic "Board-Bulletin-Board" one-page newsletter is sent to 500 key stakeholders within a week of each Sydney Metropolitan CMA Board meeting. The purpose is to inform Ministers, Mayors, Councillors and senior decision makers at all levels of government of the business of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Board.

Year in review



As I review the 2008-2009 year, I interpret this as a period of both consolidation and change for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. The advent of new contestable funding arrangements under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program brought its own opportunities and challenges.

The inaugural Chairman of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA, Mr Bob Junor, retired in August 2008 after 50 years in natural resource management. Bob played a pivotal role in both the establishment of Sydney Metropolitan CMA and helping set up the local establishment teams which preceded all NSW CMAs. On behalf of both the Board and staff I'd like to wish Bob all the best for a long and happy retirement.

The Deputy Chairman, Cr Philip Sansom was appointed as Acting Chair and subsequently was appointed as Chairman. He has continued the strong leadership role, while maintaining a consensus approach at Board meetings. Philip's long standing ties with natural resource management extend back past his election as a local councillor in 1991.

The approval of the CAP in May 2009 will strengthen the position of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA and provide a valuable opportunity to promote natural resource management to all land managers in the region.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA joined with the 12 other NSW CMAs in celebrating five years of achievement in 2009, but in fact, we did not really commence operations for 12 to 18 months after the establishment of the other NSW CMAs.

There are particular challenges in being the only NSW CMA delivering natural resource management purely in an urban context. The role of CMAs in regional areas is perhaps better understood. During 2008 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA was able to demonstrate the particular issues that make it critical that a regional body should exist for the metropolitan area.

On 30 September, the Federal Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett, launched the Caring for our Country Outcome Statement which identified the Australian Government's six priority areas for action. To implement works in the first year of the program regional bodies were provided with interim funding for 2008-2009. The subsequent Caring for our Country Business Plan spelt out the targets to be achieved and all regional bodies and other parties interested in natural resource management proceeded to develop suitable projects and programs. I'm pleased to say that Sydney Metropolitan CMA was successful in maintaining its baseline funding for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 and will also receive \$1.8 million in competitive funding for 2009-2010.

Another highlight occurred on 3 October 2008 when Australian Government funding of \$2 million for the Cooks River catchment was announced at Gough Whitlam Park by Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister Tony Burke and John Murphy MP. The funding will improve water quality through the installation of gross pollutant traps and associated measures as well as wetland remediation works.

This event was attended by Sydney Metropolitan CMA Chair, Philip Sansom, the Mayor of Canterbury City Council, community members and Sydney Metropolitan CMA staff.

This year saw the establishment of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's Aboriginal Advisory Committee when the first meeting was held in August 2008. This Committee will assist staff and the Board in engaging the Aboriginal community and help increase their involvement in natural resource management. Working together to protect and rehabilitate the natural environment can benefit us all provided we appreciate each others skills and knowledge.

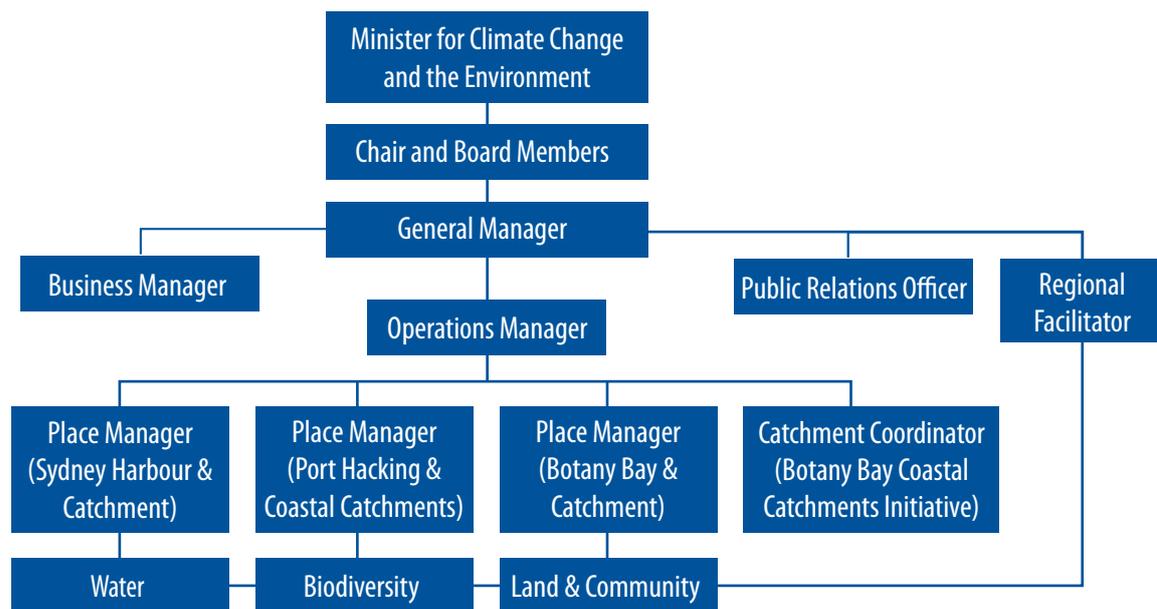
The National Water Commission is part-funding a five-year Australia-wide research program proposed by Melbourne's Monash University to consider the opportunity of using stormwater to help overcome potable water shortages, reduce urban temperatures, improve urban landscapes and the liveability of cities.

Although the water-based research is only one aspect of creating sustainable cities, an improvement in the capacity and willingness of government, industry and the community to address the water cycle holistically is a key component of delivering the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's CAP. Monash and the National Water Commission are seeking \$15 million over five years from state agencies and Local Government to conduct the research. While the Sydney Metropolitan CMA has limited capacity to contribute funds, through our Water Sensitive Urban Design In Sydney Program we were able to host two meetings in Sydney to showcase the work undertaken so far and introduce potential partners.

In closing I'd like to congratulate the Board and staff on the achievements we have made this year which are set out in this Annual Report. The Board has taken its responsibilities very seriously and worked constructively at the strategic level to provide a direction for the organisation as well as support for staff. The staff have continued to work effectively in a changing environment rising to meet any challenges that we've faced. Their dedication and hard work has been a major factor in the successes of 2008-2009.

John Carse
General Manager

Our Structure



Internal Structure

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is structured so that staff work to deliver projects that actively implement the Catchment Action Plan. These projects can be place-based or theme-based or both.

Place Managers have been allocated to the catchments of Sydney Harbour, Port Hacking and Botany Bay. Project staff working on themes within these catchments report to one of these place managers. Community support officers deliver projects across these places and themes to engage specific target groups and the wider community to support Sydney Metropolitan CMA NRM projects.

With the guidance of the Regional Facilitator, community support officers work on projects with Local Government, environmental groups, ethnic communities, Indigenous communities and community grants programs.

Project officers were assigned to projects based on stormwater, the Botany Bay Coastal Catchment Initiative, Biodiversity, Water Sensitive Urban Design, Kurnell 2020 and the Cooks River Water Initiative.

Our Management team

General Manager: John Carse

Operations Manager: Stephen Lynch

Business Manager: Greg Otter

Place Manager Sydney Harbour and Catchment: Lesley Diver

Place Manager Port Hacking and Coastal Catchments: Karen Kennedy

Place Manager Botany Bay and Catchment: Owen Graham

Regional Facilitator: Judy Christie

Above left

Sydney Metropolitan CMA Place Manager, Lesley Diver; Public Relations Officer, Louise McMahon; Chair, Philip Sansom and General Manager, John Carse at Sydney Olympic Park for the official opening of a fish passage on World Wetlands Day, February 2.

Above centre

Green and Gold Bell Frog. Photo: Stuart Cohen NPWS.

Above right

Banksia at O'Hares Creek Upland swamps.

What we do

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA acts as an advocate, champion or "voice" for Sydney's natural resources. When policies and decisions are being implemented by other government agencies and private entities, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA can provide guidance, advice and recommendations on how to consider and accommodate natural resources as an integral component of Sydney's growth and development.

Put simply, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA facilitates integrated natural resource management in an urban landscape.

For specific, strategic projects, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA can play an important role in planning, funding and implementing on-ground works in partnership with other stakeholders.

The NSW State Plan – How we contribute

The NSW Government developed a State Plan in 2006. As a NSW Government Statutory Authority the Sydney Metropolitan CMA is required to contribute to the NSW State Plan. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA's CAP shows how its 10-year Catchment Targets help contribute to the NRM Targets in the State Plan. The State Plan sets out the goals in five areas of activity that the NSW community wants its Government to work towards. All Government entities and departments are required to report their progress twice a year against five key activity areas: Rights, Respect and Responsibility; Delivering Better Services; Fairness and Opportunity; Growing Prosperity Across NSW; and Environment for Living.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA reports data for inclusion in the key activity area of Environment for Living. Specifically, data is compiled against the priority "Better environmental outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways".

Our additional contribution to NSW State Plan Targets

Outcomes from Sydney Metropolitan CMA activities and investment also contribute indirectly to other NSW State Plan goals in addition to our key area of "Environment for Living". For example:

- We contribute to "Building Harmonious Communities" by creating opportunities for "increased participation and integration in community activities", especially in the field of community capacity building.
- The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is committed to providing "customer friendly service". We evaluate our performance after delivering events, projects and programs and work towards continuous improvement.
- Under the goal of "Strengthening Aboriginal Communities" our Indigenous Cultural Heritage program indirectly contributes to "improved health and education for Aboriginal people" by providing learning and development opportunities focussed on natural resource management.
- Implementation of our community program aligns with the objective "more people participating in education and

training throughout their life" under the key objective "NSW Open for Business".

The NSW State Plan Targets appear as an appendix on Page 54.

Our Catchment Action Plan

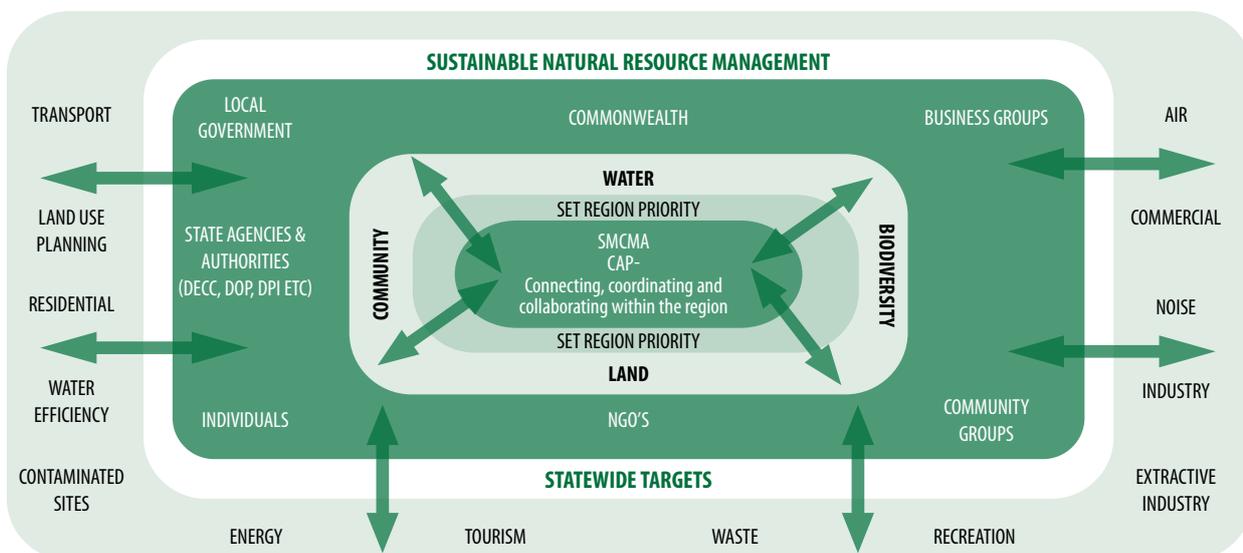
Along with all NSW CMAs the Sydney Metropolitan CMA has developed a Catchment Action Plan (CAP) as a tool to manage our natural resources sustainably.

The CAP sets out a 10 year plan for how natural resource management will be addressed in the region. It contains both Catchment Targets which identify how the catchment should be managed, and Management Targets which identify specific short term actions which will help deliver the longer term targets.

Because the CAP is a regional document, it specifies some targets which are delivered by other agencies or stakeholders. For example, Local Government undertakes far more natural resources work than the Sydney Metropolitan CMA can fund. A key role of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA is to assist Local Government to achieve regional benefits from these activities.

Although the CAP was not formally approved by the Minister until May 2009, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA was able to use the targets in the draft document to prepare its Investment Program.

Environmental management for sustainability



Sydney Metropolitan CMA Catchment Action Plan, 2009

Context

Our CAP builds on the issues and governmental/community responses identified in the Sydney Harbour Catchment Blueprint (2003), the Southern Sydney Catchment Blueprint (2003) and the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy (2005). It recognises the success achieved during 10 years of targetted investment in important natural resource issues, such as stormwater and urban habitats, by the NSW Environmental Trust and the Local Government sector. It builds on the lessons learnt by government and the community over that period.

Think of the CAP as a Compass

The CAP's operational timeframe is from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2016. The CAP guides the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in its investment in natural resource management through 18 Catchment Targets and 47 Management Targets. The Catchment Targets describe the greatest improvement to the condition of our biodiversity, water and coasts and soil. These categories, along with "community" represent the four Themes contained in the CAP. Nested within the Themes, the Management Targets provide multiple benefits to the condition

of our natural resources: For example, regeneration of native riparian vegetation will also have a positive effect on aquatic health, biodiversity, soils and estuaries.

Management Targets

The Management Targets outline a systematic approach to enhancing the connectivity of ecosystem processes. The Management Targets focus regional attention on improving the connectivity of priority ecological communities. Achieving this will require a consistent and coordinated

focus across multiple government and community organisations.

The role of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA is to encourage, influence, coordinate and facilitate activities which will be carried out by partner organisations, by initiating and reinforcing important institutional linkages. For some specific projects the Sydney Metropolitan CMA provides direct investment.

NSW State Plan Natural Resource Management (E4) Targets

See Appendix p.54.



Where we fit as a regional delivery agency for natural resource management: (30 June 2009)

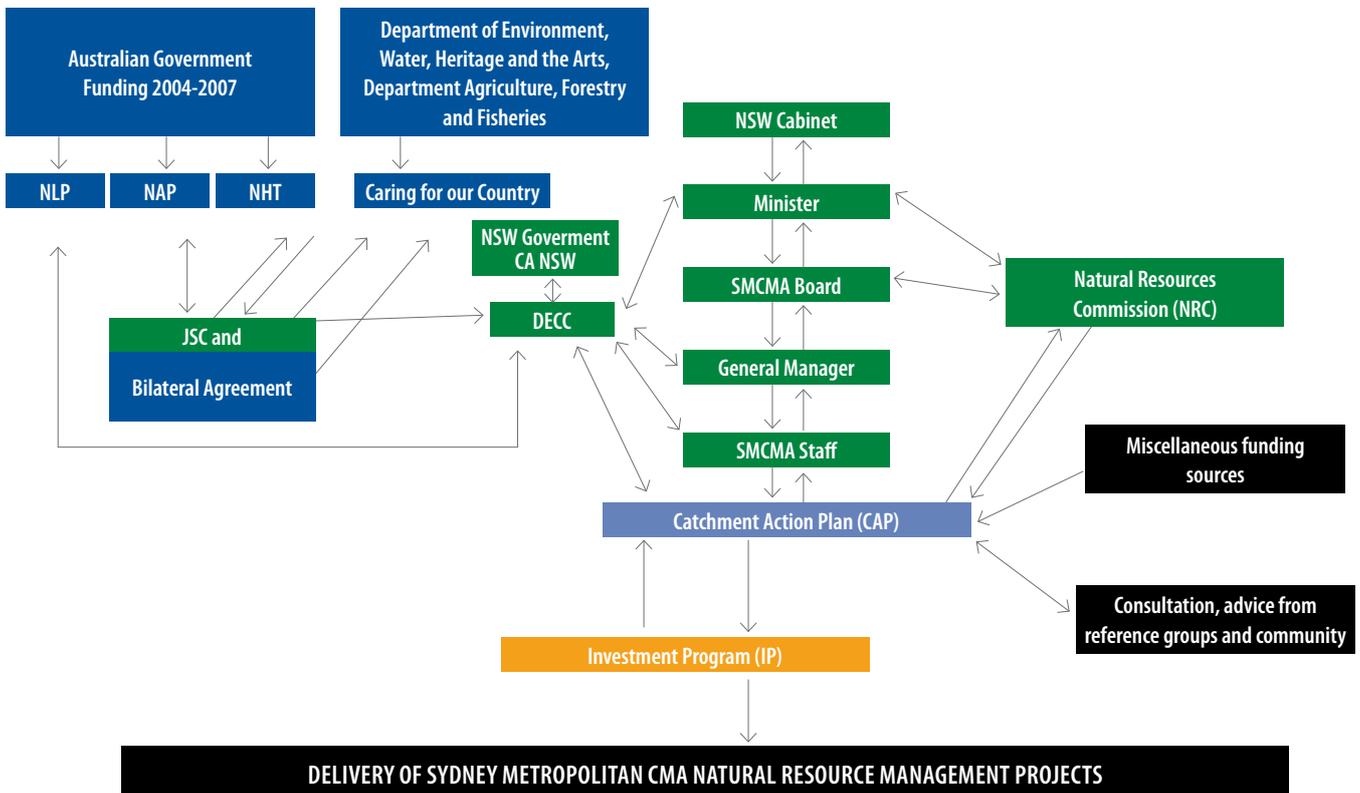


Diagram: Owen Graham 2009

Sources of funding

Sydney Metropolitan CMA projects are funded by the Australian and NSW Governments through the following programs:

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Caring for our Country

Caring for Our Country is an Australian Government initiative introduced on 1 July 2008. It integrates delivery of the Australian Government's previous natural resource management programs, including the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Landcare Program and the Working on Country Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.

It also incorporates the delivery of a range of other natural resource management funding elements including Community Coastcare, World Heritage, regional investments and relevant 2007 Federal election commitments. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA received \$750,000 under this program in 2008-2009.

Caring for our Country Goal:

An environment that is healthy, better protected, well-managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

National Priority Areas:

- National Reserve System
- Biodiversity and natural icons
- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices
- Community skills, knowledge and engagement
- Natural resource management in northern and remote Australia

Outcomes: Multiple five-year outcomes for each national priority area.

Targets: Short-term targets that combine to deliver outcomes.

Integrated Projects: Projects that deliver against individual or multiple targets.

Natural Heritage Trust

Funding for the development of new projects through the Natural Heritage Trust concluded in 2007. Delivery of on-going programs continued through 2007, 2008 to June 2009, with some isolated programs attaining extensions for completion by December 2009.

Between 2005 and 2009 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA managed projects with a total value of \$8.928 million.

National Landcare Program

The National Landcare Program was designed to support the landcare movement and sustainable use and management of natural resources by landholders. As an urban-focussed CMA, limited funding has been provided to the Sydney Metropolitan CMA under this program.

NSW FUNDING

Catchment Action NSW

Catchment Action NSW (CA NSW) was introduced by the NSW Government to provide funding to deliver the 13 NRM targets identified in the NSW State Plan priority E4. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA received \$528,000 under this program in 2008-2009.

NSW Salinity Strategy – Local Government Salinity Initiative

This program assists Local Government to manage urban salinity. It provides information, training and technical support for the development and implementation of salinity management strategies and land use planning instruments. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA received \$119,000 under this program in 2008-2009.

GRANTS

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA received a number of grants during 2008-2009:

\$2 million: Cooks River Urban Water Initiative from the Australian Government Department of Environment Heritage and the Arts "Water for the Future Program".

\$250,700: Coastal NRM project

\$106,000: Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust data collection with the Bureau of Meteorology

Caring for our Country Community Coastcare:

\$227,000: Kurnell 2020 Integrated Ecological Restoration

\$150,000: Biodiversity Restoration Georges River

\$70,000: Aboriginal Landcare and Schools

\$45,000: Towra Point Community Shorebirds

NSW Environmental Trust:

\$32,535: Bilingual River Guides

Investment Program

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA prepares a strategic four-year rolling Investment Program which identifies all activities to which it will contribute funds.

The Investment Program shows how the CAP's catchment and management targets will contribute towards the environmental priorities of the NSW State Plan by detailing proposed expenditure against each of the 13 state-wide targets.

It is recognised that Management Targets in the CAP may contribute to more than one Catchment Target and that Catchment and Management Targets in the CAP may contribute to more than one state-wide target.

The Investment Program also identifies what funds will be spent in delivering other investor preferences. In 2008-09, with the launch of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, there was a move away from coordinated, joint State-Federal Government investment. All NSW CMAs were advised that the new program would also involve competitive bids against a broad range of other parties. The Caring for our Country program set new objectives and targets which did not automatically align with the regional CAP nor the NSW State Targets.

Although each Government provided its funding separately, most Federal funds in 2008-09 were still delivered through the NSW Government.

The Investment Program outlines the key performance milestones and indicators the Sydney Metropolitan CMA will deliver towards meeting both NSW Targets and national outcomes. The Investment Program also identifies how the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's activities are complying with the *NSW Standard for Quality Natural Resource Management* (Natural Resources Commission, 2005) and managing risks.

Annual Implementation Plan

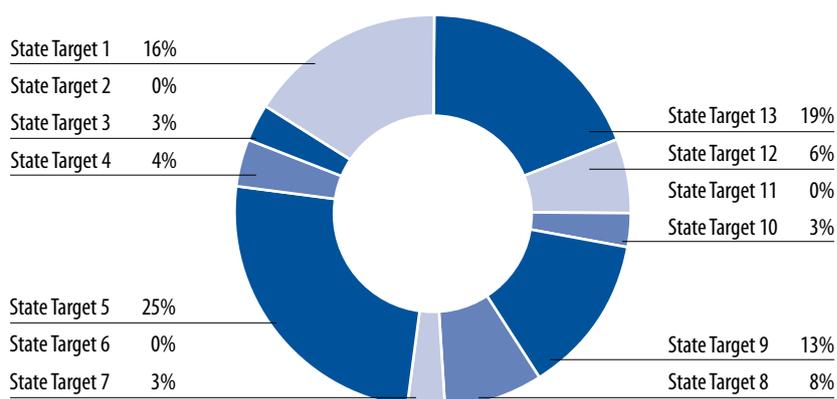
The Investment Program includes the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's Annual Implementation Plan for the coming year which sets out the specific activities to be undertaken each financial year with full costing of the activities, funding sources and financial contributions from other project partners. The *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003* requires that the Annual Implementation Plan must be approved by the Minister before it can be implemented. Although the Minister's approval is given for the current year for State funded projects, some projects can be delivered over a two or more year period provided that a guaranteed source of funds is available over the longer period. In 2008–09 the delay in the implementation of the competitive component of the Caring for our Country program meant that many projects under that program will be delivered over an extended period and not just the current financial year. While this is a change from past practice, it reflects a response to calls from NRM practitioners for longer term programs which provide more certainty of funding.

The list of projects being delivered with funding in 2008–2009 is provided on Page 55 and highlighted in the selected case studies. The list shows what State Targets, Catchment Targets and Management Targets are addressed by the projects and whether the projects have been completed. The table below sets out the allocation of funds across each State target.

As with earlier years, many of the 2008–09 projects are still focused on collecting baseline information so that it will be possible in future to assess progress in delivering the CAP. Until there is good information about the existing state of a resource, it is very difficult to quantify whether its condition is improving. Much of this baseline data will take the form of maps, because being able to identify the spatial distribution of a resource at the regional scale can allow the Sydney Metropolitan CMA to assess its extent and identify opportunities to improve its condition or better protect it from threats.

In the Sydney Metropolitan area the costs associated with NRM differ significantly to those of rural areas and the opportunity for investment on private lands in comparison is much reduced. In addition because local government undertakes much of the on-ground activity within the catchment, greater on-ground outcomes can be gained from investing in regional coordination of this work. For this reason a

Allocation of funds across State Targets



number of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's projects specifically address coordination and support and staff have worked with regional groupings such as the Georges River Combined Councils Committee, the Parramatta River Catchment Group, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group. Staff have also worked with Aboriginal groups and Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

This highlights the importance of waterways and the community in the Sydney region.

The State Targets are listed in Appendix p.54.

One of the ways of ensuring progress on the delivery of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's CAP is through regular audits by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). An NRC audit of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA was originally scheduled for November 2008, but this was rescheduled until July 2009.

Funding Allocation across State Targets for 2008–09 (\$000)

The following table shows the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's allocation of funding across the State Targets for 2008–2009. The main focus of the funding is on streams (ST 5), community engagement (ST 13), native vegetation (ST 1), estuaries and coastal lakes (ST 9) and wetlands (ST 8).

Funds Allocation (\$000)

State Target	2008–09
State Target 1	557
State Target 2	0
State Target 3	95
State Target 4	135
State Target 5	832
State Target 6	0
State Target 7	103
State Target 8	290
State Target 9	444
State Target 10	119
State Target 11	0
State Target 12	216
State Target 13	625
Total	3,417

Our Strategic Partnerships



Above Left The Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon explore Deep Creek by canoe. **Centre** Australian Government Caring for Our Country Facilitator, Megan Tattersall, Sydney Metropolitan CMA Indigenous Community Support Officer, Margaret Bottrell and Place Manager, Owen Graham, with Australian Government Land and Coasts Regional Liaison Officer, Mardie Kearns at the Inaugural Regional Environment Awards at Kirribilli on May 23. **Right** The Sydney Metropolitan CMA hosted two field trips as part of its Environmentally Friendly Seawall program.

The primary role of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA is to better connect the work of all natural resource management stakeholders within our region. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA sets targets that provide a unifying direction for all natural resource managers and contribute to the State-wide NRM targets.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has worked with its partners to determine the most important natural resource issues in the region and the processes or threats that are driving trends in natural resource condition. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has reviewed existing efforts to address the fragmentation and degradation of natural resources and identified knowledge gaps.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA operates within a complex mix of high profile strategic interests that intersect across government, industry and the community.

In the government arena the Sydney Metropolitan CMA works with policy makers, regulators and land managers within the three tiers of government: Australian, NSW, and Local. At the community level the Sydney Metropolitan CMA interacts with an extensive network of organisations and businesses.

This "institutional landscape" presents important challenges and opportunities for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in its efforts to implement its role of coordination and integration of natural resource management across the Sydney Metropolitan region.

Progress in natural resource condition in this intensively settled and managed region will be achieved by the development of continued support of strategic partnerships:

- Across natural system boundaries (eg freshwater creeks to estuaries)
- Between land managers across both private and public lands
- Between different government institutions
- Between community and government, harnessing the energy of more than three million residents and more than 20,000 volunteers

Table - Partners in the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Action Plan as at 30 June 2009

This table outlines the statutory and policy responsibilities of diverse partners in NRM across the Sydney Metropolitan CMA (SMCMA) region.

Organisation	Statutory and Policy Responsibilities	Important Contribution to State and CAP Targets in the Sydney Metropolitan Region
Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Natural Heritage Trust, Australian Government Envirofund).	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2002 (EPBC Act)</i> Caring for our Country.	Essential Partner Primary funding source for NRM at the regional scale. Critical partner for determining priority investment preferences.
NSW Treasury and Premiers Office.	NSW State Plan NSW State Budget.	Essential Partner Overall responsibility for all State targets and for policy priority and consequent funding for NRM in NSW.
NSW Natural Resources Commission.	<i>Natural Resources Commission Act 2003.</i>	Essential Partner Provides independent strategic advice and guidance to government on NRM issues. Sets quality standards for NRM in NSW. Reviews and recommends adoption of regional CAPs. Audits the activities and progress of CMAs.

Organisation	Statutory and Policy Responsibilities	Important Contribution to State and CAP Targets in the Sydney Metropolitan Region
Department of Planning (DoP).	<p>Sydney Regional Environment Plan SEPP 1987, 1989</p> <p>Sydney Harbour Catchment SEPP 2005</p> <p>Drinking Water Catchments SEPP 2006</p> <p>Georges River Catchment SEPP 1999</p> <p>Extractive Industry SEPP 1995</p> <p>Sydney Metropolitan Strategy 2005</p> <p>State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) 71 (Coastal Protection) and others such as SEPP 14 (Coastal Wetlands)</p> <p>NSW Coastal Policy</p> <p>Coastal Design Guidelines</p> <p>NSW Planning Reforms</p> <p>NSW Coastal Reform package</p> <p>Comprehensive Coastal Assessment.</p> <p><i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i></p>	<p>Essential Partner</p> <p>Significant role in achieving all State NRM targets, particularly through coordinated implementation of the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy (2005) and the CAP.</p> <p>Responsible for much of the statutory framework which is used by Local Government, the SMCMA and NSW agencies in delivering NRM targets.</p>
Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).	<p><i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> and other environmental legislation</p> <p>State of the Environment (SoE) reports</p> <p>'Who Cares about the Environment' surveys and reports.</p> <p>'Learning for Sustainability' – NSW Environmental Education Plan 2007-10</p> <p>Environmental Trust – linked to SOI priorities, funded through waste levies</p> <p>Stormwater Trust (prior to 2006)</p> <p>Fifteen or more Plans of Management for National Parks (including Sydney Harbour, Lane Cove, Botany Bay etc.), Nature Reserves and State Conservation Areas</p> <p>Sydney Botanic Gardens</p> <p>Environment Improvement Plans attached to Environment Protection Licences.</p> <p>Clean Up Orders (contaminated land).</p> <p>NSW Coast and Estuary Program, guidelines for coast and estuary management plans</p>	<p>Essential Partner</p> <p>Significant role in achieving all NSW NRM targets. Already active in major NRM programs (as an operator and providing investment through the Environmental Trust).</p> <p>Main driver of State policy for contaminated sites, water quality objectives, flow objectives, biodiversity management (e.g. biobanking) and cultural landscape management, and native vegetation.</p> <p>Provides main technical support for Local Government in the coastal zone – major issue for the SMCMA region.</p> <p>Employs CMA staff and provides administrative support in areas of finance, human resources, payroll and legal services through service level agreements.</p>
<i>Now Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water</i>	<p>Biobanking <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> planning and implementation</p> <p><i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i></p> <p><i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i></p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Aquatic reserves and marine parks.</p>	
Department of Lands	<p><i>NSW Crown Lands Act 1989</i></p> <p><i>Soil Conservation Act 1939</i></p> <p>Plans of Management for Crown land, including waterways</p> <p>Now includes technical advice on soil assessment and management and land capability.</p>	<p>Essential Partner</p> <p>Important land manager (particularly across the Cumberland Plain), and owns beds of waterways on behalf of the Crown.</p>

Organisation	Statutory and Policy Responsibilities	Important Contribution to State and CAP Targets in the Sydney Metropolitan Region
Department of Water and Energy (DWE).	<p><i>Aspects of the Metropolitan Water Plan 2006</i> <i>National Water Initiative 2004, 2006 State Plan,</i> <i>National Plan for Water Security 2007</i> <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> <i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948</i> (as amended).</p> <p><i>State Rivers and Estuaries Policy, NSW State Groundwater Policy, NSW Wetlands Management Policy and NSW Wetlands Management Policy,</i> <i>The NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy,</i> <i>The NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Policy.</i></p> <p>Statutory management plans including water sharing, water use, controlled activity and aquifer interference, floodplain management, drainage management and environmental protection, access licences, water use, water supply works and controlled activity approvals.</p>	<p>Essential Partner</p> <p><i>Water Management Act 2000</i> requirements have a significant impact on NRM projects.</p>
Sydney Water Corporation.	<p>Manages distribution of drinking water; dominates the wastewater sector; provides significant trunk stormwater services. Has three corporate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect public health; • to protect the environment; and • to be a successful business. 	<p>Essential Partner</p> <p>Most important partner for actions that require changes to wastewater management.</p> <p>Major influence on water reuse and recycling.</p>
Other CMAs – particularly HNCMA.	<p><i>Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003.</i></p>	<p>Essential Partners</p> <p>The HNCMA operates under the same legislation as the SMCMA, and shares a number of issues on a regional and State scale with the SMCMA (although it is not covered by the same specific NSW government assigned responsibilities). The two organisations also share multiple essential partners.</p>
Thirty-nine Local Government Areas (LGAs)	<p><i>Local Government Act 1993 and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i></p> <p>39 Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) (due to be fully reviewed using the NSW Template by 2009 or 2011)</p> <p>Environmental Management Plans</p> <p>State of the Environment Reports</p> <p>Annual Reports</p> <p>Plans of Management for Community Land</p> <p>Coastline, Estuary, Floodplain/flood risk and Stormwater Management Plans</p> <p>Recreation Plans</p> <p>Social Plans</p> <p>Settlement Strategies</p> <p>Sustainability Strategies</p> <p>Heritage Strategies</p> <p>Bushcare.</p>	<p>Essential Partners</p> <p>The critical importance of partnerships with and between local councils is highlighted in the <i>Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003</i> and in the 2006 Cabinet Direction.</p> <p>Local Government acts as a planner, manager and regulator across multiple aspects of NRM. In the SMCMA region, high population densities have lead to Local Government fragmentation, with multiple local councils within any subcatchment area (such as Middle Harbour estuary and its catchment).</p> <p>Major opportunities for coordinated and cooperative management with benefits at all scales.</p> <p>Local Government investment in Bushcare in the Sydney region was \$3.5 million in 2005.</p>

Organisation	Statutory and Policy Responsibilities	Important Contribution to State and CAP Targets in the Sydney Metropolitan Region
Community environment organisations at State, regional and local level, including service groups, Greening Australia, National Parks Association	These organisations do not operate under specific pieces of legislation or policy, but may be instrumental in achieving enforcement or new interpretation of legislation and policy.	Essential Partners Some of these groups are also Bushcare groups; others focus on specific environmental or natural resource issues and can be catalysts for changes in attitude to natural resource issues across the community.
Approximately three million Sydney residents and 2.7 million visitors.	Investment in NRM programs through rates and taxes.	Essential Partners As a NRM area, the SMCMA region is distinguished by the fragmentation of land ownership (small urban blocks rather than rural lands dominate the catchment). Small changes in behaviour by the Sydney population have major implications for the regional catchment targets and indirectly for the State-wide NRM targets.
Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs).	Conduct research, prepare submissions on government policy, lobby and foster cooperation between councils within a geographic region. Achieve sustainable lifestyle for residents – social infrastructure, environment protection and economic activity.	Essential Partners As above, important partners for projects that focus on subcatchment regions. The ROCs can also drive policy change and assist local councils to prepare consistent responses to NRM challenges, including LEPs, Development Control Plans (DCPs) and planning guidelines.
Other Local Government subregional functional groups (weeds, coast and estuaries).	Coordinate the Local Government response on various specific issues – at a subregional scale. For instance, Sydney Coastal Councils Group includes 15 member councils which have coastline or estuarine environments.	Essential Partners The importance of these groups will vary with their major interest. However, Sydney Coastal Councils Group and Sydney Weeds Committees are addressing issues identified as of great regional significance.
NSW Aboriginal Land Council and six Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) and Aboriginal Corporations from the SMCMA region. LALCs: Metropolitan, Deerubbin, Gandangara, Tharawal, Illawarra and La Perouse.	NSW <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> Maintain and protect cultural heritage, make claims for appropriate Crown land, manage land obtained under the NSW <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> , coordinate and support Aboriginal community access to programs such as housing, education, health and legal advice.	Essential Partners Important both for their knowledge of cultural values of the landscape and representation of Indigenous views, but also as land managers in their own right.
Landcare, Bushcare, Streamwatch, Ocean Watch Australia, Eco-divers and Coastcare groups.	Community-based bushland and water management groups, supported by Local and NSW Government.	Essential Partners Currently there are 8,500 volunteers working on bushland regeneration projects across the SMCMA region.



Above left The Tide to Table Project was a partnership with Ocean Watch Australia. Here Dave Mathews of the Sutherland Paruna Reserve Bushcare group takes part in a clean-up of the Woronora River. Photo: Simon Rowe. **Centre** At the Inaugural Regional Environment Awards the then Chief Executive Officer of Landcare Australia, Brian Scarsbrick, presented the \$5000 Urban Landcare Award to Deputy Mayor of Warringah Council, Dr Conny Harris representing the Friends of the Dee Why Wetland project. **Right** The Eco-Divers, based at Manly have partnered with the Sydney Metropolitan CMA on a number of projects. Photo: Dave Thomas.

Organisation	Statutory and Policy Responsibilities	Important Contribution to State and CAP Targets in the Sydney Metropolitan Region
Department of Primary Industries (DPI).	Plans for agriculture in the Sydney region State Forests <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> includes provisions for aquatic threatened species and Fishery Management Strategies (commercial sectors) Intertidal Protected Areas	Supporting Partner Integration of water quality management programs in the Georges River and Hacking River catchments – directly relevant to sustainable oyster industry. Provide funding for Regional Weeds Committees. Fishery Management Strategies set the framework for commercial activity in estuaries and marine environments, addressing biodiversity protection and cultural fishing.
<i>Now Department of Industry and Investment NSW</i>	Policies and guidelines (e.g. for barriers to fish passage) Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans for aquatic species (e.g. Grey Nurse Shark) Sustainable Oyster Industry Strategy 2006 NSW Invasive Species Plan.	
NSW Maritime.	Recreational Boating Plans of Management. Mooring Management Plans.	Supporting Partner Manages the interface between aquatic recreation and aquatic habitat protection – a major issue in Sydney’s estuarine waterways, given the popularity of recreational boating.
Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA).	Manages the bulk drinking water supply (including supply catchments) for the greater Sydney area: ‘Healthy catchments, quality water – always’.	Supporting Partner Important partner for issues extending beyond regional catchment scale, but also for regional-scale issues associated with efficient water management.
Local Government and Shires Association.	Represents combined interests of Local Government, coordinates programs and policy development.	Supporting Partner As above, important partner in terms of lobbying for policy changes that will facilitate effective NRM by Local Government (including funding arrangements).
Growth Centres Commission.	Growth Centres SEPP 2007 Precinct Plans Infrastructure Delivery Plans.	Supporting Partner Manages development of major new regional growth centres. There is spatially limited overlap between the two major growth centres in the Sydney Basin with the SMCMA region. However, natural resource policies and priorities in the Growth Centres will set precedents for redevelopment and expansion of other urban areas.
Department of Local Government.	<i>Local Government Act 1993.</i>	Supporting Partner Can encourage Local Government engagement in NRM and reinforce importance of coastal zone management and community participation strategies, amongst other issues. Currently requires local SoE reports.
Sydney Ports Authority.	Botany Bay Port Masterplan.	Supporting Partner The Authority plays a significant role in managing two of NSW’s most valuable economic resources – Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. It is committed to minimising impacts on the environment and local communities.
Parkland Authorities and Trusts, including Sydney Olympic Park, Centennial and Moore Park, Parramatta Park, Royal Botanic Gardens.	Sydney Olympic Park has a Sustainability Strategy and Master Plan (‘Parklands 2020’) 2002. <i>Centennial and Moore Park Trust Act 1983.</i>	Supporting Partners Centennial and Moore Park Trust estimates that 22% of people aged over 18 in Sydney (2.2 million people) visit an urban park at least once a week. Major regional parks (such as Sydney Olympic Park) also present opportunities for significant habitat rehabilitation, research on threatened species and communities and community awareness raising.

Organisation	Statutory and Policy Responsibilities	Important Contribution to State and CAP Targets in the Sydney Metropolitan Region
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.	<i>Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act 2001.</i>	Supporting Partner Manages 137 ha of high-profile land (much of it is formerly Defence land) around the foreshore of Sydney Harbour, including North Head, Middle Head, Cockatoo Island.
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.	Role focuses on creating and caring for significant places for Sydney residents and visitors. This includes both cultural and environmental care.	Supporting Partner Manages 400 ha of Sydney Harbour foreshore, with a focus on culturally or historically important sites (such as The Rocks, Circular Quay, and Darling Harbour). Major opportunities for cross promoting NRM issues and responses.
Land development organisations – Landcom and other major development groups.	Must comply with <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> in terms of development applications and development consent. Land developers are also required to comply with multiple other pieces of State legislation and policy such as <i>Coastal Protection Act 1989</i> , <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> , <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> , <i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948</i> , biobanking.	Supporting Partners The inputs and results of Master Planning for major land releases and the inclusion of innovative environmental aspects (e.g. in terms of water sensitive urban design and recycling) of new development (including redevelopment) can add value to natural resource protection and enhancement programs.
Individual industries and industry associations.	Activities must meet the requirements of multiple pieces of State legislation, including <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> , <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> , <i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i> , <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .	Supporting Partners Industry associations can provide leadership for members and also encourage changes to government policy for the benefit of natural resources and natural system processes. Private businesses involved in Biobanking have an important role to play.
Universities and other research institutions.	Research activities must comply with legislative requirements where the activity presents a risk to a natural resource value.	Supporting Partners Research organisations can make a significant contribution to natural resource knowledge through targeted and properly designed research.



Left

A community project was conducted with Auburn Council focussing on the Duck River. Photo: Alissar Chidiac.

The Sydney region has a population of more than three million people from diverse cultural backgrounds. More than 30 per cent of residents speak a language other than English. (Sydney Metropolitan CAP, July 2009)

Local Government

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA recognises that councils have a pre-eminent role as natural resource managers within the core urban Sydney region.

They have a primary role in land use planning and development assessment and the care and control of public land that influences many of the catchment targets for the urban landscape. Following the closure of the NSW Stormwater Trust in 2006, Local Government has been responsible for levying funds to cover the majority of stormwater management improvements in the region, while the Sydney Water Corporation also manages some stormwater infrastructure.

Local Government has a close working relationship with local and regional-scale community groups and individual councils are in a position to influence community attitudes and behaviour. As it would be resource intense to work with 39 individual councils, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA generally works with groups of councils, especially those with a catchment focus such as Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG); The Georges River Combined Councils' Committee, (GRCCC); Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) and the Cooks River Foreshores Working Group. The region also contains five Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) which also provide opportunities for achieving natural resource outcomes across Local Government boundaries.

The ROCS are:

- Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC);
- Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC);
- Shore Regional Organisation of Councils (SHOROC);

- Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC);
- Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC).

Other Significant Partnerships

The scope of the policy, regulatory, funding and on-ground management responsibilities of some organisations overlaps extensively with the core interests of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. Some key stakeholder groups include:

Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has a significant and important relationship with the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust.

The Trust was constituted in 1989. Under its charter the Trust was responsible for mitigating the impacts of flooding, trunk drainage surcharge, deteriorating water quality and other natural hazards. The Parramatta River catchment covers the upper part of The Hills Shire and Blacktown, Holroyd and Parramatta areas. A river management service charge levied on all rateable properties in the catchment provided funding for the Trust.

Projects included construction of infrastructure, flood modelling and data collection and the catchment-wide on-site stormwater detention policy.

In February 2005 the NSW Government decided the Trust would merge with the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. The finalisation of the merger and the abolition of the Trust is now dependent on identifying a source of funds to maintain the Trust's assets and liabilities after the merger.

Port Hacking Management Panel

This group was established by Sutherland Shire Council to provide advice to Council on all matters related to the preservation, maintenance, sustainable development and use of Port Hacking. This includes ensuring that the Port Hacking Integrated Environmental Management Plan 2007-2012 is contemporary and relevant. Members of

the Panel represent Council, commercial operators, The Waterfront Owners Association, the Waterways User Group, and other environmentally-focussed groups.

Non-voting members include representatives from the Department of Primary Industries, NSW Maritime Authority, and DECCW agencies including the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Estuary Management Program and the former Environment Protection Authority. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is invited to attend meetings in an observer capacity.

The Coastal CMAs Working Group

The Coastal Catchment Management Authorities Working Group was set up to provide a forum for the five coastal CMAs to share knowledge, discuss issues and explore solutions. Members are: Northern Rivers, Hunter-Central Rivers Hawkesbury-Nepean, Sydney Metropolitan and Southern Rivers. The group meets quarterly and provides opportunities for the following:

- Development of strategic level NRM recommendations under the guidance from Coastal GMs and/or the joint NSW CMA GM's group.
- Development of consistent operational foundations for policy, regulations, legislation, programs and operations - ensuring flexibility to adapt and vary these as necessary.
- Sharing of knowledge, experience, initiatives through networking
- Joint problem solving and recommendation development.
- Investigation and, if appropriate, progression of joint funding opportunities for cross-CMA projects.

The regional Bitou Bush Control Project is an example of a successfully implemented cross regional project.



Left A volunteer-initiated Catchment to Cove project to restore saltmarsh at Sisters and Half Moon Bay was carried out in partnership with the City of Canada Bay. The project won a Highly Commended at the 2008 Local Government Environment Awards in December.

Right In 2008 a partnership between the Sydney Metropolitan CMA and Canterbury Council and members from the al-Ghazzali Cultural Learning Centre saw volunteers adopt a Bushcare site along the Cooks River at Croydon Park. As an extension to the original project the Sydney Metropolitan CMA produced a DVD to encourage other community groups to get involved in local Bushcare volunteering.

Local Aboriginal Land Councils

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA acknowledges the connection of Aboriginal people to country and the integral connections between the natural resource values (such as water quality and flows and intact plant and animal communities) and the cultural values of the landscape.

The Department of Natural Resources (2005) defined Aboriginal cultural landscapes as:

"A location, area or region valued by an Aboriginal group (or groups) because of their long and complex relationship with that land. It expresses their unity with the natural and spiritual environment. It embodies their traditional knowledge of spirits, places, land uses and ecology. Material remains of the association may be prominent, but will often be minimal or absent."

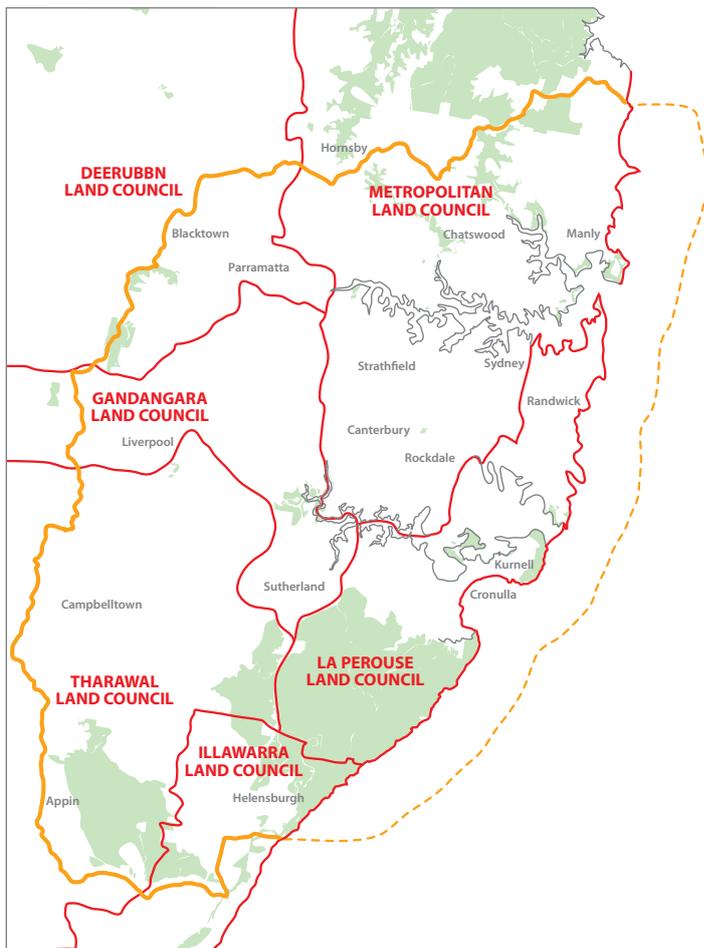
The Metropolitan Local Land Council covers the traditional land of 29 clans of the Eora nation. The Land Council's theme: *"Always was, always will be ... Aboriginal land"* embodies the concept of a cultural landscape that is valued for the continuity that the land represents – for stories, spiritual associations, economic associations (plants, animals, water and stone resources) and community strength.

Other Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) and traditional nations that are represented in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region include:

- La Perouse LALC in the Botany Bay area
- Gandangara LALC, based at Liverpool
- Tharawal LALC, based at Buxton
- Deerubbin LALC, based at Mount Druitt
- Illawarra LALC, based at Wollongong.

In addition to the traditional cultural associations with country, the Land Councils and traditional owners of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region own a significant area of land in multiple parcels, obtained under the *NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983*. Some of these land parcels protect locations of high biodiversity values. Many represent links for Aboriginal people between traditional cultural landscape values and contemporary economic independence. Aboriginal people are land managers and important stakeholders in improving natural resource conditions within the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has participated in consultation with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council as well as local Aboriginal Land Councils within our region, as well as elders and Traditional Owner groups across the region.



Left

Delivering Welcome To Country at the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Regional Awards was Uncle Bob Waterer.

Right

At the Sydney Royal Easter Show Bushcare Stall Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Mark Saunders explains Aboriginal tools to Willoughby Council officer, Liz Shea and Sydney Metropolitan CMA Community Support Officer, Emma Beckley.



Kurnell 2020

Kurnell 2020 is a 10 year project managed by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

Kurnell 2020 is a landscape scale project which aims to build biodiversity corridors and resilient ecosystems across the Kurnell Peninsular. It will buffer and enhance Sydney's only internationally recognised Ramsar wetland at Towra Point and conserve and enhance eight endangered ecological communities.

The Kurnell 2020 project is based around developing partnerships and collaboration with public and private land owners, including the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. The initiative adds value to the substantial investment of Sutherland Shire Council and Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in managing this vulnerable environment, controlling weeds and protecting local plant species.

The project also includes work with private landholders to encourage the protection of Kurnell's local plant species as well as the involvement of the managers of public lands in weed control.

Many of the species of native plants growing at Kurnell in 2009 are the same as those that would have been found in this location more than 250 years ago.

Due to various impacts and the invasion of weeds, we are losing these remaining native plant species. The Kurnell 2020 project aims to preserve this significant part of Kurnell's natural heritage.

The Importance of Kurnell

The Towra Point Nature Reserve forms the north western side of Kurnell Peninsula. The

wetland in this Nature Reserve is listed in the Ramsar Convention and is protected through legislation. Migratory shorebirds, coming to Australia through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, spend up to six months on the Kurnell Peninsula. Species include the Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler and Ruddy Turnstone. Other threatened bird species including the Little Tern and Pied Oystercatcher use the Towra Nature Reserve for breeding every summer. These visitors to our shores also feed on the eastern side of the Kurnell Peninsula at Boat Harbour where an extensive rock platform is included in a monthly survey, part of the Shorebirds Program of Birds Australia, as is the whole area of Towra Point.

All these areas are impacted by problems of invasive plants and animals across the peninsula and the lack of knowledge and understanding of the rare and precious resource that exist on the southern shores of Botany Bay. Through the Kurnell 2020 project, biodiversity corridors will reduce the threats to the bird habitat areas and education and awareness programs will engage the community in an improved understanding and appreciation of one of Sydney's best kept secret natural wonders.

Natural Resource Management Targets

The Kurnell Peninsula is a focus for natural resource funding as projects can deliver outcomes against strategic Australian and NSW Government natural resource management targets.



Australian Government priorities

The Towra Point Aquatic Reserve is one of the two internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands in NSW. This area is migratory bird habitat for species listed in the Japan and China Migratory Bird Agreements (JAMBA & CAMBA). Bitou Bush is a Weed of National Significance. The Botany Bay area is regarded as a "hot spot" for high priority actions in the Caring for our Country Business Plan.

NSW State priorities

Eight Endangered Ecological Communities are found in the Peninsula together with 36 Threatened Species. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA's Rapid Fauna Habitat Assessment identified the Peninsula and Towra Point in the highest priority category for action. Additionally Threat Abatement Plans for rabbits, foxes and Bitou bush apply to the area.

Sutherland Shire Council has endorsed the Kurnell 2020 project and the proposed corridor locations are consistent with the draft Local Environmental Plan for the area.

Funding

Kurnell 2020 was funded in 2008-09 with an investment of \$266,000 through the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust. In March 2009 further funding of \$227,000 through the Australian Government Community Coastcare Program was received by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA for a complementary program known as Kurnell 2020: Engaging Community in Integrated Ecological Restoration, Stage 1.

The key elements of this project, delivered in partnership with Sutherland Shire Council, will provide a strategic approach to the on-ground restoration works across the landscape of the whole Kurnell Peninsula. An Integrated Invasive Species Strategy will be developed and a Seed and Nursery Audit carried out to determine what seed sources are available to grow the plants required for the future large scale revegetation of the biodiversity corridors.

This Community Coastcare project also has an important focus on community engagement. A series of workshop and training events will be held to assist current and future community volunteers to improve their skills in restoration, including understanding needs of local fauna. The Indigenous work team, known as the 'Towra Team' working in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park will also be supported to undertake accredited training for a Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management. This Community Coastcare project will be completed in October 2010.

Significant Events

Mid 08: Formative stakeholder meeting at Kurnell

Dec 08-Feb 09: Australian Government archival filming at Kurnell

Feb 09: Strategic Planning exercises

Feb 09: Field trip by La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council members to their lands at Kurnell.

May 09: Guriwal Aboriginal Cultural Day

Logo

A specific Kurnell 2020 logo was developed to identify and distinguish the project. The logo has been made available to all stakeholders to encourage ownership of the project.

A website: www.kurnell2020.info has also been developed.

Parallel Projects

While the Kurnell 2020 focuses attention on the Kurnell Peninsular it allows other agencies or organisations to develop specific projects that match their corporate objectives. For example, the Australian Government is exploring the development of an Aboriginal employment strategy that includes job opportunities in natural resource management and related industries.

Reports

Corridors Delineation Report prepared by DECC

Strategic Corporate Engagement Plan

Aboriginal Archeology and Heritage Report: Literature Review

Vegetation History and Kurnell Peninsular: Literature Review

Kurnell Community Project: (oral history)

These publications are available on our website: www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au

Above (left)

Little Tern chicks at Towra Point Nature Reserve. This Reserve, and the adjacent Towra Point Aquatic Reserve form the Towra International Wetlands, the largest and most botanically diverse estuarine wetland complex remaining in the Sydney region. Some 31 of the 66 species listed as part of the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement have been recorded at Towra Point.
Photo: Jodie Dunn.

Below left

Signage "Visitors from Afar" within the Towra Point Nature Reserve explains the life cycle of migratory shorebirds that fly from Asia to breed at these Ramsar-listed wetlands.

Below centre

Towra Team Indigenous trainee field officers, Adam Mason and Jeynara Murray.

Below right

Members of the Botany Bay Busy Bees took part in filming conducted by the Australian Government to document the start of the 10-year Kurnell 2020 project.





Regional Environmental Awards

The inaugural Sydney Metropolitan CMA Regional Environmental Awards highlight urban bushcare work.

Above

Some 120 Bushcare volunteers from across Sydney attended the Sydney Metropolitan CMA inaugural Regional Environment Awards on May 23. The day also included the third annual Community Forum.

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority became an important part of the Landcare Australia story by hosting the Inaugural Sydney Metropolitan CMA Regional Environment Awards in May, 2009.

By sponsoring its first Regional Environmental Awards the Sydney Metropolitan CMA has allowed the spotlight to shine on the hard work being done by thousands of dedicated city-dwelling volunteers.

To emphasise the importance of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Regional Environmental Awards, Landcare Australia Limited sponsored the \$5000 major prize in the Urban Environmental Project category.

Some 120 enthusiastic Bushcare volunteers from across Sydney attended the presentation ceremony at The Kirribilli Club, Lavender Bay on Saturday, May 23 to support and congratulate category winners.

The quality of the entries presented the judging panel with such a challenge in separating exceptional and worthy winners, that Highly Commended certificates were awarded in three of the four categories.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA supported regional winners who were eligible to enter the September NSW State Landcare Awards in Port Macquarie. NSW State winners will be eligible to enter the 2010 National Landcare Awards in Canberra.

Category winners

\$5000 Landcare Australia Urban Environment Project Award

Dee Why Wetland-Green Web Sydney Restoration Project. This project “ticked all the boxes” by demonstrating significant on-ground work that increases biodiversity while protecting and improving native habitat for threatened species, especially the Red-Crowned Toadlet, the Giant Burrowing Frog and the Eastern Pygmy Possum. An important “x factor” that made this entry the over-all winner was its focus on linking existing natural resource management plans developed by Warringah Council and DECC. Hands-on work included the planting of some 2000 native tube stock by the Friends of the Bush volunteers. There has been a strong emphasis on involving the community in communicating why wetlands are important and what measures are necessary to keep them healthy.

Highly Commended

The Friends of Lane Cove National Park Ridge to River project impressed the judges. This project continues to deliver on a biodiversity conservation plan started in 2000 which aims to restore the dry sclerophyll and riparian areas of Carters Creek from the headwaters on Delhi Road to the junction with the Lane Cove River. An area of some 3000 square metres has been restored providing native habitat for a range of native animals.



\$1000 Community Group Award

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society impressed with its “inspirational” work as an excellent example of volunteering and the benefits that are delivered to both the bushland and the individuals participating. Their major on-ground work is focussed in Bexley North, Paperbark Creek, Bray Avenue wetland, Girrahween East, Turrella Reserve, Jackson and Undercliffe Tracks and Wolli Bluff. In addition to bush regeneration the group produces educational resources for schools; conducts guided walks and kayak trips with commentary, with material for self-guided walks and works with Councils and agencies in research, planning and implementing programs.

Highly Commended

The Mighty Maandowie Volunteer Bushcare Group began in 1993 with a few volunteers working at one site and has continued to expand with some 26 active volunteers working at 23 sites covering 58 hectares. “Maandowie” is the Dharawal word for grey gum – *Eucalyptus punctata*, a species abundant in the area.

\$1000 Education Award

Jasper Road Public School was recognised for its environmental work extending back to 1991 when Winston Hills Rotary Club sponsored a shade house to start the “Tree for Survival” project. Students also participate in Streamwatch and conduct energy, water and waste audits at school and home. Students actively support Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day, World Tree Day and Earth Hour.

Highly Commended

Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre was recognised for its innovative Grime Scene Investigation (GSI) program which creates an authentic field work learning experience. Students conduct tests and identify the impact of human activity on an estuary. Study material is derived from the Stage 4 science syllabus.

\$1000 Aboriginal Environment Award

The Dyin Caribere Women’s Aboriginal Landcare group work at Parramatta Park to regenerate native bush. The name “dyin caribere” means “women gather” in the Darug language. In entering the award the group stated they were Aboriginal women who had lost contact with their traditional lands. They now meet monthly to revegetate native bush and remove rubbish along a section of Domain Creek and have now developed a sense of connection to place and caring for country.

Community Forum

The third Sydney Metropolitan CMA Community Forum was held on May 23 as an introduction to the inaugural Regional Environment Awards.

Sydney Metropolitan CMA Acting Chair, Philip Sansom, presented a 10-minute snapshot of the work being achieved by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in partnership with Councils, local groups and other government agencies across our region.

Megan Tattersall a Caring for Our Country Facilitator with the Australian Government Land and Coasts team, invited participants to share their “101 Secrets” for a successful volunteering group. The “roving microphone” session encouraged delegates to share their success stories.

Above left

Winners from all four Regional Environment Award categories were congratulated by Sydney Metropolitan CMA Chair, Philip Sansom and Board Members.

Above Centre

Maandowie Volunteer Bushcare Group members received a Highly Commended at the Regional Environment Awards from Board Member Suzanne Little (right).

Above Right

Board Member Genia McCaffery presented Jasper Road Public School students with the Education Award in recognition of the school’s extensive program of environmental activities.



Cooks River Urban Water Initiative



Above

The announcement of \$2million funding in October 2008

Left to right: NSW Member for Lakemba and Mayor of Canterbury, Robert Furolo; Federal Member for Lowe, John Murphy; Sydney Metropolitan CMA Chair, Philip Sansom; Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Member for Watson, Tony Burke; Federal Member for Grayndler, Anthony Albanese.

About the Initiative

The Cooks River Urban Water Initiative (CRUWI) focuses on two project elements to improve the environmental quality of the Cooks River.

Wolli Creek Stormwater Element

This element of the initiative aims to reduce the impacts of urban stormwater run-off on the Wolli Creek corridor by the installation of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices to reduce litter, weeds, sediment and improve the water quality in the Creek and River. The eight projects will include the construction of pollutant traps and bio-retention systems to filter stormwater flowing into the Creek

Wetlands Element

This element consists of the design and re-construction of five wetland areas in both the freshwater and estuarine reaches of the Cooks River. Existing wetlands will be supplemented with restoration works such as re-vegetation and weeding. Design briefs are being constructed in consultation with local land managers.

The total value of the initiative is \$2million and is funded under the Australian Government's Water for the Future Program. On-ground works are expected to be completed by mid 2010. This is a complex project and more information is available at www.cooksriver.info

Highlights in 2008-2009

- Funding of \$2million was announced by the Australian Government in October 2008
- Project co-ordinator position created and filled
- Cooks River logo and website developed
- Over \$500,000 committed in project contracts with land managers
- On-ground works began with the installation of a gross pollutant trap at Turrella

Water Sensitive Urban Design capacity building with Councils

An important part of the CRUWI has been to encourage and assist councils to design some of the stormwater treatment systems 'in house' rather than contracting out the work to a third party. To date Councils have taken a positive approach to this opportunity.

Research links

A postgraduate research project involving monitoring the outcomes has been set up at Macquarie University with additional funding from Sydney Water Corporation.



The Community Riverhealth Project with the GRCCC

There has never been a regional scale community-based study of macroinvertebrate populations within the Georges River Catchment.

The Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC)

represents Local Government in Sydney's Georges River Catchment. Member Councils include Rockdale City, Sutherland Shire, Kogarah, Hurstville City, Bankstown City, Liverpool City, Fairfield City, Campelltown City and Wollondilly Shire Councils.

In 2008 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA partnered with the GRCCC to apply for Australian Government funding for a community based, catchment wide aquatic macroinvertebrate monitoring program. Information gained will be used by the councils of the Georges River Catchment and the Sydney Metropolitan CMA to make important natural resource management decisions, such as targeting areas for preservation and restoration.

A vision for the project is to bring together Local Government, community groups, Bushcare and Streamwatch groups and schools to participate in a scientific study of aquatic macroinvertebrate populations within the Georges River Catchment.

By training and assisting the community to monitor their local environment this project will allow residents to participate directly in the management of the River. The Community Riverhealth Coordinator will ensure that data collected is accurate and available to assess the health of the Georges River and its tributaries.

This is a GRCCC project in association with the Georges River Environmental Education Centre, Sydney Water Corporation, Sydney Metropolitan CMA and the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Community Coastcare Program

Improving the health of the Georges River is also the theme of a complementary Sydney Metropolitan CMA project also funded through the Australian Government Community Coastcare Program, *Community Support for Biodiversity Restoration in the Georges River Catchment*.

This project starting in mid 2009 will involve a series of workshops to encourage the participation of new volunteers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. On-ground restoration projects will be supported and used as case studies and opportunities for engagement of new volunteers. A map of community involvement across the Georges River sub catchment will also be produced as part of the project. It is hoped this will also be able to take account of the new activities undertaken through the macroinvertebrate study.

The Georges River is an important recreational waterway for the people who live in its catchment. A project developed by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA and the GRCCC created opportunities for community members to take an active role in monitoring the health of the river and providing necessary data for high-quality natural resource management decisions. A specialist Community Riverhealth Coordinator has been employed by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA on behalf of the GRCCC.



Above left

Sydney Metropolitan CMA project officer Phillip Birtles takes part in a river health assessment activity.

Above centre

Collecting data on the Georges River.

Above right

Sydney Metropolitan CMA project officer Carl Tippler conducts a community education session.



The Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative

The Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative (BBCCI) is a major program for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. This case study provides a brief snapshot of the project. More information is available at: www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbccci/



Above

Botany Bay and its catchment has been declared a Caring for our Country Coastal Hotspot. The area contains a diversity of native plant species and provides habitat for many endangered native animals. In addition to its important natural resources, Botany Bay is Australia's largest general port, handling more than one-third of the national containerised trade in 2004.

Kingsford Smith Airport extends across reclaimed land in Botany Bay and is Australia's busiest airport.

The Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative (BBCCI) is majority funded by the Australian Government and being project managed and part funded by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

The BBCCI seeks to achieve long-term protection of the surface waters of Botany Bay, its estuaries and its catchment.

A major goal of the BBCCI is to produce a scientifically derived ecological response model of Botany Bay and its estuaries that can be used to model the impact changes in the catchment will have on the Bay's ecological communities.

Data collection for the model will primarily be focused on the pollutants washing off the hard surfaces in the catchment (suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorus).

An important component of the BBCCI is to engage with Local Government and key stakeholders in the Botany Bay Catchment so they can participate in finding and implementing innovative solutions to improve water quality.

The BBCCI's ultimate goal is to develop an agreed Water Quality Improvement Plan for the surface waters of Botany Bay and its catchment.

Major activities of the BBCCI are to:

- Prepare a Scoping Study
- Map the Botany Bay Catchment and sub-catchments
- Prepare a Consultation Strategy
- Set draft levels of protection for the environmental values of Botany Bay and its catchments waterways

- Model the current contributions of nutrients and sediments pollution in the catchment
- Conduct an ecological characterisation of the Towra Point Ramsar site
- Develop a hydrodynamic model for Botany Bay and catchment watercourses
- Establish an ecological response model of Botany Bay and its estuaries, which will be used to determine how much of several key pollutants that Botany Bay and its major tributaries can receive each year before irreversible ecological damage occurs
- Identify opportunities and barriers to the adoption of water sensitive urban design in the catchment
- Develop draft water quality objectives and load targets needed to protect the draft environmental objectives
- Develop management options to meet the water quality objectives and load targets and assess the cost and effectiveness various options and select most appropriate options to achieve targets
- Develop a water sensitive urban design (WSUD) adoption strategy and support councils and other government agencies to include WSUD in their planning processes
- Review the statutory and institutional arrangements relating to protecting water quality in Botany Bay, its estuaries and catchments.



Water Sensitive Urban Design in Sydney Program

This program aims to influence projects across 2,000 square kilometres and the 39 Local Government Councils within the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region.



Above

Finding ways to manage water in the urban environment that replicates natural systems as closely as possible is one of the principles of water sensitive urban design.

The strategy of the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in Sydney Program is to enhance the ability and willingness of Local Government Councillors and staff to promote and implement more sustainable water management practices in their operations and in urban development projects in Sydney.

The Sydney Metropolitan WSUD project officer has developed key partnerships focussed on promoting WSUD strategies. Key contacts include planners, designers, architects, engineers, construction and operational staff from 39 councils, universities, peak industry bodies, Landcom, the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust, the Regional Organisations of Councils and Council groups, the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, the NSW Department of Water and Energy, the Sydney Water Corporation, the Rouse Hill Infrastructure Consortium, the Local Government and Shires Association, the NSW Department of Planning and project officers within other NSW CMAs.

During 2008-2009 a series of seminars, issues-based workshops and site visits have been conducted to outline the main opportunities and challenges of WSUD and ways to improve water sustainability in urban development. WSUD planning and technical guidelines have been developed for use in the Sydney Region of Australia. A sustainable water challenge was facilitated this year, with councils from around NSW entering projects

they have been involved with that deal with more sustainable water management in some way.

A key achievement was the findings from an independent review which showed the Sydney Metropolitan CMA WSUD program was a key regional driver for embedding integrated water cycle management into Local Government policies, procedures, projects, initiatives and on-ground works.



Regional Weeds Committees

(Including Sydney North, Sydney Central, Sydney West/Blue Mountains and South West Sydney)



Sydney Weeds Committees

Above

Four Regional Weeds Committees, known as the Sydney Weeds Committees have formed to promote a co-operative and co-ordinated regional approach to weed management across the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region.

The Sydney region is characterised by large tracts of highly urbanised areas intersected with isolated areas of native vegetation. Remnants of original bushland continue to exist as corridors, often in steep terrain, in the north and south; on the alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain; and in large tracts in National Parks on the coastal and outer boundaries.

Many tiny fragments are scattered throughout the built up areas of central Sydney. In all locations bushland edges are significantly impacted by invasive weeds, associated with adjacent urban pressures such as stormwater runoff and high nutrient loads.

Four Regional Weeds Committees (known as the Sydney Weeds Committees) have been established to promote a cooperative and co-ordinated regional approach to weed management across the Sydney Metropolitan region.

The Committee regions are based on Local Government boundaries, and membership of each committee includes representatives from the councils in that area, as well from relevant NSW and Australian Government agencies.

The Sydney Weeds Committees and the Sydney Metropolitan CMA are now implementing some of the key actions in the Weed Management Strategy for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Region 2007-2011.

These include:

- Prioritising weeds in the region
- Collating baseline data and mapped information about high priority weeds
- Developing regional maps of the high priority weeds
- Developing community information and educational resources
- Providing best practice training for weed officers and industry practitioners



Award Winning Plan to Beat Bitou Bush

The implementation of the Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan (Bitou TAP) won a Highly Commended award in a search for the best Australasian restoration projects in 2008.

Above

Introduced in the 1970s to stabilise sand dunes, the invasive South African Bitou Bush is now a declared Weed of National Significance. It has spread along 80 per cent of the NSW coast and is causing a decline in native coastal species.

The Society for Ecological Restoration International, supported by the Ecological Management and Restoration Journal, launched the search in 2008 as part of its Global Restoration Network to identify the best restoration projects being carried out in Australasia.

The coastal CMA's Bitou Bush Control Project was selected because of the on-ground ecosystem restoration works component.

Implementation of the Bitou TAP across high priority sites involves extensive support from the five coastal NSW CMAs, DECCW, Local Government, the Department of Lands and numerous community groups, assisted by a DECCW coordinator.

The invasive South African shrub Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotunda*) has spread along 80 per cent of the NSW coastline, threatening native plant species from the king tide mark to coastal woodlands and forests. This threat was acknowledged with the listing of Bitou Bush as a key threatening process under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The Bitou TAP was developed to ensure that control of the weed led to the protection and restoration of coastal plant communities.

Detailed monitoring of the effectiveness of the control program is based on sound ecological techniques and extensive field testing with stakeholders.

Understanding how Bitou Bush causes native species to decline is a key component of the Bitou TAP and DECCW is currently exploring this field with the University of Wollongong. There has also been an economic assessment of the Bitou TAP in conjunction with the University of New England.



Urban Nature Photographic Competition

The Urban Nature Photographic Competition was designed to encourage catchment residents to explore their local environment through the use of photography.



Above
A selection of entries from the Urban Nature Photographic Competition on display at Parramatta Library in September.

A photographic competition was seen as an innovative and interesting approach to engage the community and promote awareness of the Parramatta River, its catchment, and extent of urban bushland to be found within the region. The 210 entrants were invited to capture the beauty and importance of local animals, plants and natural areas.

The competition was hosted by the Parramatta River Catchment Group in partnership with the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is a regional organisation. Local Government members include: Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Canada Bay, Holroyd, Hunters Hill, Leichhardt, Parramatta, Ryde and Strathfield. Membership also includes representatives from NSW Government departments and authorities and representatives from Indigenous and environmental community groups.

The aim of the PRCG is for members to work together to improve the health of the Parramatta River and its catchment.

To assist potential photographers, and to further reinforce the message behind the competition, a number of photography workshops were conducted in council areas to provide entrants with an opportunity to experience their local environment.

The competition, launched on April 3, culminated in an awards ceremony and

exhibition held on World Environment Day, June 5 attended by 95 guests.

Head judge was Carl Bento, Manager of Photography at the Australian Museum. Winners were: Open category, Clive Collins, for his photo of the Great Egret and Young People's category, Persephonie Jamons, for her photo of footprints in the sand on the Parramatta River. Winning the People's Choice Award was Soonlee Lim for his photo of a waterlily.

Some \$3000 in prizes were awarded, including \$350 for each category winner, plus cash and other prizes for runners-up and the People's Choice winner. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA was joined in sponsoring and supporting the competition by Harvey Norman Supercentre Auburn; NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service; Australian Geographic; Greater Union Cinemas Parramatta; Taronga Zoo and Sydney Aquarium.

Winning photos have been used in a special web gallery promoting the natural beauty of the Parramatta River catchment. Visit: www.parramattariver.org.au

A tour of the best 100 of the entries was scheduled to be exhibited at public libraries, Council Chambers and other locations throughout the Parramatta River catchment between June and November, 2009.



Boronia Park Benefits from Good Neighbours

Arthur Mashford is 95 and has been a life-long friend and neighbour to Boronia Park at Hunters Hill.

Above

Arthur Mashford and daughter Rae each have a lifelong connection to Boronia Park. They were interviewed in March for a media release targetting their local newspapers.

The Mashfords are an example of the 8,000 dedicated Bushcare volunteers that weed, water tubestock, monitor and nurture the corridors of natural bush in their neighbourhoods.

Since buying a block of land and building his family home in 1938, he has been a volunteer guardian of the 25 hectare (63 acre) expanse of bushland reserve at his front door.

Mr Mashford is a foundation member of the Friends of Boronia Park which started in 1989 with a core of six to 10 people.

Over the decades Mr Mashford has dedicated thousands of hours eradicating invasive weeds from the park, removing the competition so that native grasses, shrubs and trees can thrive.

His work has inspired daughter Rae Mashford who joined the Friends of Boronia Park in 1993. She has kept up the family tradition and since 1997 has spent periods of up to 20 hours a week weeding, watering and documenting the flora, fauna and human activity in Boronia Park.

The voluntary work of the Mashford's, and other members of Friends of Boronia Park, has resulted in the regeneration of an important grove of original Turpentine Ironbark vegetation.

The Mashfords and other members of the Friends of Boronia Park play a vital role in protecting and restoring bushland essential to the survival of our native birds, animals and vegetation.

On-going rehabilitation of Boronia Park is an important natural resource management project and targetted work can assist the survival of native plant and animal species.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA provided \$49,000 of Australian Government funding to and Hunters Hill Council contributed some \$41,000 of its funds to the project.

Boronia Park is a haven for birds, with more than 70 species recorded in the locality.

On-ground work will enhance biodiversity, improve water quality and increase fauna habitat. Work will include restoration of the saltmarsh, mangrove and riparian vegetation along the Lane Cove River, as well as an upgrade of stormwater mitigation works in Brickmakers Creek to reduce erosion, improve water quality and trap and remove litter.

Boronia Park is an example of how it is possible to retain and build connecting bushland corridors across Sydney.



Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Theme focuses on the conservation of native vegetation recognising that healthy vegetation communities provide the base habitat for other forms of life.

Above

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has made controlling Bitou Bush a major priority for project funding.

Bitou Bush Control (Stage 3)

This project was designed to assist in the strategic and coordinated management of Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp rotundata*) along the coastal zone in the Sydney Metropolitan region, and in the implementation of the Sydney Weeds Committees' *Sydney Bitou Bush / Boneseed Regional Management Plan (2004-09)*.

Bitou bush has been identified as a Weed of National Significance (WONS), a Key Threatening Process under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995*, and the number one priority weed in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region. It is causing significant environmental impacts on threatened plant species and endangered ecological communities in the region such as the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and Themeda Grassland headlands. It also has the potential to spread much more widely along the coastline than it currently occurs.

The project concentrated on managing and reducing the extent and spread of this weed on council land, private land and DECCW – NPWS managed land. This will greatly assist in protecting the catchment's environmental resources.

The grant funding was used to employ contractors to control and eradicate infestations of Bitou Bush using best practice management techniques and to conduct new and ongoing survey and mapping in some areas.

Works were completed in June 2009, with 114 hectares of Bitou Bush treated.

Funded by: Catchment Action New South Wales

Budget: \$50,000

Proponent: Sydney Metropolitan CMA, Randwick City Council and DECCW

Timeframe: 1 March 2009 – 30 June 2009

Status: Complete

Weed Strategy Implementation – Weed Mapping

This project follows on from the Priority Weed Mapping in the Sydney Metropolitan Region which was undertaken in 2007-2008 which mapped five priority aquatic weeds and two grasses.

The project involved surveying and mapping, in cooperation with the Sydney Weeds Committees and land management agencies, to produce up to date Sydney Metropolitan CMA-wide digital information of the distribution and density of *Tussock Paspalum*.

All relevant land management agencies in the Sydney Metropolitan region with known locations of *Tussock Paspalum* were consulted, including Australian, NSW and Local Governments.

Three workshops were held for Local Government and industry representatives on weed management. Two of the workshops focussed on GIS mapping of weed infestations, and the last workshop was a weedy grass identification workshop.

More than 550 native fauna species can be found in the Sydney region including 53 threatened fauna species.

Below left

Tussock paspalum at Dean Reserve, South Strathfield.

Below centre

Regeneration work at Clovelly.

Below right

Rabbit barrier fence at Burrows Park, Clovelly



Tussock paspalum was identified in 10 of the 39 LGAs within the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region, and an up to date spatial database of locations and core attributes of Tussock paspalum was produced.

*Funded by: Caring for our Country
Budget: \$50,000*

Proponent: Total Earth Care Pty Ltd. and Sydney Metropolitan CMA

Timeframe: 4 May 2009 – 26 June 2009

Status: Complete

Demonstration Sites for Threatened Species Populations and Communities in the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Area

This project was developed to provide guidance to community volunteers and land managers by demonstrating best practice management of threatened species and ecological communities. It showcased best practice management of 10 threatened species and ecological communities. This was achieved through the preparation of interpretive signs, brochures and best practice guidelines, as well as the running of field days, for each demonstration site. The guidelines outline innovative management practices for threatened species and communities by managers of each site and provide a technical guide for land managers and the community who manage the species and communities elsewhere. It is hoped this will facilitate better management of these species, populations and communities across their range.

On-ground works were also undertaken at three of the sites to improve the status of native vegetation and enhance biodiversity values.

Funded by: NHT

Budget: \$290,000 (an additional \$100,000 was provided from SSF to undertake on-ground work at three sites)

Proponent: Sydney Metropolitan CMA and DECCW

Timeframe: September 2006 – December 2008

Status: Complete

Conservation Incentives (Cumberland Plain)

This project aimed to encourage and facilitate the enhanced management of significant remnant endangered ecological communities of the Cumberland Plain on private land through a targeted incentive based program. Sites were targeted from areas identified in the *Cumberland Plain Protected Areas Plan*. Funded activities included:

- Assisted natural regeneration
- Fencing of remnants
- Weed control
- Selected plantings
- Rubbish removal and other actions in accordance with Best Practice Management Guidelines.

Funded by: NHT & SSF

Budget: \$260,000 (NHT \$60,000, SSF \$200,000)

Proponent: DECC, HNCMA and Local Government

Timeframe: June 2006 – November 2008

Status: Complete

Native Vegetation Mapping (Stage 2)

This project aims to produce a comprehensive vegetation community map of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region, which is consistent with other vegetation community mapping projects in the Sydney Bioregion. The map will provide a sound basis for improved planning and management of remnant vegetation. It will also provide a basis for the prioritisation of restoration of degraded areas. Stage 2 of the project began in 2006 and included plot work and ground truthing to map the region at a 1:5,000 scale. Aerial photograph interpretation was undertaken by the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG). Extensive vegetation surveys of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area have been undertaken by DECCW to ground truth the photograph interpretation. The high resolution vegetation map for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area is due for completion at the end of September 2009.

Funded by: NHT

Budget: \$141,500

Proponent: DECC

Timeframe: May 2007 – September 2009

Status: In progress



Capacity Building for Local Government in Biodiversity Management (Stage 2)

This project aims to improve the capacity of Local Government to manage threatened species, populations and endangered ecological communities. Stage 1 of this project began in 2006 and provided a scoping study developed by Local Government and Shires Association of NSW (LGSA). Stage 2 of this project funded a project officer (housed at DECCW) to assist Local Government to improve their capacity, which was done through facilitation of a number of cluster meetings aimed at identifying council requirements and improving council networks, a workshop focussed on local Government councils to protect biodiversity, creation of a Local Government tools and resources webpage on the DECCW website, and the formulation of an accredited training course for Local Government staff.

*Funded by: NHT
Budget: \$185,000*

*Proponent: DECCW, LGSA and DoP
Timeframe: June 2007 – October 2008
Status: Complete*

Aquatic and Terrestrial Pest Management

This project sought to raise awareness of rabbit management responsibility and Best Practice control methods among a diverse range of land managers. It provided incentive funding for a monitoring and management action regime and to encourage a coordinated effort aimed at identifying rabbit populations, implementing integrated control, and increasing community participation to reduce the detrimental impacts of rabbits within the Sydney Metropolitan region. Funds supported on-ground works to implement annual Rabbit Action Plans for 11 agencies, incorporating four National Parks and eight Local Government Areas work in-conjunction with two regional pest animal committees: Sydney South Feral Animal Management Committee; and the Urban Feral Animal Action Group – Sydney North. An area of 3,403 hectares was surveyed with 3,320 hectares subjected to rabbit management actions, with a significant decrease in rabbit numbers observed at the majority of treatment sites, thereby reducing the impact of competition and grazing by rabbits on species in the Sydney Metropolitan region.

*Funded by: NHT
Budget: \$100,000*

*Proponent: Local Government: Sutherland, Kuring-gai, Mosman, Pittwater, Willoughby, and Randwick councils; NSW Government: Rural Lands Protection Board; DECC NPWS (Lane Cove, Garigal, Towra Point, Royal); Zoological Parks Board (Taronga Zoo); Sydney Water Corporation (Botany Bay Wetlands); Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd, through University of Sydney Wildlife Research. Department of Environment and Climate Change (Royal NP and Towra Point NR), Sydney Water Corporation (Botany Bay Wetlands), Sydney Airport Corporation Limited through University of Sydney Institute of Wildlife Research.
Timeframe: March 2008 – October 2008
Status: Complete*

Green Web Sydney (Stage 3)

Green Web Sydney Program, managed by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA, began in 2006. It promoted the establishment of a green web of native vegetation to protect, conserve and enhance remnant bushland in the Sydney region. The Program aims to increase the extent, condition and/or connectivity of habitat corridors and ultimately link fragmented patches of bushland and facilitate the migration of wildlife and the natural dispersal of native plants. Stage 3 funded revegetation to establish riparian vegetation along a section of the Cooks River at Ewen Park, Hulstone Park; regeneration and revegetation to protect and connect patches of remnant coastal heath at Burrows Park, Clovelly; and intensive weed removal to protect and restore an endangered Blue Gum High Forest community at Pennant Hills.

Restoration of Riparian Zone at Ewen Park

*Funded by: Commonwealth Government - Caring for our Country
Budget: \$19,000.00
Proponent: Canterbury City Council
Timeframe: April 2009 – September 2009
Status: Complete*

Improving Connectivity of Native Vegetation at Burrows Park

*Funded by: Commonwealth Government - Caring for our Country
Budget: \$30,000
Proponent: Randwick City Council
Timeframe: January 2009 – August 2009
Status: Complete*

Restore Blue Gum High Forest Connectivity – Pennant Hills

*Funded by: Catchment Action NSW
Budget: \$40,000
Proponent: Mount St Benedict College
Timeframe: March 2009 – June 2009
Status: Complete*

Improving Biodiversity in Streetscapes – Cooks River Icon Project

This project improved ecological and environmental quality in the urban landscape through the use of local native plant species in street and park plantings with a focus on biodiversity outcomes. Strathfield Council and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) undertook research for local trials of different urban trees. Outcomes included the production of a list of recommended plants with supporting information. The tree selection decision support process was refined and test planting sites were identified. Local communities were encouraged to participate in tree planting and maintenance of sites.

While non-native and non-local native tree species can be used for street planting, the focus of this project was to identify and recommend planting of local native species to improve biodiversity. This project complemented a range of other programs run through the Cooks River Foreshore Working Group (CRFWG) and the NSW Government.

Relevant Publications: Strathfield Council – “Implementation Guidelines to Increasing Biodiversity in Streetscapes”; “Biodiversity in Streetscapes Nature Strip Planting Plan 2008”; and brochure “Increasing Biodiversity in Streetscapes Nature Strip Planting”.

*Funded by: Sydney Metropolitan CMA
Budget: \$66,565
Project delivered by: Strathfield Council
Project Partners: University of Technology; Cooks River Foreshores Working Group
Timeframe: February 2007 – February 2009
Status: Complete*

Sydney Metropolitan CMA Priority Action Statement Implementation Strategy

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA is developing an Implementation Strategy for the Priority Action Statement for threatened species, populations and ecological communities in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area. The Implementation Strategy will identify the highest priority threatened species, populations and ecological communities within its catchment area and list the relevant actions that the Sydney Metropolitan CMA can undertake. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA will use this document as well as several other documents and reports to improve coordination and to identify future investment and project development to assist in the recovery of threatened species.

Funded by: Caring for our Country

Funding: \$50,000

Proponent: Sydney Metropolitan CMA

Timeframe: January 2009 – June 2009

Status: In progress

Coastal NRM Plans

As part of this project Coastal CMAs provided support to Local Government with completed natural resource management plans to implement on-ground work and other programs that have been identified as contributing to improved coastal resource condition.

This is a cross-regional project that was implemented in all coastal CMA regions. To encourage investment in all coastal Local Government areas, priority NRM actions were considered from other current coastal zone strategic NRM plans, particularly in areas where coastline and Estuary Management Plans were not yet in place.

Project Outcomes.

- Priority actions within local government coastal NRM plans identified and implemented
- Coastal zone terrestrial and aquatic natural resources protected/enhanced/rehabilitated

- Biodiversity and coastal zone resilience enhanced
- Local Government capacity to be involved in regional NRM, and to implement on-ground works increased; and
- Partnerships between CMAs and local governments to achieve sound NRM improved

Funded by: Natural Heritage Trust funding through Northern Rivers CMA

Budget: \$257,000

Proponent: Local Councils: Pittwater, Randwick, Strathfield, Hunters Hill and Sutherland.

Timeframe: September 2008 – May 2009

Status: Complete

Tide to Table 4

In 2005 OceanWatch Australia initiated a program with the Sydney Metropolitan CMA called "From Tide to Table". This program focuses on the link between the commercial seafood industry and the restorative activities in the waterways and riparian zones of Sydney's catchments. The pilot year of the program was based within the physical boundaries of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

Both primary producers and commercial fishers rely on clean healthy waterways and viable fish habitat to sustain healthy fish populations and their livelihoods. Activities, which improve habitat and water quality, have a direct benefit to fish stocks.

A key aspect of this project prompted the message that natural resource management changes within the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area can have significant impact on downstream primary production.

Several promotional events targeted markets such as the spear fishing fraternity who are participated in activities designed to the condition of bushland and waterways.

Projects were undertaken with members of the oyster and dairy industries, NSW farmers peak industry groups the Department of Primary Industry and the NSW Food Authority. Events proved to be valuable achieving environmental gains and better outcomes for the industries. Having a

funding source to carry out medium term maintenance allowed for a better longer term output in revegetation terms.

Funded by: National Landcare Program (NLP) and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) through the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

Budget: \$110,000

Proponent: OceanWatch Australia

Timeframe: 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

Status: Complete

Above left

The beauty, energy and prosperity of the Sydney region are widely recognised and highly prized. Changes to the management of the region are closely scrutinised and commented upon.

(Sydney Metropolitan CAP, July 2009)

Below left

Rabbit barrier fence at Burrows Park, Clovelly

Below centre

NSW DECC NPWS Group Senior Ranger, Helen Jessup points out a healthy Gynea Lily, the dominant plant in the Endangered Ecological Community at O'Hares Creek Shale Forest vegetation community in Dharawal State Conservation Area.

Below right

Fairfield City Council installed a viewing platform with interpretative signage at Cabramatta Creek Flying-fox Reserve to increase community awareness of the Grey-headed Flying fox, Australia's largest bat. These mammals are important to our native forests as they disperse seed and pollinate trees.





Water

The Water Theme aims to protect water sources from contamination, over extraction and interruption of natural processes. It aims to maintain or improve aquatic riparian, wetland and groundwater ecosystem health to protect biodiversity and support sustainable use of these resources.

Above

Conservation Manager, Scott Nichols, NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries), Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation Unit; Andrew Duffy, Ranger, DECC NPWS; Jo Ann Moore Sydney Metropolitan CMA, Waterway Health Strategy Project Officer and Peter Draper, Ranger, DECC NPWS.

Opposite left

Inspecting an example of an environmentally friendly seawall during a field trip hosted by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA and DECC in July.

Opposite centre

A local fishing for bass on the Lane Cove River. Improved water quality and the installation of fish passages benefits the whole ecosystem.

Opposite right

A marine pest. The European/Green Shore Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) a female with eggs.

Lane Cove Fishway Aids Bass Breeding

Increased numbers of native fish such as Australian Bass can be expected following the opening of a new fishway in Lane Cove National Park that provides improved access to breeding grounds.

This project will protect the long-term survival of native fish species such as Australian bass, allowing them to move upstream and downstream to feed and breed in a river system that runs through the heart of Sydney.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA allocated \$150,000 of Australian Government and NSW funds towards the design and installation of this high priority fishway. Key project partners included the NSW Department of Primary Industries through the "Bringing Back the Fish Project", DECC and the Australian Bass Fishing Club, all working together for the benefit of our waterways.

Fishways provide essential passage around or through weirs and culverts. The type of fishway installed at this site is a "partial width rock-ramp fishway" which is a series of small man-made pools and ridges constructed to the side of the weir. These replicate natural river rapids that allow fish to move around the weir during high tide.

Project delivered by: Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Project Partners: Industry and Investment NSW, Australian Bass Fishing Club
Funding: Australian Government

Total funding amount \$132,300 Australian Government funding, \$22,750 NSW matching, volunteer \$5,830, TOTAL= \$160,891

Timeframe: 3 September 2007 – 30 April 2009

Status: Complete

Audley Weir Pool and Upper Hacking River Catchment Sediment Study

Sediment accumulation upstream of Audley Weir has significantly reduced the depth of the water column and provided a favourable habitat for the growth of aquatic weeds (eg *Egeria densa*, Ribbon Weed, Parrot's Feather, and Cumbungi). Upstream landuse activities have caused erosion and released nutrients which have fostered weed growth.

The proliferation of aquatic weeds and continued reduction in water depth has impacted on the recreational amenity and heritage values of Audley Pool, particularly recreational boating. It has also had a negative impact on habitat values of the upper Hacking River.

This study investigated the recreational and environmental impacts of sedimentation of the Hacking River, detailed a site investigation and recommended management options for accumulated sediment in the Audley Weir pool. The study also assessed likely pollution sources in the upper catchment and recommended management works and strategies to make improvements dealing with the problem.



Project delivered by: DECC NPWS
Project Partners: WMA Water (consultants)
Funding Source: NHT
Total funding amount \$85,000.
Timeframe: December 2007 – November 2008
Status: Complete

Environmentally Friendly Seawalls

As climate change will lead to rising sea-levels, it is increasingly important that seawalls in urban estuaries can meet the challenge of protecting low-lying infrastructure while maintaining biodiversity and healthy tidal waterways. This is particularly important in Sydney, where seawalls are a dominant feature of the foreshore. Inappropriately built seawalls can mean a dramatic loss of natural habitat, however, there are designs that can mitigate this loss and allow for the enhancement of biodiversity.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA in partnership with DECC's Coast and Estuaries section have developed guidelines to improve the design and construction of seawalls. The guidelines aim to help councils, other government agencies and private contractors design, build and repair environmentally friendly seawalls. The objectives are to increase opportunities to retain or increase habitat; to soften wave action and to improve water quality. The principles of the new guidelines are:

Principle 1 – maximise the use of native foreshore and estuarine vegetation,

Principle 2 – maximise habitat diversity and complexity, and

Principle 3 – create low-sloping seawalls or include changes in slope.

Two free field trips (16 and 18 June) were conducted for council and agency officers and consultants to showcase environmentally friendly seawalls. Interpretive signage will be installed at four demonstration sites. A brochure was also developed for distribution to foreshore owners to alert them to alternative seawall designs.

Project delivered by: DECC Coast and Estuaries section
Funding: Catchment Action NSW
Total: \$60,000
Timeframe: March 2009 – November 2009
Status: In Progress

Duck River Icon Project

This project rehabilitated a section of the Duck River to showcase improvements to biodiversity and habitat through the rehabilitation of both riverbanks and an island in the river. These works were adjacent to Webb Avenue Playing Fields, Auburn and Mackay Road, South Granville.

The works built on earlier restoration and rehabilitation works already undertaken by Parramatta City Council and Auburn Council linking existing remnant vegetation, including the Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest Endangered Ecological Community. This project continued to cultivate a green corridor along the river by establishing a self-maintaining, healthy and representative riparian corridor.

The project also interpreted the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The area has significant cultural heritage values for both Aboriginal and early European settlement.

The project enabled capacity building for all participants and for both councils to upskill and work at similar levels. Members of the Aboriginal community undertook the planting of bush food, allowing new skills to be fostered and liaisons with both councils to be strengthened. Local ethnic communities also had the opportunity to work together with their local councils, resulting in greater ownership of the local area and understanding of each other.

Download Publications: www.parracity.nsw.gov.au

Project Partners: Parramatta and Auburn Councils

Funding: Sydney Metropolitan CMA Icon funds

Timeframe: May 2006 – August 2008

Status: Complete

High Conservation Value Areas: O'Hares Creek Upland Swamp Rehabilitation

O'Hares Creek Upland Swamps are a magnificent sedgeland and wetlands area that form part of the largest north-south green corridor in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area, and beyond. This corridor stretches from the Drinking Water catchments of Cataract and Cordeaux to the south, through the Dharawal State Conservation Area, heading north onto Heathcote and Royal National Parks, the Military Reserve up to the Georges River at Voyager Point.

More than 500 plant species occur in the reserve and O'Hares Creek catchment is home to 17 species listed as vulnerable, rare or threatened as well as several threatened animals: the Broad-headed Snake, Long-nosed Potoroos and the Green and Golden Bell Frog.

Three studies undertaken by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA (Waterways Health Strategy, Wetlands Prioritisation and the Rapid Fauna Habitat Assessment) have identified O'Hares Creek catchment as an area of very high biodiversity and habitat value. It is also listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia.

Additionally, under the full catchment prioritisation of waterways, the O'Hares Creek wetlands were identified as a very rare geomorphic type (Channelised fill) which is highly fragile, that is, it is highly susceptible to erosive forces and sediment movement – and therefore the wetlands were identified for highest priority action for works to ensure their stability.

The rehabilitation works targeted the closure and stabilisation of six illegal trails formed by motorised trail bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles. Heavy duty gauge wire and iron girders were used as impenetrable fencing at the boundary of the State Conservation Nature Reserve to prevent illegal access. Soft engineering works were installed at the site of the most impacted sections of the swamps, using coir logs pegged into the eroding area to stabilise them. Other areas

had vegetation matter and rock work placed across/on the trails to prevent access and to assist with stabilising the soil surface.

Some 32 hectares of wetland have been reconnected as a result of closure of these illegal trails.

Project delivered by: DECC NPWS

Funding: Caring for our Country

Funding: \$101,000 Australian Government funding, \$44,100 NSW In-kind/matching TOTAL= \$145,100

Timeframe: 1 February – 30 June 2009

Status: Complete

Improving Estuaries and Coastal Lakes

This project was funded through the Australian Government Caring for Our Country program. The aim was to support Local Government to implement priority natural resource management actions from existing Estuary Management Plans (EMP), in order to improve estuary and coastal resource condition through on-ground works in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region.

An amount of \$183,364 was allocated for on-ground projects in riparian areas adjacent to, or flowing directly into estuaries. Local Councils provided additional cash and in-kind contributions of \$136,354. Three key sites within the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area were identified for works.

These included:

- Prince Edward Park Saltmarsh Conservation project (City of Canada Bay)
- Oatley Bay Bank Stabilisation project (Kogarah Council)
- Deep Creek Restoration Project (Warringah Council).

Project sites were identified from actions within Estuary Management Plans, an expression of interest process open to Councils in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region, and site inspections by Sydney Metropolitan CMA officers.

More than 2,500 plants have been planted, 1,410 square metres of land treated for soil erosion, and 1,600 square metres of weed control measures implemented. Prince Edward Park Saltmarsh Conservation and the Oatley Bay Bank Stabilisation projects were completed in June 2009. Warringah Council's Deep Creek Restoration Project is due for completion in February 2010.

Funding Source: Caring for Our Country

Total funding amount: \$105,400

Timeframe: July 2008 – February 2010

Status: In progress

Mapping Estuarine Vegetation Outside Sydney Harbour

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA allocated Australian Government and NSW funds to this project.

Seagrasses, saltmarsh and mangrove are key estuarine habitats, providing a food source and refuge for many species including fish, invertebrates and migratory birds. They also enhance bed and bank stability for waterways and improve water quality through the filtering of sediments and nutrients. The protection, monitoring and where possible enhancement of these habitats is an important issue for natural resource management. Therefore the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in partnership with Industry and Investment NSW have undertaken a comprehensive mapping program to determine where these habitats occur now and where they have occurred in the past.

This project builds on the estuarine vegetation mapping conducted for Sydney Harbour and tributaries and the estuarine vegetation mapping for Port Hacking undertaken as part of a coastal-wide Marine Habitat Mapping project.

A comprehensive database and maps of the current and historic distribution of estuarine vegetation within the Georges and Cooks Rivers, Botany Bay, Sydney Harbour and the four coastal lagoons within the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area (Narrabeen Lagoon, Dee Why Lagoon, Harbord Lagoon and Manly Lagoon) have been produced from aerial photography, with ground-truthing where appropriate. This provides the Sydney Metropolitan CMA with baseline information on the current distribution but also trend information from historic distribution to determine if and where the area of these habitats is declining.

The GIS layers are available free to local councils and other government departments to assist land and water managers to protect and enhance these important habitats. The information will also be used to compare with other available data to try and determine possible impacts on estuarine vegetation.

Project delivered by: DECC

Funding: Australian Government

Total: \$80,000

Timeframe: March 2008 – May 2009

Status: Complete

Marine Habitat Mapping

The NSW Marine Habitat Mapping Project was a regional project between the Coastal CMAs in collaboration with DECCW and the Department of Primary Industries.

Jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments, the best available bathymetric and seabed habitat data has been compiled to create the first marine habitat maps for all NSW State coastal waters. As part of the project DECCW undertook the marine mapping and Department of Primary Industries the estuarine mapping, with a number of external consultants conducting more detailed biodiversity assessments for key faunal and floral groups. A review of underwater volunteer groups in NSW was also undertaken to examine their capacity to collaborate with scientists on future projects.

The aim of the project was to collate all existing NSW information on the spatial distribution of key oceanic and estuarine benthic habitats in NSW, and to conduct targeted mapping and habitat surveys to increase knowledge of the extent, distribution and structure of marine habitats. Habitat mapping was undertaken using acoustic side scan sonar methods, satellite imagery and aerial photography, and habitat surveys were undertaken using digital video and still camera imagery.

Marine and estuarine habitat maps are required by NSW CMAs for sustainable natural resource management by focusing investments on activities such as seagrass friendly moorings, coastal catchment initiatives and habitat protection through community education. Baseline habitat information is also essential for monitoring, evaluation and reporting which measures performance towards natural resource management targets. The mapping work is being coordinated with other current initiatives including the NSW Government's Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) program.

The final estuarine and offshore maps are produced in a standard GIS format and these will be made available through Google Earth and other websites.

Project delivered by: Department of Environment and Climate Change and Department of Primary Industry

Project Partners: Coastal CMAs

Funding Source: Australian Government

Status: Complete

Marine Pests Education Strategy

Stage 2 - Boating and Recreational Fishing Strategy to Reduce the Spread of Marine Pests

This project was funded by the Australian and NSW Governments, including a Forging Partnerships grant from NSW's Natural Resources Advisory Council. It involved the implementation of a boating and recreational fishing strategy in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA region based on results from the Marine Pest Risk Assessment (2008) and the Recreational Boat Owner Survey (2008), to help reduce the risk of spreading marine pests.

The project was carried out in partnership with NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Maritime, Boating Industry Association of NSW, Boat Owners Association of NSW and Coastcare. It aimed to improve knowledge of the risks and prevention of spreading marine pests, encourage best practice and build capacity of the boating and recreational fishing communities in Sydney, through the development and dissemination of educational material and training.

This included:

- Six workshops for more than 75 participants including Fishcare Volunteers, Towra Green Team Indigenous volunteers, Council Officers, Maritime Boating Safety Officers, and EcoDivers
- Twelve presentations were conducted for more than 250 people from boating, sailing and fishing clubs
- Educational materials:
 - Best practice guideline booklets (30,000 copies produced)
 - Ten translated flyers (Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic initially; then Macedonian, Greek, Italian, Croatian, Spanish and Serbian)
 - Bumper stickers
 - Posters
- Booklets, brochures and bumper stickers were distributed in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area to boating, sailing, fishing and diving clubs, Fishing Licence

agents (bait and tackle stores), marinas, NSW DPI and NSW Maritime offices, local councils and other community groups and also handed out at the Rosehill Boat Show and the Sydney International Boat Show.

Project delivered by: Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

Project Partners: Industry and Investment NSW, NSW Maritime, Boating Industry Association of NSW, Boat Owners Association of NSW and Coastcare

Funding Source: Australian and NSW Governments, Natural Resources Advisory Council

Total: \$95,000.

Timeframe: June 2008 – August 2009

Status: Complete

Wetland Management Program - Stage 3 - Prioritisation and Plans of Management

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA Wetlands Program identifies significant wetlands in the Sydney region through a prioritisation technique developed in collaboration with Wetland Care Australia. This prioritisation technique provides a decision support tool for wetland rehabilitation investment across Sydney based on values, such as presence of threatened species or Endangered Ecological Communities, while accounting for threats, such as the level of weed invasion and poor water quality. The process will continue as more information becomes available on Sydney's wetlands.

The primary activity of Stage 3 was the development or updating of Wetland Plans of Management (PoM) for wetlands in the Sydney region. A Wetland PoM is a document that identifies issues affecting a wetland and outlines how that wetland and surrounding area is intended to be used, improved, maintained and managed in the future. By providing incentive funding to land managers to update or develop PoMs, the level of knowledge of wetlands in the Sydney region, the capacity of landowners to prioritise their own funds into priority actions, and the ability to seek future grant funding will improve.

Plans of management were funded for the following wetlands:

- Park Central (Marsden Park) – Campbelltown Council
- Cabramatta Creek Wetland – Fairfield City Council
- Baludarri Wetland (Pemberton Street) – Parramatta City Council
- Cox's Creek Reserve Constructed Wetland (Greenacre) – Strathfield Municipal Council
- Marton Park Wetland (Kurnell) – Sutherland Shire Council

This program also contributed to wetland rehabilitation works at Towra Point, Kurnell. It also includes continued investigation into the status of wetlands in Sydney, and improvements to the Geographic Information System data available by reviewing and updating current data to provide a more accurate layer of the location and classification of wetlands in Sydney.

Funding: Australian and NSW Governments

Total funding amount: \$230,000

Timeframe: June 2008 – December 2009

Status: In progress

Bottom left

Kelp forest

Bottom centre

Marine Pests workshop

Bottom right

Sponge Garden at South Head, Sydney Harbour





Community

The Community Theme undertakes to support and encourage organisations and communities to increase their capacity to contribute to improved natural resource management practices. Community Support Officers work with Local Government, corporate and community groups, Bushcare and Landcare groups, Indigenous groups and all stakeholders within the catchment engaged in activities designed to deliver improvements in natural resources across Sydney.

Above

The Sydney Royal Easter Show Bushcare Stall provides an opportunity for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA to promote its activities and engage with the community.

Sydney Royal Easter Show Bushcare Stall

For the past six years the Sydney Metropolitan CMA has partnered with Willoughby Council and the VCN to exhibit at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA considers this an opportunity to engage with people who may be unfamiliar with the role it holds in natural resource management. With more than three million people in Sydney, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA focusses its limited resources to partner with agencies and groups who are already engaged in natural resource management activities.

In 2009 more than 750 people were provided with advice and information about a range of NRM issues. (See figure p.46).

Ethnic Communities Support

A component of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's investment in community activities in 2008-2009 included ongoing support for engagement of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in natural resource management. An external audit of 20 Local Councils was conducted with recommendations regarding their CALD engagement programs. The audit identified that seven councils were implementing policies to engage CALD communities in natural resource management. The on-ground engagement element of this project was focussed on the Duck River sub-catchment in the Auburn and Parramatta council areas. In partnership with the Auburn

Community Development Network and council staff, several capacity building and educational events were held to develop community awareness of the value of the local environment.

Some of the outcomes of this project will be carried through in 2009-2010 with the Bilingual River Guides project for which the Sydney Metropolitan CMA received \$32,535 from the NSW Environmental Trust in May 2009.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA initiated a CALD-related project in May 2009 funded by the Australian Government's Community Coastcare Program entitled *Community Support for Biodiversity Restoration in the Georges River Catchment*. This project will work with Liverpool, Bankstown and Hurstville Councils to build community capacity, with a focus on CALD communities and provide incentive funding for on-ground projects. The project will be completed in October 2010.

Funding for the Ethnic Communities Project was \$25,000 from the Australian Government Caring for our Country program and an external contractor was engaged to undertake the project.

Mapping Volunteer Engagement

In 2008-2009 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA continued the previous year's successful pilot spatial mapping of Bushcare sites managed by councils and other community on-ground projects. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA



collected and collated data from councils and community groups regarding the location and contact details for volunteer work sites. The data was transferred into Google maps. These can be downloaded from the website: www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au. All on-ground projects in the Parramatta River sub-catchment were mapped. More than 650 sites have now been mapped to people interested in volunteering in Bushcare activities.

Community Support for Professional Networks

As part of their role in increasing community capacity to engage in NRM, Sydney Metropolitan CMA community staff participate in a range of professional networks. The most important of these is the Volunteer Coordinators Network (VCN) which is the forum for agency, council and non-government organisation staff who manage volunteers in on-ground projects. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA coordinated four regional VCN meetings this year and managed all related administrative tasks. Projects such as Bushcare mapping, the Sydney Royal Easter Bushcare stall and Bushcare accredited training are coordinated through the VCN.

In 2008-2009 VCN meetings were hosted by Woollahra, Penrith and Pittwater Councils and by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA at Parramatta. A total of 35 agencies - mostly councils participated. These organisations represent some 8000 volunteers.

The VCN is a significant NRM network in Sydney that undertakes some of the functions of a Landcare Network, having extensive links to community volunteers.

In June 2009 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Regional Facilitator was invited to present at an Environmental Volunteering Forum jointly hosted by the Department of Premier's and Cabinet (DPC) and DECCW. The presentation outlined Bushcare volunteering in Sydney and the role of the VCN. Several new enquiries to join the VCN followed this presentation.

Sydney Metropolitan CMA staff participated in two environmental education networks - the Sydney Environmental Education Network and the Western Sydney Environmental Educators Network to help promote the educational targets of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's Catchment Action Plan.

A group of council and agency staff also held meetings during 2008-2009 as a Sydney Biodiversity Network to discuss Ibis and Flying Fox management issues. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA maintains contact details for this network.

Funding for a Community Support Officer to assist the VCN and other related tasks was from Catchment Action NSW.

Each year Sydney hosts more than 2.7 million visitors from overseas and 7.5 million overnight visitors from elsewhere in Australia. This is the equivalent of more than one-third of Australia's population of 21 million spending one night in Sydney each year.

(Sydney Metropolitan CAP, July 2009)

Above

Members of the Pretoria Avenue Bushcare group at Mosman: Angela and Robert Hart and Cherie Romaro. Photo Jamie Slaven.

Sydney Bushcare – a top 25 Ecological Restoration project

In early 2009 the editor of *Ecological Management and Restoration* academic journal requested the Sydney Metropolitan CMA, as the regional lead organisation, to nominate Sydney’s Bushcare Program as one of Australasia’s top 25 ecological restoration projects to be highlighted on the Global Restoration Network website. Sydney Bushcare was successful in being judged a “top 25” project and the Sydney Metropolitan CMA web page was linked to the website of the SERI Conference.

Communications

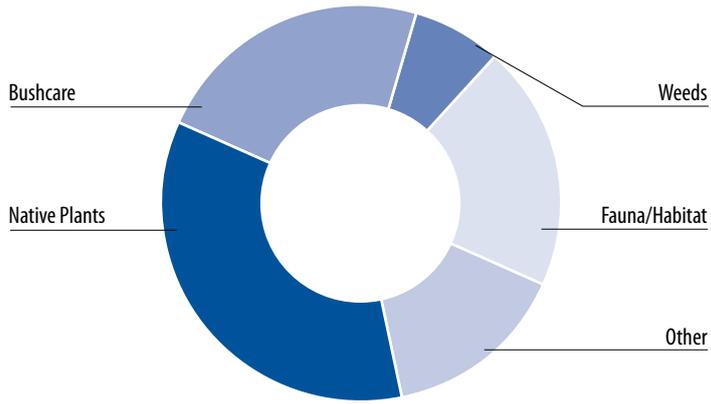
The Sydney Metropolitan CMA continued to use a range of means to communicate with the community. Membership of the E-news group Sydney Nature Carers (SNaC) grew and 13 bulletins were published with information about NRM events, grants and opportunities for participation. Four editions of the Mambara newsletter were published with a focus on catchment-wide NRM activities.

A Community Support Officer also provided advice and information in response to volunteer enquiries, including corporate enquiries, schools requiring assistance with Junior Landcare grants and groups eligible for Landcare funding.

Whale Watching at Cape Solander

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA extends three nautical miles off the NSW coast. Funding of \$5000 was provided to assist 12 volunteers to record whale sightings during May and July for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The volunteers contributed 1480 hours and from their base at Cape Solander in Kamay Botany Bay National Park they recorded:

- 1905 Humpback whales
- 3 Southern Right whales
- 3 Minke whales
- 470 dolphins and
- 6 fur seals



Topics of Conversation and Brochures Distributed at the Bushcare Stall at Sydney Royal Easter Show 2009

Restoring Biodiversity Industry Forum

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA provided \$5000 in sponsorship for the Restoring Biodiversity Industry Association Inc (RBIA) in March 2009 and staff participated in the Steering Committee to deliver the first of a series of events for the restoration industry. This partnership is an important one for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA as RBIA represents a broad spectrum of those involved in implementing restoration projects across the catchment area including Council bushland managers, Council bush regeneration supervisors, natural area restoration educators and independent contractors who deliver on-ground works.

Key goals of this industry group are to establish better project management outcomes, consistent monitoring practices and overall improvement in the health of the industry and its on-ground delivery. The first RBIA event, “Contract management: How can we work smarter?” was held in March at Ryde TAFE and attracted more than 70 attendees. Outcomes from this event will inform the content of events planned for 2009-2010.

Sydney Coastal Councils Climate Change Forum Series

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA contributed \$6000 to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to hold two Climate Change forums. Planning and funding for the events was undertaken prior to June 30, and the events were held in August 2009. The events were aimed at addressing climate change issues. One event was aimed at a community audience to present the most up to date climate science and climate scenario information and the second event was aimed at Councillors to present specific Local Government climate adaptation and mitigation case studies.



Far left

A display from a humpback whale thrills volunteer watchers at Cape Solander in Botany Bay National Park.

Left

Sydney Metropolitan CMA community support officer Rosanna Luca, with Chris Williams and Local Government and Shires Association project officer, Geoff Hudson at Ryde TAFE in March.



Community

Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Natural Resource Management

In 2008 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Board established an Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) to advise and assist on engaging with Aboriginal communities within the region.

The first meeting of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA AAC was held in August 2008, with meetings in November, March and June.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA acknowledges the culturally inherent rights of Aboriginal traditional owners-custodians, native title holders, Aboriginal knowledge holders, Aboriginal elders and Aboriginal community members.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA also accepts the significance of Aboriginal boundaries, both traditional and contemporary in catchment management planning, decision-making programs and service delivery.

Through the AAC, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA engages with Aboriginal communities by ensuring Aboriginal people are partners in decision-making on issues relating to managing the Sydney Metropolitan catchment.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA also acknowledges that there are traditional and contemporary Aboriginal cultural heritage values that link to all natural resource management.

Parramatta Park Aboriginal Landscape Trail

An Aboriginal landscape trail is being constructed in Parramatta Park. On-ground work includes weed control and strategic planting of locally extinct or under-represented plant species. This is improving species diversity and is expanding the habitat available to fauna. It also demonstrates sources of raw materials for traditional food collection and processing. Partners are Parramatta Park Trust, Sydney Metropolitan CMA and the Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group.

La Perouse Field Trip

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA funded a field trip for the La Perouse Land Council members

to inspect their land at Kurnell Peninsula. For some members it was the first time they had visited this particular block of land.

Cultural Experience Workshop

A Cultural Experience Workshop was hosted by the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation in May. The day allowed school leavers to have a hands-on experience with Aboriginal Art. Some 32 students from Matraville Sports High School attended as part of their Aboriginal Studies. Also attending was NSW NPWS Officer, Dean Kelly and the Towra Team. In the first session the group made wattleseed scones and bush jams. The second session involved shell work with local elders and recognised shellwork artisans, Marilyn Russell and Esme Timbery. Wood burning was the feature of the afternoon session following a seafood BBQ lunch. The day concluded with a walk on the Bush Tucker Track. The workshop was funded by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

Aboriginal Woman's Mentor Program

The Empowering Aboriginal Woman for Strong Communities and Healthy Country Program established a women's network to offer training, mentoring, a State conference and support for other programs located across Australia.

Twelve NSW delegates completed the mentoring component of the program and were presented with a "Statement of Attainment in Mentoring" at the State Conference held in Nelson Bay in May, attended by 150 delegates from across NSW.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA delegates, AAC member, Kaye Mundine, and Sydney Metropolitan CMA Indigenous Catchment Officer, Tabatha Timbery-Cann were presented with certificates in "Empowering Aboriginal Woman Strong Communities and Healthy Country – Making it Our Business in NSW". A presentation by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA included the DVD "Talkin up Urban Landcare" and distribution of "Bushcare with Care" booklets.

Left

Woodburning completed by students from Matraville Sports High School

Centre

Shellwork completed by students from Matraville Sports High School.

Right

Students take part in a woodburning workshop as part of the Kurnell 2020 Guriwal Aboriginal Cultural Day in February.



Land

Many terrestrial and soil-based aspects of land capability including slope, erodibility, acidity and productive capacity were mapped more than a decade ago. The classification of bushfire hazard has been documented for many years. How climate change may increase geomorphic, soil and fire hazards is not yet clear.

Above

The Restoring Biodiversity Industry Forum held at Ryde TAFE in March was hosted by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. The forum provided an important networking and discussion opportunity for people working in the restoration industry, such as contractors, consultants and Bushcare workers.

The link between soil constraints and urban development has not been communicated and enforced to adequately minimise offsite impacts of development on vulnerable sites.

The roles of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in improving the correlation between land capability and land management decisions include:

- Facilitating the transfer of improved technical knowledge among planners who make decisions about land use
- Coordinating planning responses so that there is a consistent position on key land capability issues across the region
- Supporting research that demonstrates the economic impacts of poor land capability decisions
- Contributing to projects that enhance community capacity to recognise and adapt to land capability issues
- Coordinating regional scale responses and consistency of approach on management issues.

The Sydney Metropolitan CMA has identified Management Targets that primarily address improved management of land capability. The cost of ground remediation makes it impractical for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA to allocate its limited funds for these works. Accordingly, the focus is on improved strategic coordination and vigilance in the planning system.

Local Government Engagement and Capacity Building in Regional NRM

This project aimed to build the capacity of Local Government across NSW to plan for and deliver natural resource management outcomes aligned with their local priorities. A priority was achieving consistency with NSW CMA CAPs. The program initially focussed on two levels of engagement of Local Government:

Capacity Building Local Government in NRM Across Inland NSW

Funded jointly by National Action Plan for Salinity and NHT grants, this project focussed on improving the capability of Local Government Councillors and staff to integrate NRM principles and priorities into strategic and operational plans and activities. Information and awareness programs have been provided for councils across NSW. A two-volume manual has been developed prior to June 30 2009 and workshops were scheduled for delivery in August.

Funded by: Strategic Reserve NAP & NHT

Funding: \$250,000

Proponent: Local Government and Shires Association of NSW and Southern Rivers CMA

Timeframe: December 2007 – December 2009

Status: In Progress

Integration of NRM into Local Government Landuse Planning

Conducted in partnership with the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW and the Southern Rivers CMA, this pilot project involved Councils in the Southern Rivers CMA region. The Councils investigated opportunities for intergrating NSW CMA CAP Management Targets into their strategic and operational plans, with specific focus on their Local Environment Plans (LEPs).

Funded by: NAP & NHT

Funding: \$400,000

Proponent: Local Government and Shires Association of NSW and Southern Rivers CMA

Timeframe: December 2007 – June 2009

Status: Complete

Erosion and Sediment Control in Bushland Areas

Delivered by the Department of Lands – Soil Conservation Service, this project prioritised locations for biodiversity conservation through the identification and management of actively eroding tracks affecting nearby bushland areas. On-ground work at identified high priority sites promoted and demonstrated best practice management and rehabilitation.

Opportunities were created at each demonstration site for educational and awareness-raising activities such as community workshops, best practice promotional fact sheets/brochures and signage for the sites were also produced.

Priority areas included:

- Tracks and trails in bushfire prone land and areas commonly used by recreational 4WD groups
- Actively eroding tracks upslope of remnant bushland or endangered ecological communities and near watercourses and riparian zones
- Catchments upstream of priority receiving waters
- Unused tracks that have been made redundant or identified to be retired that are in priority bushland areas.

The project partners, Wollondilly Council, Warringah Council and BHP-Billiton completed the rehabilitation of three sites: Wheeler Creek near Cromer, Manly Dam mountain bike track and Appin East Crown Reserve.

Proponent: Department of Lands – Soil Conservation Service

Project Partners: Wollondilly Council, Warringah Council, BHP-Billiton

Funded by: NHT

In engaging with its stakeholders the Sydney Metropolitan CMA subscribes to the view that the strategic importance of improved communication, engagement and collaboration is at least equal to the value of on-ground works.

(Sydney Metropolitan CAP, July 2009)

Funding: \$325,000

Timeframe: May 2007 – June 2009

Status: Complete

Redfern Creek Riparian Zone Rehabilitation and Community Education Project

Delivered by Cambelltown City Council this project involved the rehabilitation of Redfern Creek riparian zone at Clifford Walk and Treelands Walk, Ingleburn. The project had four major components:

- Treatment of Alligator Weed and *Ludwigia infestations*
- An extensive rubbish removal program via Periodic Detention Centre teams, supervised by the Georges Riverkeeper
- Extensive bush regeneration and revegetation works to restore and enhance the existing Shale/sandstone Transition Forest
- Fencing to enhance the success of revegetation and
- Formation of a Redfern Creek Stream Care Group participating in on-ground activities fostering a sense of community ownership.

This project complemented the new pedestrian bridge and walkway adjacent to the creek and the existing weed control program. The control of Alligator Weed and *Ludwigia* and replanting local native vegetation has established a more resilient riparian corridor.

Project Partners: Georges Riverkeeper

Funded by: Sydney Metropolitan CMA

Total funding amount: \$85,919

Timeframe: October 2006 – October 2008

Status: Complete

Salinity Mapping for Sydney Metropolitan Area: Phase 2

This project is focussed on updating maps identifying areas affected by potential urban salinity across western Sydney. A system to identify urban salinity was developed and applied to the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area.

The next stage involved the development of frameworks for groundwater flow systems, and the sharing of an understanding of how salinity develops in western Sydney.

New saline outbreaks in the Sydney Metropolitan CMA area were identified using the developed methodology for an urbanised environment and the concept models of groundwater flow systems for western Sydney. Two training workshops were hosted for agency and council staff regarding building in a saline environment.

Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting

Over the last two years as part of the NSW NRM Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy, agency staff working in Theme teams developed draft State of the Catchments Reports for each region across NSW.

Each Theme reflected one of the 13 State NRM targets and teams were composed of staff from relevant agencies. Although CMA staff were not part of the teams there were opportunities for them to have input into the reports. The intention was to provide access to resource condition data and periodic formal reports to inform the policy, investment and best practice management decisions made by Government, agencies, CMAs, Local Governments, Landcare groups, landholders and other natural resource managers across NSW.

Specifically, State of the Catchment Reports aim to:

- Provide a preliminary assessment of the condition of natural resources in each catchment
- Inform investment decisions within and between CMA regions
- Inform other natural resource managers' investment decisions in each region
- Assess progress towards catchment targets.

Additionally, the system is to make progress towards open-access integrated databases across all resource Theme areas to assist decision-makers make best use of available information as it emerges.

With 13 Themes and 13 CMAs this was a huge project which was limited by the available time and resources. However, it has for the first time in NSW, brought together a wide range of data held in different agencies to develop a State-Pressure-Response model for each region for each State target Theme. This information will also be used to inform the state-wide State of the Environment Report which is produced every three years in NSW. That report is due to be published at the end of 2009 and it is anticipated that the individual State of the Catchments Reports will be finalised after that.

From November 2009 the Sydney Metropolitan CMA will employ a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer Part of this role will be to develop and implement a formal monitoring, evaluation and reporting strategy. Such a strategy is critical to assess progress and inform management decisions for the Sydney Metropolitan CMA. However, sufficient funds have been found to employ a temporary officer and recruitment has commenced. It is anticipated that an appointment will be made in October 2009.



Looking Ahead

Now that the CAP has been approved as the integrated NRM plan for the region it needs to be promoted to Local Government and agency partners as well as to community groups and other land managers, so that they can become more engaged in delivering the CAP.

As well as the CAP itself it will also be important to publicise the mapping, best practice guidelines and other baseline information developed by the Sydney Metropolitan CMA in recent years so that land managers have the best available data on which to make their decisions. In particular, where councils and agencies are developing integrated planning documents, these may be aligned with the CAP so that a consistent regional approach can be achieved.

The NRC audit in the coming months will provide an independent assessment of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's progress towards delivering the CAP. The recommendations from the audit will help the Sydney Metropolitan CMA continue to improve its capabilities. Now that baseline data is available, the Sydney Metropolitan CMA will be continuing to develop its Program Logic to identify the short and medium term actions required to deliver the CAP in conjunction with its partners. The appointment of an Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting officer in the coming year will enable the Sydney Metropolitan CMA to develop a Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy to clearly enunciate strategic priorities and show how progress is being monitored and evaluated. The Plan will need to address the reporting requirements of both Federal and State Governments.

Australian and NSW Governments are working to resolve arrangements for water management and regulation. NSW also has state-wide targets for water that will be met by water sharing plans, purchasing water and other activities. While these issues are of most concern in rural areas the Greater Metropolitan Water Sharing Plan will be released in the coming months and the Sydney Metropolitan CMA will be working with the Office of Water and both Southern Rivers and Hawkesbury Nepean CMAs to help ensure that the relevant industry and community sectors have an opportunity to understand the Water Sharing Plan. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA will also continue to focus on the impacts of stormwater in the urban context.

Three critical Acts relating to NRM are being reviewed in the 2009 calendar year. The Sydney Metropolitan CMA will contribute submissions towards the reviews of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*, the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003* and the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

In urban Sydney, development continues to be a defining characteristic as the region remains subject to intensive and growing urban, industrial, transport and recreational land uses. These place enormous pressure on sensitive natural systems, some of which also bear the long-term effects of poorly controlled historical industrial and urban pollution. Through the CAP the Sydney Metropolitan CMA hopes to highlight the importance of the natural environment for our health and well being so that the community is able to determine how best to balance providing for the increasing population with the preservation of natural assets.

Climate change will also be a significant issue in the coming years as more information becomes available on the likely impacts such as sea level rise, decreased annual rainfall but more intense and frequent storms with greater risks of bushfires. As clear predictions of future impacts can be difficult to determine, it is clear that adaptability will be a critical skill, so that the Sydney Metropolitan CMA and the community more generally can react to the range of possible impacts that could arise.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Legislation and Legal Change

In carrying out its role the Sydney Metropolitan CMA (SMCMA) principally operated under the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003, No 104*. The SMCMA also operated under other legislation, some of which are common to all NSW Statutory bodies and in particular:

Annual Reports Act (Statutory Bodies) 1984, No. 87

Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation, 2005

Native Vegetation Act, 2003 No. 103

Natural Resources Commission Act, 2003 No. 102

Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983 No. 152

Public Finance and Audit Regulation, 2005

Public Sector Employment and Management Act, 2002 No. 43

Soil Conservation Act, 1939 No. 10

Water Management Act, 2000 No. 92

Appendix 2: Staff Statistics

A summary of staff employed by the SMCMA:

Category	At 30/6/2009	At 30/6/2008
Recurrent staff	11	11
Temporary staff	14	14
TOTAL	25	25

Appendix 3: Equal Employment Opportunity

The SMCMA applied common selection criteria addressing the EEO principles to all recruitment processes and ensured all selection panels were mixed gender. The SMCMA seeks to ensure that all subcommittees have appropriate gender and cultural composition, a principle the SMCMA will continue to apply.

EEO Group	No of Employees	% of Staff 08-09
Total staff	25	100
Women	18	72
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	2	8

Appendix 4: Personal Policies and Practices

As DECCW is the host employer for all NSW CMAs, their Personnel Policies and practices extend in coverage to the SMCMA. These policies and practices include:

Industrial Relations
Equal Employment Opportunity
Disability Plans
Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statements
Occupational Health and Safety

Appendix 5: NSW Government Action Plan for Women

The NSW Government is committed to a whole of government approach to the principles of equity, access, rights and participation for women. The NSW Government Action Plan for Women provides a mechanism for leadership and management of coordinated strategies across government agencies. The SMCMA is committed to the aims and objectives of the Action Plan.

Appendix 6: Performance and Numbers of Executive Officers

It is a requirement that the performance and remuneration of the SMCMA General Manager is reported, even though the position is classified below Senior Executive Service Level 5.

The SMCMA Board undertook a Performance Review of the General Manager and were satisfied by his performance. The remuneration for his position is \$132,806. The General Manager's contract does not contain any incentive payments and none were made.

Appendix 7: Code of Conduct

The staff that provided administrative and technical support to the SMCMA for 2008-2009 were employed or contracted by DECCW, and subscribe to the DECCW and general Public Service Code of Conduct.

Appendix 8: Privacy

The SMCMA respects the privacy of members of the public who work on partnership agreements and access our services. In the 2008-2009 reporting period there were no applications for an internal review and no complaints under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998*. As required under the Act, DECCW has a Privacy Management Plan governing the collection, retention, accuracy and disclosure of personal information, including rights of access and correction, to which the SMCMA adheres.

Appendix 9: Consumer Response

The SMCMA has maintained a proactive approach to handling public enquiries. It has established a readily accessible ground floor "shop front" office in Macquarie Tower, Parramatta. This has enhanced public access to the office and improved the dissemination of catchment management information. The SMCMA's publications are displayed in this area and also made available online at www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 10: Land Register and Land Disposal

The SMCMA did not own or occupy any land, nor did it dispose of any land during the year.

Appendix 11: Risk Management and Insurance Activities

Effective risk management is a core management requirement. Risk management is considered at all levels of the SMCMA's operations in the normal course of its activities. The SMCMA's insurance cover is provided by the NSW Treasury Managed Fund, which is administered by NSW Treasury's Self Insurance Corporation (SICorp). These arrangements provide cover for all insurance exposures faced by the general government sector including the SMCMA. The SMCMA's worker's compensation cover is provided by Allianz with other exposures being covered by GIO.

Appendix 12: Disclosure of Controlled Entities

Not applicable

Appendix 13: Waste

The NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy aims to reduce waste production from all government agencies. The SMCMA occupies part of the building housing DECCW at Parramatta, and participates in all waste minimisation and recycling initiatives. The SMCMA benefitted from this in savings gained from bulk purchases of stores, common recycling programs for used paper and other recyclable materials.

Appendix 14: Government Energy Management Performance

Since DECCW staff supported all operations of the SMCMA during the year, energy management performance information is reported by DECCW. Energy savings gained by individual units in Macquarie Tower, Parramatta are reflected in bulk savings for all building tenants.

Appendix 15: Budgets

The SMCMA undertakes activities to satisfy catchment management targets that require long-term works over a number of financial reporting periods. The budget for 2009-2010 includes a number of ongoing projects to ensure catchment management targets are met as well as funds allocated to enable ongoing administration and management support to the SMCMA.

The projected 2009-2010 budget is specified below:

Total Administrative and Management Support Costs	
NSW Government Allocation	
Total Investment Funds	2009
NSW Catchment Action NSW	961
Australian Government Caring for our Country	764
Total Expenditure Other Funding Sources	2587
Total Expenses	6321

Appendix 16: Investment Management Performance

The SMCMA has funds of \$248,157 invested in Treasury Corporation – Hourglass Facility at 30 June 2009 at an average (per annum) interest rate of 4.45%. No funds are invested outside the Treasury Corporation Hourglass Facility.

Appendix 17: Freedom of Information

No Freedom of Information applications were received during the year. This is consistent with the previous year.

Appendix 18: Credit Card Certification

There were three corporate credit cards issued to the SMCMA as at June 30 2009. Subject to meeting Department of Commerce DECCW requirements, corporate credit cards have been issued to facilitate travel, accommodation and limited purchases. DOC/DECCW corporate credit card policies represent best practice in accordance with Treasury and the Auditor General's guidelines. The corporate card expenditure is also monitored for compliance under the Auditor General's guidelines. The SMCMA incurred no late payment fees as a result of corporate card usage.

Appendix 19: Summary of Accounts Payable

Quarterly Schedule of Accounts Payable - Aged analysis at the end of each quarter

Quarter	Current (ie within due date) \$	Less than 30 days overdue \$	Between 30 and 60 days overdue \$	Between 60 and 90 days overdue \$	More than 90 days overdue \$
September Quarter	2,506	0	0	0	1,261
December Quarter	16,878	0	642	0	1,308
March Quarter	25,537	0	0	0	1,196
June Quarter	625	650	0	0	1,196

Accounts paid on time within each quarter

Quarter	Total Accounts Paid on Time			Total Amount Paid \$
	Target %	Actual %	\$	
September	90	92	1,056,223	1,273,026
December	90	91	366,592	454,531
March	90	88	658,708	681,490
June	90	96	2,131,852	2,199,976

Notes on above table:

Percentage of accounts paid on time is based on SAP Payment Analysis Report, which compares vendor masterfile payment terms, invoice document date and payment document date to determine if payment was made on time, and if not, how many days it was late. The dollar value is the actual dollar value of the documents in each column (ie paid on time, not paid on time), so the percentage is based on documents, not dollar value.

Comments

Initiatives to improve payment performance include:

- Tightened controls to ensure correct data entry of payment terms and invoice dates in SAP.
- Prioritise vouchers as they are received in Financial Operations so invoices due for payment first get processed first.
- Use of extra resources, to ensure smooth workflow during peak periods.
- Improved compliance with the tax system by vendors and Departmental staff.

Procure-to Pay was established in Accounts Payable in November 2006. This is an across government initiative to streamline payment of accounts.

Penalty Interest Paid

There was no penalty interest paid during financial year 2008-09.

Payment by Corporate Card

Subject to meeting Departmental requirements, eligible staff members are issued with corporate cards to facilitate travel, accommodation and limited purchases.

The Department's corporate card policies represent best practice in accordance with Treasury and the Auditor General's guidelines. The Corporate Card Guidelines/ Procedures satisfy the requirements of the Revised Treasurer's Directions TD 205.01-205.08 and was based on the NSW Treasury Review of Credit Card Use Best Practice Guide (TPP 99-2). Corporate card expenditures are monitored for compliance with guidelines on a transaction basis and usage was considered to comply with best practice guidelines.

The Department incurred no late payment fees as a result of corporate card usage.

Appendix 20: List of Projects Funded in 2008–09

List of Projects Funded in 2008–09									
SMCMA THEME	State Target (E4)	SMCMA CT	SMCMA MT	PROJECT TITLE	Funds Allocation \$K				STATUS
					C4C (AG)	NSW	OTHER	TOTAL	
Biodiversity	ST1	CTB3	MTB3.3	Identification of Regional Biodiversity Corridors	100			100	On-going
Biodiversity	ST1	CTB3	MTB3.3	Green Web Stage 3	50	50		100	Complete
Biodiversity	ST1	CTB3	MTB3.3	Kurnell 2020	50		266	316	Complete
Biodiversity	ST1	CTB3	MTB3.3	Kurnell 2020 - Integrated Ecological Restoration Stage 1			41.3	41	On-going
Biodiversity	ST3	CTB4	MTB4.1	Implementing PAS Actions Terrestrial & Aquatic	50			50	Complete
Biodiversity	ST3	CTB4	MTB4.1	Towra Point Shorebird Protection Program			45.1	45	On-going
Biodiversity	ST4	CTB5	MTB5.1	Weed Strategy Implementation	50			50	Complete
Biodiversity	ST4	CTB5	MTB5.1	Bitou Bush control Stage 3		50		50	Complete
Biodiversity	ST4	CTB5	MTB5.1	Strategic Bitou Bush Control RCC Stage 2 NSW			35	35	Complete
Water	ST5	CTW1	MTW1.1	High Conservation Value Areas	150			150	Complete
Water	ST5	CTW1	MTW1.1	Cooks River Catchment Initiative			500	500	On-going
Water	ST5	CTW1	MTW1.6	Fish Passage - Marsden Weir		78		78	Complete
Water	ST5	CTW3	MTW3.1	Botany Bay CCI			104.4	104	On-going
Water	ST7	CTECM2	MTECM2.3	Tide to Table Stage 4		3	100	103	Complete
Water	ST8	CTW2	MTW2.1	Wetlands Management Project Stage 3	150			150	Complete
Water	ST8	CTW3	MTW5.3	Water Sensitive Urban Design in Sydney Program			140	140	On-going
Coastal	ST9	CTECM1	MTECM1.1	Marine Pest Education Strategy for Boaters and Recreational Fishers			93	93	Complete
Coastal	ST9	CTECM1	MTECM1.5	Improving Estuaries & Coastal Lakes	100			100	Complete
Coastal	ST9	CTECM1	MTECM1.5	Coastal NRM Plans			250.7	251	Complete
Land	ST10	CTLD1	MTLD1.2	Salinity training / capacity building for local government and industry			119	119	On-going
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Community Support Officer (Ethnic Communities)	25			25	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Bushcare Volunteers GIS Mapping		20		20	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Bushcare Communities Support (General)		52		52	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Community Support Media (Mambara, SNaC)		18		18	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Volunteer Coordinators Network & Training		13		13	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Easter Show Bushcare stall		7		7	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Other Bushcare Activities		29		29	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Biodiversity Friendly Seawall Guidelines		60		60	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Community Support for Biodiversity Restoration in Georges River Catchment			150	150	On-going
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	Volunteer Bilingual Guides			32.5	33	On-going
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.1	PRCG Photo Competition		10		10	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC2	MTC12.3	Community Forum/Regional Awards		30		30	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC2	MTC12.3	Regional Partnerships Facilitator / Community Support Coordinator		28		28	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Aboriginal Communities Support	7	36		43	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Indigenous Bushcare Audit		3		3	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Mapping of Aboriginal Heritage Sites	12	5		17	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Mapping of Aboriginal Nations	3			3	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Bushcare with Care Stage 2		12.5		13	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Aboriginal Landcare and Schools Caring for Country			64.4	64	On-going
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	Talking Up Urban Landcare	3			3	Complete
Community	ST13	CTC1	MTC1.4	LP-LALC Land Alive			5.5	6	Complete
Community				MER Officer		13.4		13	On-going
Community				GIS (08/09)		11		11	Complete
Community				2009 Aerial Photography			76	76	Complete
Community				Upgrade UPRCT ALERT Network Hardware			116	116	Complete
				TOTAL	750	528	2,139	3,417	

Appendix 21: Cost of Production and Availability of Annual Report

The external costs incurred in the production of this Annual Report were for graphic design and printing. In order to minimise paper usage, limited copies have been printed. They have been made available at the SMCMA office and are available on request. Two hundred and fifty copies of this report were produced. The cost of printing this report was \$4,440.00

The report is available from the website: www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au in PDF format.

Appendix 22: Response from Statutory Body to Auditor's Opinion

No significant issues were raised by the Auditor-General in his Statutory Audit Report issued in accordance with Section 43(2) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* No 152.

Appendix 23: Consultants Engaged: 4

Appendix 24: Other reporting issues as directed by Minister

The SMCMA was not aware of any additional reporting issues as required by the Minister.

Appendix 26: NSW State Plan Natural Resource Management (E4) Targets

State Plan NRM Targets	
1	By 2015 there is an increase in native vegetation extent and an improvement in native vegetation condition
2	By 2015 there is an increase in the number of sustainable populations of a range of native fauna species
3	By 2015 there is an increase in the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities
4	By 2015 there is a reduction in the impact of invasive species
5	By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems
6	By 2015 there is an improvement in the ability of groundwater systems to support groundwater dependent ecosystems and designated beneficial uses
7	By 2015 there is no decline in the condition of marine waters and ecosystems
8	By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of important wetlands, and the extent of those wetlands is maintained
9	By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems
10	By 2015 there is an improvement in soil condition
11	By 2015 there is an increase in the area of land that is managed within its capability
12	Natural resource decisions contribute to improving or maintaining economic sustainability and social well-being
13	There is an increase in the capacity of natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant natural resource management

Appendix 25: NSW Government Departments Post 1 July 2009

From July 1 NSW Government Departments:

Department of Environment and Climate Change became the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

The Department of Primary Industries became the Department of Industry and Investment

The Department of Planning became the Department of Planning and Local Government

Financial Report

For the financial year ended 30 June 2009

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Statement by Board Members

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

STATEMENT BY BOARD MEMBERS

Certificate under Section 41 C (1B) and (1C) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983

Pursuant to the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983, we declare that in our opinion:

- (a) The accompanying financial report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2009, and transactions for the year ended.
- (b) The financial report has been prepared in accordance with:
 - The applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations; and
 - The requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005 and the Treasurer's Directions.
- (c) There are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.

For and on behalf of the Board



P. Sansom
Chairman & Board Member

Dated: 19th October 2009



A. Ezzy APM
Deputy Chairman and Board
Member

Independent Audit Report



GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (the Authority), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, the income statement, statement of recognised income and expense and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2009, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

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

The Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Independent Audit Report

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

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



MT Spriggins
Director, Financial Audit Services

20 October 2009
SYDNEY

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority
 Start of Audited Financial Report
Income statement
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Revenue			
Revenue	3	4,773	5,384
Other income	4	1,809	1,487
Total revenue		6,582	6,871
Expenses			
Personnel services expenses	5	2,446	2,398
Other operating expenses	5	1,894	9,684
Depreciation	5	20	15
Grants & subsidies	5	1,587	-
Total expenses		5,947	12,097
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	11	635	(5,226)

The above income statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes

Statement of recognised income and expense

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Total income and expense recognised in equity		-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	11	635	(5,226)
TOTAL RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR	11	635	(5,226)

The above statement of recognised income and expense is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,417	1,354
Receivables	7	120	268
Total current assets		1,537	1,622
Non-current assets			
Plant and equipment	8	100	120
Total non-current assets		100	120
TOTAL ASSETS		1,637	1,742
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	281	1,049
Provisions	10	271	244
Total current liabilities		552	1,293
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	3	2
Total non-current liabilities		3	2
TOTAL LIABILITIES		555	1,295
NET ASSETS		1,082	447
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	11	1,082	447
TOTAL EQUITY		1,082	447

The above balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes

Cash Flow Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers & government		6,699	6,854
Payments to suppliers		(5,175)	(11,786)
		1,524	(4,932)
Grants and subsidies paid		(1,585)	-
Interest received		124	364
Net cash flows from operating activities	12	63	(4,568)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of plant and equipment & intangibles		-	(12)
Net cash flows from investing activities		-	(12)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		63	(4,580)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		1,354	5,934
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	6	1,417	1,354

The above cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 1 - Reporting entity

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) was established pursuant to the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*. The objects of the Act are:

- (a) to establish Authorities for the purpose of devolving operational, investment and decision-making natural resource functions to catchment levels;
- (b) to provide for proper natural resource planning at a catchment level;
- (c) to ensure that decisions about natural resources take into account appropriate catchment issues;
- (d) to require decisions taken at a catchment level to take into account State-wide standards and to involve the Natural Resources Commission in catchment planning where appropriate;
- (e) to involve communities in each catchment in decision making and to make best use of catchment knowledge and expertise;
- (f) to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State;
- (g) to apply sound scientific knowledge to achieve a fully functioning and productive landscape; and
- (h) to provide a framework for financial assistance and incentives to landholders in connection with natural resource management.

The Authority is a Statutory Body and a separate reporting entity. There are no other entities under its control. The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

The Authority is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash-generating units.

This financial report has been authorised for issue by the Board of the Authority on ___ October 2009.

Note 2 - Summary of significant accounting policies

The following significant policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

(a) Basis of preparation

The Authority's financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with:

- The applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations;
- The requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Regulation.

Property, plant and equipment, assets (or disposal groups) held for sale and financial assets at 'fair value through profit or loss' and available for sale are measured at fair value. Other financial report items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

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

(b) Statement of compliance

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

(c) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

(i) Significant accounting judgement

In the preparation of the financial statements, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may vary from these estimates.

Key judgements are disclosed as part of accounting policies notes.

(ii) Significant accounting estimates and assumptions

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

revision affects both current and future periods. Judgements made by management in the application of the Australian Accounting Standards that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates, with a significant risk of material adjustments in the next year are disclosed, where applicable, in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

(d) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue are discussed below:

- (i) Contributions from Government and other bodies are generally recognised as income when the authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control over contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.
- (ii) Sale of Goods: Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised as revenue when the authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets.
- (iii) Rendering of Services: Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).
- (iv) Investment Income: Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.
- (v) Rental Revenue: Rental revenue is recognised in accordance with AASB 117 Leases on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(e) Insurance

The Authority's activities are insured through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The premium expense is determined by the Liability Fund Manager based on past experience and the insurance coverage is reviewed periodically to ensure that it is adequate.

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

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

- The amount of GST incurred by the Authority 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.
- Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of receivables and payables.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office are classified as operating cash flows.

(g) Acquisition of assets

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by the Authority. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to the asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration during the year, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Where payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent, i.e. deferred payment amount is effectively discounted at an asset-specific rate.

(h) Capitalisation thresholds

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing \$5,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than \$5,000) are capitalised. All amounts below \$5,000 are expensed to profit and loss as incurred.

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

(i) Revaluation of plant and equipment

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the "Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value" Policy and Guidelines Paper (TPP 07-01). This policy adopts fair value in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 140 Investment Property.

Property, plant and equipment is measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. However, in the limited circumstances where there are feasible alternative uses, assets are valued at their higher and best use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined based on the best available market evidence, including current market selling price for the same or similar assets. Where there is no available market evidence, the asset's fair value is measured at its market buying price, the best indicator of which is depreciated replacement cost.

The Authority revalues each class of property, plant and equipment at least every five years or with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of each asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value at reporting date. The last revaluation of land was completed on 30 June 2006 and was based on an independent valuation. The buildings were assessed for fair value in 2003/04.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historical cost, as a surrogate for fair value.

When revaluing non-current assets by reference to current prices for assets newer than those being revalued (adjusted to reflect the present condition of the assets), the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation are separately restated.

For other assets, any balances of accumulated depreciation at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net assets accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in the surplus/deficit, the increment is recognised immediately as revenue in the surplus/deficit.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as expenses in the surplus/deficit, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset, they are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

As a not-for-profit entity, revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current assets but not otherwise.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is disposed of, any balance remaining in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

(j) Impairment of plant and equipment

As a not-for-profit entity with no cash-generating units, the Authority is effectively exempt for AASB 136 *Impairment of assets* and impairment testing. This is because AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test to the higher of fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost. This means that, for an asset already measured at fair value, impairment can only arise if selling costs are material. Selling costs are regarded as immaterial.

(k) Depreciation of plant and equipment

Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis for all depreciable assets, as detailed below, so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the Authority.

All material separately identifiable components of assets are depreciated over their shorter useful lives. Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items.

The following depreciation rates were applied in 2008/09 and 2007/08:

Plant and equipment:

Computer Equipment	25%
Other	12%

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

(l) Major inspection costs

When each major inspection is performed, the labour cost of performing inspections for faults is recognised in the carrying amount of an asset as a replacement of a part, if the recognition criteria are satisfied.

(m) Restoration costs

The estimated cost of dismantling and removing an asset and restoring the site is included in the cost of an asset, to the extent it is recognised as a liability.

(n) Maintenance

The day-to-day servicing or maintenance costs are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a part or component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

(o) Receivables

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are accounted for in the Income Statement when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

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

(p) Liabilities

(i) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority 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 rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(ii) Personnel Services

(a) Personnel services

The Authority does not employ staff but utilises the personnel services of Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). The costs of personnel services in respect of wages and salaries, superannuation, annual leave, long service leave, and for sick leave are recognised when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Provision made in respect of benefits expected to be settled within 12 months are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Provisions made in respect of employee benefits which are not expected to settle within 12 months are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the consolidated entity in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers compensation insurance premium and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment are recognised as liabilities and expenses when the benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

(b) Defined contribution plans

Contribution to a defined contribution funds, such as Basic Benefit and First State Super, are expensed when incurred. It is calculated as a percentage of the employees' salary. In 2007/08 and 2008/09, 9% was contributed.

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

(c) Long service leave and defined benefits superannuation

The Authority has no liability for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation. Personnel services are acquired from the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the liability of these items has been assumed by the Crown Entity.

(iii) Provision for restoration of leased premises

A provision for restoring leased premises has not been recognised as the amount is not significant.

(q) Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge

The maintenance of the Authority's accounting records and provision of corporate services were provided by the Department of Commerce and the Department of Environment and Climate Change free of charge under the provisions of the Corporate Services Service Level Agreement. Some agreed services were provided by "Service First" on a cost recovery basis. The Department of Commerce and the Department of Environment and Climate Change cannot reliably estimate the fair value of these services to individual CMA.

In addition, other organisations including community groups provide in kind assistance free of charge. It is not possible to reliably estimate the fair value of these services. Therefore these in kind contributions are not recognised.

(r) Comparative information

Except where 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.

(s) New Australian accounting standards issue

In the current year the Authority has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are relevant to the operations and effective for the current reporting period. Details of the impact of the adoption of these new accounting standards are set out in the individual accounting policies notes in the financial report.

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2009 reporting period. In accordance with the NSW Treasury mandate (TC 09/03), the Authority did not early adopt any of these accounting standards and interpretations that are not yet effective:

- AASB 3 (March 2008), AASB 127 and AASB 2008-3 regarding business combinations;
- AASB 8 and AASB 2007-3 regarding operating segments;
- AASB 101 (Sept 2007), AASB 2007-8 and AASB 2007-10 regarding presentation of financial statements;
- AASB 123 (June 2007) and AASB 2007-6 regarding borrowing costs;
- AASB 1039 regarding concise financial reports;
- AASB 2008-2 regarding puttable financial instruments;
- AASB 2008-5 and AASB 2008-6 regarding amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project;
- AASB 2008-7 regarding costs of an investment in a subsidiary, jointly controlled entity, or an associate;
- AASB 2008-9 regarding AASB 1049 amendments consistent with AASB 101;
- AASB 2008-11 regarding business combinations with not-for-profit entities;
- AASB 2009-1 regarding borrowing costs of not for profit public sector entities;
- AASB 2009-2 regarding financial instrument disclosures;
- Interpretation 17 and AASB 2008-13 on distribution of non-cash assets to owners;
- Interpretation 18 on transfers of assets from customers.

It is considered that the impact of these new standards and interpretations in future years will have no material impact on the financial statements of the Authority.

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 3 - Revenue

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Contributions received from:		
Joint State/Commonwealth contributions (i)	2,346	3,288
Operating grant funding	1,865	1,882
Other contributions (ii)	562	214
	4,773	5,384

(i) Contributions were received from the Department of Environment and Climate Change towards achieving pre-negotiated natural resources management outcomes.

(ii) Other contributions were received from third parties for specific agreed works towards achieving NRM outcomes.

Note 4 - Other income

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Interest	124	364
Other	1,557	982
Liability assumed by the crown	128	141
	1,809	1,487

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 5 - Expenses

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Personnel services expenses		
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	1,995	1,998
Staff on-costs	451	400
	2,446	2,398
Other operating expenses		
Auditors remuneration (i)	13	15
Board Member's remuneration (ii)	149	172
Board Member's and Committees costs	19	5
Contractors	272	346
Fees for services	772	8,332
Insurance	10	13
Accommodation and related expenses	258	250
Stores, materials and minor equipment	237	258
Plant/vehicle expenses	37	28
Training	-	45
Travel	36	37
Other	91	183
	1,894	9,684
Depreciation	20	15
Grants and subsidies (iii)	1,587	-
TOTAL	5,947	12,097

(i) Audit fee to The Audit Office of New South Wales for audit of financial report. The auditors received no other benefits.

(ii) Board members received no other benefits.

(iii) Until June 2008, the grants and subsidies were classified as fees for services. In 2009, the grants and subsidies have been disclosed separately. The 2008 comparative have been estimated to be \$ 5,605K.

Note 6 - Current assets – cash and cash equivalents

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Current assets – Cash and Cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and on hand	169	450
NSW Treasury Corporation – Hour Glass cash facility	1,248	904
Also refer to Note 15 - Financial Instruments	1,417	1,354

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 7 - Current assets - receivables

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Accounts receivable	22	12
Goods & services tax recoverable	91	231
Accrued income	7	24
Other amounts receivable	-	1
	120	268

No debts were impaired, reversed and written off during the year. Also refer to Note 15 – Financial Instruments

Note 8 - Non-current assets – plant and equipment

	Plant & Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2008		
Gross carrying amount	153	153
Accumulated depreciation	(33)	(33)
Net carrying amount	120	120
At 30 June 2009		
Gross carrying amount	153	153
Accumulated depreciation	(53)	(53)
Net carrying amount	100	100

Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

Year ended 30 June 2009		
Net carrying amount at start of year	120	120
Depreciation expense	(20)	(20)
Net carrying amount at end of year	100	100
Year ended 30 June 2008		
Net carrying amount at start of year	123	123
Additions	12	12
Depreciation expense	(15)	(15)
Net carrying amount at end of year	120	120

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 9 - Current liabilities - payables

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Accrued personnel services	23	12
Creditors	1	459
Accruals	239	514
Other	18	64
	281	1,049

Also refer to Note 15 - Financial Instruments.

Note 10 - Current/non-current liabilities - provisions

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Personnel services and related on-costs		
Personnel Services provision	189	179
On-costs	85	67
Aggregate personnel services and related on-costs	274	246
Provisions – current	271	244
Provisions – non-current	3	2
	274	246

All current provisions are expected to be payable within the next 12 months.

Note 11 - Changes in Equity

	Retained Surplus		Total Equity	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	447	5,673	447	5,673
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	635	(5,226)	635	(5,226)
Balance at the end of the financial year	1,082	447	1,082	447

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 12 - Notes to the cash flow statement

Cash

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, in banks and investments in NSW Treasury Corporation Hour Glass facilities. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the Balance Sheet in Note 6.

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the year to net cash flows from operating activities.		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	635	(5,226)
Depreciation	20	15
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	148	(182)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	(768)	920
(Decrease)/Increase in provisions	28	(95)
Net cash flows from operating activities	63	(4,568)

Note 13 - Commitments for expenditure

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(a) Operating lease commitments		
Aggregate operating lease commitments for office accommodation, motor vehicles and computer equipment. Contracted but not provided for at balance date, payable:		
Not later than one year	264	250
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	10	57
Total (including GST)	274	307

The commitments above include GST of \$25K, (2008: \$28K), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
(b) Natural resources investment projects commitments		
Aggregate commitments under contract for projects to deliver agreed natural resource outcomes. Contracted but not provided for at balance date, payable:		
Not later than one year	99	-
Total (including GST)	99	-

The commitments above include GST of \$9K, (2008: \$nil), expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

(c) Finance Lease Commitments

The Authority did not have any finance lease payable commitments at balance date (2008: \$nil).

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

Note 14 - Contingent liabilities/assets

The Authority is not aware of any material contingent liability (2008: \$nil). Apart from the amounts disclosed in Note 13, there are no known contingent assets at balance date.

Note 15 - Financial instruments

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

The Authority's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the Authority's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial report.

The Authority's Board 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 Authority, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Authority's Board on a continuous basis.

a) Financial instrument categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
Class:			2009	2008
			\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	6	N/A	1,417	1,354
Receivables ¹	7	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	29	37
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
Class:			2009	2008
			\$'000	\$'000
Payables ²	9	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	281	1,049

Notes

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

b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Authority's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Authority. 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 Authority, including cash, receivables and Authority deposits. No collateral is held by the Authority. The Authority has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. Authority's deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand, in banks and investment with the NSW Treasury Corporation Hour-Glass facilities. The TCorp Hour Glass cash facility is discussed in para (d) below.

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

(ii) Receivables – trade debtors

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

The Authority is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. Based on past experience, debtors that are not past due (2009: \$22K; 2008: \$12K) and not less than 1 month past due (2009: \$nil; 2008: \$nil) are not considered impaired and together these represent 100% of the total trade debtors. Most of the Authority's debtors have a good credit rating. There are no debtors which are currently past due or impaired.

The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any allowance for impairment). The carrying amount approximates net fair value. Sales are made on 30 day terms.

	Total (\$'000)	Past due but not impaired (\$'000)	Considered impaired (\$'000)
2009			
< 3 months overdue	-	-	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2008			
< 3 months overdue	-	-	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-

(iii) Other financial assets

Deposits at 30 June 2009 were earning an average interest rate 3.03% (2007-08 7.41%) while over the period the average interest rate was 4.57% (2007-08 6.90%).

c) Liquidity risk

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

During the current and prior years, there were no defaults or breaches on any payables. No assets have been pledged as collateral. The Authority'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 Treasurer's Direction 219.01. 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. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. The rate of interest applied during the year was Nil% (2008 : Nil%).

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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

2009	Weighted Average Effective Int. Rate	Nominal Amount	Interest Rate Exposure		Maturity Dates		
			Fixed Interest rate	Variable Interest rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
Payables:		'\$000's		'\$000's			
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	N/A	23	-	-	23	-	-
Creditors	N/A	1	-	-	1	-	-
		24	-	-	24	-	-
2008							
Payables:							
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	N/A	12	-	-	12	-	-
Creditors	N/A	459	-	-	459	-	-
		471	-	-	471	-	-

d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

The Authority's exposures to market risk are primarily through price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour Glass Investment facilities. The Authority does not have any borrowings. The Authority has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the Authority operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2008. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

e) Interest rate risk

As the Authority has no interest bearing liabilities its exposure to interest rate risk is minimal. The Authority does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available for sale. Therefore for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The Authority's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Carrying amount \$'000	-1% Profit \$'000	-1% Equity \$'000	+1% Profit \$'000	+1% Equity \$'000
2009					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,417	(14)	(14)	14	14
Receivables	121	(1)	(1)	1	1
Financial liabilities					
Payables	281	3	3	(3)	(3)
2008					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,354	(14)	(14)	14	14
Receivables	268	(3)	(3)	3	3
Financial liabilities					
Payables	1,049	10	10	(10)	(10)

f) Other price risk

Exposure to 'other price risk' primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes. The Authority has no direct equity investments. The Authority holds units in the following Hour-Glass investment trusts:

Facility	Investment Sectors	Investment Horizon	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 2 years	1,248	904

The unit price of each facility is equal to the total fair value of net assets held by the facility divided by the total number of units on issue for that facility. Unit prices are calculated and published daily.

NSW TCorp as trustee for each of the above facility is required to act in the best interest of the unitholders and to administer the trusts in accordance with the trust deeds. As trustee, TCorp has appointed external managers to manage the performance and risks of each facility in accordance with a mandate agreed by the parties. However, TCorp, acts as manager for part of the Cash Facility. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

Investment in the Hour Glass facilities limits Authority's exposure to risk, as it allows diversification across a pool of funds, with different investment horizons and a mix of investments.

NSW TCorp provides sensitivity analysis information for each of the facilities, using historically based volatility information collected over a ten-year period, quoted at two standard deviations (i.e., 95% probability). The TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss and therefore any change in unit price impacts directly on profit (rather than equity). A reasonably possible change is based on the percentage change in unit price (as advised by TCorp) multiplied by the redemption value as at 30 June each year for each facility (balance from Hour-Glass statement).

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Change in unit price	Impact on profit/loss	
		2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility	+ 1%	12	9
	- 1%	(12)	(9)

g) Fair value

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. As discussed, the value of the Hour Glass Investments is based on Authority's share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility, based on the market value. All of the Hour Glass facilities are valued using 'redemption' pricing.

The amortised cost of financial instruments recognised in the balance sheet approximates the fair value, because of the short-term nature of many of the financial instruments.

Note 16 - After balance date events

There are no significant events subsequent to balance sheet date.

End of audited financial statements

Glossary of acronyms and abbreviations

AAC	Aboriginal Advisory Committee	LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
AIP	Annual Implementation Program	LEP	Local Environment Plan
BBCCI	Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative	LGA	Local Government Area
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology	LGSA	Local Government and Shires Association
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse	MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting and Improvement
CAMBA	China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement	MWSP	Metropolitan Water Sharing Plan
CAP	Catchment Action Plan	NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
CBD	Central Business District	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	NRC	Natural Resources Commission
CRFWG	Cooks River Foreshores Working Group	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CRUWI	Cooks River Urban Water Initiative	NSW	New South Wales
CRC	Community Relations Commission for Multicultural NSW	NVA	Native Vegetation Act 2003
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
DA	Development Application	PRCG	Parramatta River Catchment Group
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Ramsar	Internationally recognised wetlands, first agreed at the Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971
DOC	Department of Commerce	REP	Regional Environmental Plan
DoP	Department of Planning	RFIA	Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act, 1948
DPC	Department of Premier's and Cabinet	ROCs	Regional Organisation of Councils
DPI	Department of Primary Industries	SCA	Sydney Catchment Authority
DWE	Department of Water and Energy	SCCG	Sydney Coastal Councils Group
EAPS	Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement	SEPP	State Environment Planning Policy
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity	SES	State Emergency Service
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	SRCMA	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979	SMCMA	Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority
FoI	Freedom of Information	TAP	Threat Abatement Plan
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	UNE	University of New England
GMR	Greater Metropolitan Region	UNSW	University of New South Wales
GRCCC	Georges River Combined Councils Committee	UWS	University of Western Sydney
HNCMA	Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority	VCN	Volunteer Coordinators Network
IPART	Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal	WRAPP	Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy
JAMBA	Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	WSP	Water Sharing Plan
JSC	(Natural Resources Management) Joint Steering Committee	WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design
		WQIP	Water Quality Improvement Plan

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