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Volunteers remove weeds from riverbank – Kosciusko National Park. Photo: John Spencer/DPE.

**Published by**

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ISSN 1445-3177

EHG 2022/0334

October 2022



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# Environmental Trust

The Hon. James Griffin MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage  
52 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

We are pleased to present the 2021–22 annual report for the NSW Environmental Trust, prepared in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*, for your presentation to the NSW Parliament.

The past year has been one of recovery, consolidation and strong progress. The environmental impact of floods has presented new challenges and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being felt across the sector, but the Trust has extended the time for projects as needed so that grantees can still meet planned objectives and deliver on environmental outcomes.

This year the Trust provided more than \$48 million for the delivery of a range of environmental projects.

A signature achievement for the year has been the Trust's contribution towards the purchase of the 121,390-hectare Avenel Station north of Broken Hill under the Land Acquisition Program. The property encompasses ecosystems not previously found in the national parks estate and the land also has significant Aboriginal cultural value.

In line with one of the Trust's key priorities, threatened species recovery, the past year has seen encouraging progress. In one initiative preparations are well under way to reintroduce four native mammal species into an area in the NSW Far West where the number of feral predators will be closely controlled.

Education projects continue to expand the reach of works funded by the Trust. These initiatives include contributions to environmental studies in schools, domestic cat management guides, studies of the ecological health of national parks and renewed support and training, including emergency response training for wildlife carers.

The Trust has again focused its efforts on projects that will work to counter the effects of climate change, encourage the strengthening of threatened species populations and add to land holdings for the national parks estate to improve conservation outcomes.

Yours sincerely

Atticus Fleming  
NSW Environmental Trust

Prof Don White  
NSW Environmental Trust



# About the NSW Environmental Trust

## Functions of the Trust

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

The objectives of the Trust are to:

1. encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects in both the public and private sectors that will, or are likely to, prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation of any kind, within any part of New South Wales
2. promote research in both the public and private sectors into environmental problems of any kind and, in particular, encourage and support:
  - research into and development of local solutions to environmental problems
  - discovery of new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment
  - research into general environmental problems
  - assessment of environmental degradation

3. promote environmental education and, in particular, encourage the development of educational programs in both the public and private sectors that will increase public awareness of environmental issues of any kind
4. fund the acquisition of land for national parks and other categories of dedicated and reserved land for the national parks estate
5. fund the declaration of areas for marine parks and related purposes
6. promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management (including funding enforcement and regulation, and local government programs)
7. fund environmental community groups
8. fund the purchase of water entitlements for the purposes of increasing environmental flows for the State's rivers and restoring or rehabilitating major wetlands.

In 2021–22 Trust staff were employed within the Grants Branch of the department's Environment and Heritage Group. For issues of compliance (such as disability inclusion action plans, workforce diversity, multicultural policies and services program, work health and safety etc) please refer to the *NSW Department of Planning and Environment Annual Report 2021–22*.



# Highlights of 2021–22

In 2021–22, the Trust spent more than \$48 million to launch and support projects across a number of its strategic priorities. These included projects that will help to reduce emissions through clean technology, the acquisition of large areas of land for wildlife protection, the nurturing of ecosystems and the restoration of natural habitat, as well as programs that will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The Trust's partners in carrying out these programs included research organisations, community groups, industry, Aboriginal organisations, schools, and State and local government agencies. The invaluable contribution of volunteers continues to support on-ground work as well as spreading information about the variety of programs our grantees manage.

The delivery dates of some projects have been extended to compensate for the serious weather events that disrupted field work early in 2022 and the continuing impact of COVID-19. Despite these challenges, grantees continue in their commitment to produce outstanding outcomes and are working resolutely towards their new deadlines.

## Clean Technology Innovation Program

The Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program is the NSW Government's plan to work with industry to reduce emissions and help NSW businesses prosper in a low carbon world. It is a cornerstone of the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030, to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050.

Clean Technology Innovation is one of the areas of focus in the Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program. The Trust has approved \$70 million for the following projects that will contribute to this focus area:

- **Research and Development Grants Program:** a \$40-million contestable grant program, administered by the Trust. Round 1 of this program received 85 expressions of interest this year, with a combined value of \$97 million.
- **Low Emissions Specifications Program:** a \$15-million grant awarded to the Office of Energy and Climate Change. Stage 1 began this

year and will focus on technical specifications for domestic and light commercial electric vehicle chargers, low emission building materials for NSW procurement, and a residential industry roadmap to increase uptake of home energy ratings.

- **NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub:** a \$15-million grant awarded to the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer to deliver the NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub (the Hub) over 9 years. The first stage of this project was completed this year, which included set up of an expert reference group and the identification of a consortium that will lead the Hub through an 'expression of interest' and 'request for proposal' process.

## Land Acquisition Program

The key highlight for the Land Acquisition Program in 2021–22 was the Trust's contribution towards the purchase of Avenel Station, a property that brings new arid ecosystems into the national parks estate. Its vast area (121,390 hectares) straddles both the Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields and the Broken Hill Complex. The arid zone landforms found on the property include the Barrier Ranges with its floodplains and gilgais. Many threatened bird, mammal, reptile and plant species are found within this area and they will now be protected by the park.

Another major purchase was 751.9 hectares of high-quality koala habitat that will be added to the Bundjalung National Park. Many other species of threatened animals will also benefit from this protected land.

## Promoting waste avoidance and sustainability

The Trust and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have together delivered a suite of waste grant programs under the Waste Less, Recycle More (WLRM) initiative. WLRM offered grant funding to local government, business, industry and the community. The NSW Government allocated \$802 million over 9 years for WLRM and the initiative came to an end on 30 June 2022.



Projects funded under WLRM will however continue until they are complete. This year approximately \$20 million was awarded to projects that help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase recycling. Programs funded this year include:

- Organics Collections Grants Program
- Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program
- Remanufacture NSW Regional and Remote Grants Program.

The grants programs for organics provide funding that supports the collection and recycling of organics, which significantly reduces the amount of food waste going to landfill.

The Remanufacture NSW grants program supports the NSW resource recovery sector to boost re-use and recycling. This is in response to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) ban on the export of certain wastes and to enable a transition to a circular economy for waste export ban materials. It is estimated that the ban will impact the annual export of at least 180,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard, glass, plastic and car tyres.

The first round of the Remanufacture NSW Grants Program, with a funding pool of \$35 million, was conducted in early 2021. In the first round, \$21.5 million was accepted by 19 projects. This year the Trust opened a second funding round, offering the remaining \$13.5 million for projects that target the materials subject to the ban (excluding glass). Grants under the second round will be awarded during the next financial year.

The Remanufacture NSW Regional and Remote Grants Program opened in November 2021. This program offered a total funding pool of \$7 million nationally for projects that will increase the capacity of sorting, processing and manufacturing or remanufacturing activities in regional and remote locations. Eight projects were recommended for funding under this program.

Both the Remanufacture NSW Grants Program and the Remanufacture NSW Regional and Remote Grants Program are co-funded by the Australian Government through its Recycling Modernisation Fund, and by the NSW Government through the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative. They are delivered by the Trust in partnership with the NSW EPA.

## Contestable grant programs

During 2021–22 the Trust awarded over \$6.4 million under its contestable grant programs, including:

- over \$5.3 million for projects that will enhance and restore natural habitat through rehabilitation and regeneration activities, including projects with Aboriginal communities
- more than \$0.9 million to support environmental education
- almost \$0.2 million for research projects that will assess the status of priority native plants species affected by the 2019–20 bushfires in New South Wales.

## Enhanced reporting and service offering for grantees

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

This year grantees submitted 145 applications across 5 programs through the GMS. Improvements to the system have helped make the user's experience easier. This applies to managing work plans, the approval and payment processes and grants governance. Some of the new features are:

- a consolidated view of the work plan within the GMS, displaying live details of outcomes, milestones, activities, measures and budget
- improvements to milestone payments, including grantee notifications and the ability to attach invoices to the payment process
- improvements to the user's home-screen view, with the ability to access a wider variety of options
- general updates and enhancements to the user interface to improve the experience with the system.

A YouTube channel has also been set up for grantees with video tutorials on how to use the system.





A close-up photograph of several green grass blades with brown, feathery seed heads. The blades are long and thin, and the seed heads are small and clustered. The background is blurred, showing more of the same grass. A semi-transparent black box is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing white text.

Trust programs  
and achievements



# Land Acquisition Program

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

Land acquired in 2021–22  
**82,165** hectares



**\$12,226,311** paid to acquire national parks in 2021–22



**7** properties acquired in 2021–22



Land acquired for koala conservation  
**953.55** hectares

In 2021–22, the program also:

- acquired land in New South Wales that contains a range of habitats not currently protected, or underrepresented, in the national parks system
- acquired a diversity of habitats for many threatened plants and animals, from coastal forests and mountain ranges to the arid deserts
- earmarked one of the 7 new properties for a new reserve, with the remaining 6 properties to be added to existing reserves
- funded two thirds of the purchase of Avenel Station.

## Properties acquired in 2021–22:

Bobundara Nature Reserve	<b>226.6</b> hectares
Tarlo River National Park NPWS has acquired 2 adjoining properties totalling	<b>621.59</b> hectares
Koukandowie Nature Reserve	<b>79.22</b> hectares
Avenel Station (proposed State Conservation Area) of the 121,390-hectare property	<b>80,284</b> hectares
Killabakh Nature Reserve	<b>201.65</b> hectares
Bundjalung National Park	<b>751.9</b> hectares

## Species protected through land acquisition in NSW:

**Creek Wattle** *Rotala tripartita* **Curlew Sandpiper** Omeo Storksbill  
*Cyperus aquatilis* **Koalas** Dusky Hopping-mouse  
*Acacia loderi* shrublands *Acacia bynoeana* (Bynoe's Wattle)  
**Interior Blind Snake** Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby Bolam's Mouse  
**Barking Owl** Yellow-Keeled Swainsona **Grassland Earless Dragon**  
*Polygala linariifolia* Eastern Fat-tailed Gecko **Grey Falcon**



## Avenel Station

Avenel Station, the most significant acquisition of 2021–22, is located 150 kilometres north of Broken Hill and covers 121,390 hectares. Its purchase is the second largest by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in the state’s history. The Trust grant contributed to about 66% of the purchase (80,284 hectares).

Avenel will contribute to the NSW Government’s goal of creating a parks system that protects the full range of habitats in New South Wales, by encompassing a suite of arid ecosystems that are not currently protected, or are underrepresented, in the national parks estate. It is special because it straddles two bioregions – the Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields and the Broken Hill Complex. It also protects 3 landscapes that are not protected in any other national park in the State and several more landscapes that are poorly reserved. It is diverse, protecting nearly 50 different ecosystems or plant community types – 21 of which are not reserved at the bioregional level.

The property features an array of arid zone landforms, from the rocky plateau of the Barrier Ranges – with floodplains, gilgais and drainage lines washing onto gibber plains – to the spectacular dunefields of the Strzelecki Desert. It embraces habitat for an estimated 30 threatened species including the Australian bustard, dusky hopping-mouse, eastern fat-tailed gecko and yellow-keeled swainsona, a small plant with pea-like flowers.

Lying on Ngurunta country in the west and Maljangapa country in the east, the property has considerable Aboriginal cultural heritage value, with significant artefacts and sites across the property including middens, quarries and burial sites.

Avenel is set to become an exciting new visitor destination with campgrounds, 4WD circuits and walking trails planned for the location.



*Avenel Station, purchased under the Land Acquisition Program, will contribute to the NSW Government’s goal to create a parks system that protects the full range of habitats in NSW.*





*Bundjalung National Park.*

## **Bundjalung National Park – koala property**

A 751.9-hectare property located 18 kilometres north of Maclean has been acquired to add to Bundjalung National Park. It forms part of a vegetated link from south of the Richmond River to the Clarence River in an area known to be important for koalas. Opportunities to acquire such a large (over 500 hectares) high-quality koala habitat along the NSW coastal strip are scarce and this property will bring many benefits.

The land will add about 300 hectares of high-quality koala habitat to the national park. Koalas are known to occupy tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), a primary food tree, which occurs throughout the moister sections of the property, as well as red mahogany (*E. resinifera*) and broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*). Secondary koala food trees, grey gum (*E. biturbinata*) and white box (*E. albens*) are also found there. The remainder of the property is expected to be used by koalas to move across the landscape.

The property was impacted by the 2019–20 fires but koala specialists expect koalas to recolonise the land as the vegetation recovers. Individual koalas are likely to have survived in unburnt areas on, or adjoining the property, which is known to have previously supported koalas. Generational koala records show that they persist and continue to occupy habitat in this area despite its long history of fire.

Increasing the area managed for koala habitat in the national park estate will increase their resilience to threats and the land is also likely to provide habitat for at least 15 other threatened animals. These include the yellow-bellied glider, powerful owl, masked owl, barking owl, little bent-wing bat, grey-headed flying-fox and glossy black-cockatoo.

This land will also improve practical access to the national park for management and fire control purposes.



# Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

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

## Achievements 2021–22

- Murray Local Land Services enhanced the habitat and food sources for threatened squirrel gliders in Burrumbuttock by installing 144 nest boxes and planting 140 food resource trees, protected with stock-proof tree guards. There have been signs of squirrel gliders (leaf nests) in 22 of the boxes and 5 squirrel gliders recorded in 3 boxes.
- Ballina Shire Council has worked with 5 local landholders to restore 6 hectares of nationally threatened Big Scrub Lowland Subtropical Rainforest. The site stretches along 2 waterways – Marom Creek and Chilcotts Creek – in the Ballina Shire. Over 7,500 plants were installed and stock-exclusion fencing protects the new plantings and riparian areas.
- Bellinger Landcare has connected 20 hectares of riparian habitat along the Bellinger River to support the recovery of the Bellinger River snapping turtle. Volunteers have given over 2,900 hours of their time to carry out weed control across the 20 hectares and they have installed over 1,000 plants.
- The Threatened Species Conservancy has helped the recovery of the endangered harrow wattle in western New South Wales. Seed was collected from natural harrow wattle populations at Tapio Station (Mourquong) and 100 seeds were sown in a protected enclosure site at Rick Farley Soil Conservation Reserve.

## Grants awarded in 2021–22



Applications received  
**69**



Funding sought  
**\$8,975,381**



Grants funded  
**35**



Funding awarded  
**\$4,792,193**

## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program outcomes



**7,033 hectares regenerated** by native regrowth after weeding, fencing, erosion control or pest control



**623 hectares revegetated** by planting or direct seeding



**57 organisations** adopted improved land management practices



**3,169 volunteers** contributed 88,229 hours



**507 contractors** employed for 77,507 hours



**7,740 people** attended **437** training and other events

**2,064 students** (primary, secondary and tertiary) involved for over 4,964 hours

Note: This data is drawn from 126 projects that were funded in the 2017–19 grant years, with 32 of these projects (25%) now complete. Several of these projects have had extensions due to drought conditions, bushfires, floods and the impact of COVID-19.

Table 1

## Restoration and Rehabilitation grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian River Restoration Centre	Rivers of Carbon – Crookwell	Upper Lachlan Shire	\$149,750
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Red-tailed Phascogale translocation to Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary	Wentworth Shire	\$115,000
Big Scrub Landcare	Facilitating the restoration of 2 endangered rainforest communities and the recovery of 36 of their threatened species	Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Lismore City	\$149,970
BirdLife Australia	Direct seeding mistletoe into the canopy – a novel approach to return the regent honeyeater and its song to the woodlands	Cessnock City, Upper Hunter Shire	\$169,261
Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc	Broken Head Coastal Corridor Restoration Stage 3 – linking to Coopers Shoot	Byron Shire	\$170,000
Bundjalung Tribal Society Ltd	Youngman's Creek Watershed Rehabilitation	Ballina Shire	\$114,039
Camden Council	Nepean River Bank Restoration	Camden Council	\$114,000
Department of Planning and Environment	Climate adaptation action for threatened species in the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area	Kyogle Council, Tweed Shire	\$159,000
Department of Planning and Environment (NPWS)	Edwards Montane Wetland Complex, Carters Road Wildfire; Scotch broom Eradication and Containment	MidCoast Council	\$169,000
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Wagonga Inlet Living Shorelines Project	Eurobodalla Shire	\$135,590
Federation University Australia	Securing long-term survival of Sandhill Pine Woodland	Wentworth Shire	\$130,888
Foundation for Green Future Australia Ltd	Restoration of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub at Henry Head Lane, Kamay Bay National Park	Randwick City	\$99,825
Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve	Friends improving koala habitat and connectivity on the Tweed Coast – Stage 2	Tweed Shire	\$115,000
GLENRAC Inc	Increasing Biodiversity to Enhance Endangered Ecological Communities Glen Innes	Glen Innes Severn Shire	\$149,998
Hunter Local Land Services	Wollombi Brook Habitat Restoration – Linking Communities with Icon Species	Singleton Shire	\$170,000
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Lake Illawarra Project	Wollongong City	\$147,526

## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
MidCoast Council	Smiths Lake yellow-bellied glider habitat protection and enhancement	MidCoast Council	\$143,220
Murray Local Land Services	Erosion intervention and waterway protection in the West Hume Landcare area	Greater Hume Shire	\$152,177
Odonata Foundation	Odonata Foundation –Boxthorn removal at Juanbung Station	Balranald Shire	\$100,000
Palm Grove Ourimbah Creek Landcare Inc	Ourimbah Creek Riparian Zone Rehabilitation	Central Coast Council	\$100,000
Petaurus Education Group Inc	Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider LAMP – the last leaps to creating one connected landscape patch	Greater Hume Shire	\$170,000
Port Stephens Council	Anna Bay Koala Hub –Protection and Connectivity –Stream 2	Port Stephens Council	\$148,724
Randwick City Council	Restoring Critically Endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub –Wassell St, Chifley	Randwick City	\$74,720
Richmond Landcare Inc	Rosy futures: Mitigating threats and supporting climate change adaptation of rosewood mistletoe in Lowland Subtropical Rainforest at Alstonville	Ballina Shire	\$115,000
Riverina Local Land Services	Securing the Black Falcon in the Riverina	Carrathool Shire, Griffith City, Hay Shire, Leeton Shire, Narrandera Shire, Murrumbidgee Shire	\$163,765
Riverina Local Land Services	Securing a Riverina Squirrel Glider population through Local Area Management Plans	Wagga Wagga City	\$167,782
South Lismore Duck Pond Landcare Inc	Rehabilitation of Eastern Embankment of Duck Pond Wetland	Lismore City	\$60,752
South West Rocks Community Dune Care	To enhance the resilience of coastal dune systems and protect Littoral Rainforest communities at Smoky Beach and Trial Bay	Kempsey Shire	\$155,756
The Mulloon Institute Ltd	Molonglo Catchment Rehydration Initiative Stage 2 –Foxlow	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	\$170,000
Trees in Newcastle Inc	Restoration in the Shire: Littoral Rainforest Rehabilitation in Port Stephens	Port Stephens Council	\$112,716



## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Tuntable Creek Landcare Inc	Nightcap Connector Stage 2	Lismore City, Tweed Shire	\$50,003
Tweed Landcare Inc	Filling the Biodiversity Gaps Connecting Tweed Coast to Border Ranges – Stage 8	Tweed Shire	\$170,000
Tweed Shire Council	Tweed & Kyogle Community on Feral Deer Alert	Kyogle Council, Tweed Shire	\$166,968
Western Local Land Services	Looking to the Future – Saving the Grey Range Thick-billed Grasswren	Unincorporated Far West NSW	\$169,560
Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council Mallabula Point Restoration	Port Stephens Council	\$142,203
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$4,792,193</b>

Milestone payments for all active restoration and rehabilitation grants in 2021–22: \$3,516,711.

## CASE STUDY

### Real life restoration: Rivers of Carbon, Grabben Gullen



*Grabben Gullen – Rivers of Carbon, before restoration works.*



*Grabben Gullen – Rivers of Carbon, after revegetation works.*

The Rivers of Carbon (RoC) Grabben Gullen project brought together a group of dedicated landholders who worked cooperatively towards a future of rich biodiversity and landscape sustainability for their land.

The 5 landholders' properties, which spanned an area from Gunning to Crookwell, included sites of various sizes, each with a unique landscape. Throughout the project – which was led by the Australian River Restoration Centre – the landholders kept in mind their vision for the future as they faced challenges that included drought, fire, floods, hail and the impacts of COVID-19.

There were two key aims to the RoC Grabben Gullen project – biodiversity connectivity for native wildlife and improvements to water quality for downstream communities and farm productivity. To make these outcomes possible, the project included incentives for fencing, native revegetation, alternative stock water sources, small-scale erosion works and minor woody weed removal. Also, through community get-togethers and local workshops on waterway management, landholders have been equipped with the tools and knowledge to keep up riparian restoration long after the completion of the project.

As a result of this \$96,620 project, some 4,800 metres of fencing was installed and over 3,600 plants planted. This has helped to regenerate and connect 242 hectares of local wildlife habitat and connect 9 kilometres of aquatic habitat in riparian areas. Understorey and ground cover vegetation benefited too, as restoration areas were fenced to protect them from domestic stock and were revegetated with trees, shrubs and grasses. Where direct water sources were lost through this project they were returned in the form of alternative stock water, using gravity or solar pumps to fill paddock troughs. The result is that landholders have better off-stream water quality sources that help to improve water security on their farms.

The Australian River Restoration Centre is proud to work with such passionate and committed landholders, supported by project partners and the wider community. Further information on this project can be found at the Rivers of Carbon website: [riversofcarbon.org.au](http://riversofcarbon.org.au).

# Saving our Species Partnership Grants Program

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

## Achievements 2021–22

- The effects of hydrological change on the Blue Mountains water skink and the giant dragonfly have become much better understood and management strategies are now better designed to protect these important, endangered species from the impacts of long-wall mining in the Blue Mountains region.
- On-ground works have improved 500 hectares of habitat for the vulnerable scarlet robin in the Southern Highlands. The works included protection of remnant vegetation and the planting of native plants on 47 properties across the region.
- In the Central Tablelands region, a successful captive breeding program has been carried out for the yellow-spotted tree frog, spotted tree frog and Macquarie perch, as well as the successful translocation and natural recruitment of each species. There has also been success in seed collection, propagation, translocation and natural recruitment of the Tumut grevillea.

Round 1 projects are now in the maintenance phase which is funded by grantees and their project partners. Maintenance, monitoring and reporting activities will continue until Year 10 in 2026.

Round 2 projects will begin their final year of Trust funding in the 22-23 financial year.

The 2020–21 floods and the continuing effects of COVID-19 affected many of the SoS projects. However, most of the grantees found ways of adapting to the circumstances and were able to deliver their expected project outcomes.

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



**1,559 hectares** of degraded habitat regenerating after weeding



**150,111 seedlings** planted



**484 hectares** of native habitat revegetated



**3,936 hectares** of habitat protected through fencing



**2,112 volunteers** contributed **74,458 hours** of work towards conservation or regeneration activities



**2,328 people** participated in 143 training events in conservation or regeneration activities



**296 educational** resources developed so far

Note: This data is drawn from the stage 6 reports submitted by the five SOS partnership projects awarded in 2014 and the stage 5 reports from the four SOS partnership projects awarded in 2015.

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2021–22: \$926,237.



## CASE STUDY

### Saving the scarlet robin

The soft warbling trill of the vulnerable scarlet robin is a welcome sound for those who are working to protect its future. This small bird's favoured habitat is woodland with plenty of shrubs, leaf litter and fallen timber, but such ideal conditions can sometimes be hard to find.

The \$989,997 Save our Scarlet Robin project, managed by South East Local Land Services, has a long-term aim of inspiring local community action to protect the robin and its habitat. Now in the second half of its 10-year run, the project works closely with the many landholders who are taking steps to improve the robin's habitat on their properties. Project partners, including Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C), Molonglo Conservation Group, Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council, have all been involved in running events that help community members improve their skills in bird identification, revegetation of cleared land and pest control.

The scarlet robin is an insectivore and searches for its food in shrubs and ground cover, often foraging from a low perch or fence post. It needs vegetation cover for shelter and for protection from larger predatory birds. Local landholders have been given opportunities to receive funding to help them protect existing habitat and establish new patches of native vegetation.

Restoration of woodland habitat is mutually beneficial for landholders and robins. New native plantings help to stabilise the soil and can provide shade for livestock. Even 'stepping-stone plantings', spaced at about 100 metres, can help the robin avoid moving across large open distances where it would be exposed to danger.

In the final years of the project there will be an emphasis on the maintenance and monitoring of project sites. Additionally, all of those involved in the project will continue to spread the word about how the scarlet robin population can be protected.



*The Trust's SoS Partnership Grants Program is helping to save the scarlet robin.*

# Saving our Species Contestable Grants Program

**A \$9-million program, running until 2025, to support 26 long-term projects targeting threatened ecological communities and landscape-managed species, aligned with the NSW Government's Saving our Species program objectives.**

## Achievements 2021–22

- On-ground work in the Murray catchment has created connections between many formerly isolated and fragmented patches of habitat, which will support an increase in the Burrumbuttock squirrel glider population. Mapping works already show that the glider population is on track to double in size by the end of the project.
- The Nari Nari Tribal Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment worked together to bring about optimal watering regimes across 3 target wetlands, covering over 47,000 hectares of floodplain. The result was a deep-water habitat for ducks and bitterns and shallow muddy areas for snipe and waders. It also watered areas that were previously excluded from environmental water. The rehabilitation of these areas has begun, providing habitat for thousands of waterbirds.
- Successful primary weeding of over 40 hectares of lantana in the Clarence Valley region has helped to conserve and protect Chambigne Dry Rainforest, a threatened ecological community. Monitoring of the project's results has shown an improvement in the health and species mix across 3 of the sites, as well as the discovery of a rare orchid, *Sarcochilus parviflorus*.

Grantees and their project partners have had to deal with highly unusual challenges over the past year as they have carried out on-ground activities and research. Many of the projects have been extended and some activities adapted to make sure the planned long-term environmental outcomes are met.

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

## Saving our Species Contestables outcomes



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



**41,080 seedlings** planted and **301.5 hectares** revegetated by planting or direct seeding



**301** Conservation and Land Management **Agreements**



**649** volunteers contributed **10,364** hours  
**87** contractors employed for **21,492** hours



**70** organisations actively collaborating



**81** educational products developed



**3,834** people attended **118** training and other events

Note: This data comes from all 26 projects' Stage 3 reports.

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2021–22: \$1,784,841.



## CASE STUDY

### Preserving Box Gum Grassy Woodland



*Mid Lachlan Landcare group is working to protect the critically endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodland in a fenced remnant area.*

In the central west of New South Wales, dedicated property owners, volunteers and the Mid Lachlan Landcare group are working to preserve and support the critically endangered ecological community commonly known as Box Gum Grassy Woodland. The National Recovery Plan estimates that about 90% of this woodland's pre-European distribution has been lost but the work being carried out today will help to slowly reverse that trend.

The Mid Lachlan Landcare group is central to this effort and through its Box Gum Grassy Woodland on Farm project has a plan to both protect the existing stands and encourage their expansion. The key species that make up the woodland – white box, yellow box and Blakely's red gum – co-exist with an understorey of native grasses such as kangaroo grass, poa tussock and wallaby grasses, and herbs such as narrow-leaf New Holland daisy and bluebells.

On the board for this project are four volunteer community members, representing Cowra Woodland Birds, Australian National University Sustainable Farms, Central Tablelands Local Land Services and a senior team leader from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Now in its fourth year, the \$294,385 project is well underway and more than 30 projects have been set up on individual farms, including a range of on-ground works that will help to protect and conserve remnant Box Gum Grassy Woodland.

Training sessions for farmers have helped them to:

- improve their understanding of ecosystem function
- learn the importance of protecting and enhancing the remnant Box Gum Grassy Woodland on their farms
- understand the threats to this endangered ecological community
- include Landcare and habitat restoration as part of their farming systems.

The defence of this critically endangered woodland involves action followed by careful monitoring. Activities include fencing off remnant areas or installing fencing circles within an already fenced remnant, planting understorey plants, controlling weeds and changing grazing practices in the remnant areas.

As part of the monitoring phase, Mid Lachlan Landcare carries out a technically valid assessment using the Rapid BAM (Biodiversity Assessment Method) on each property involved in the project. Team members also do bird and fungi surveys, and compile species lists to build a picture of the species distribution across the farms.

The information gained from these important monitoring activities is valuable for the Saving our Species database and helps landholders to make evidence-based decisions for the management of Box Gum Grassy Woodland on their farms. All of the work carried out will protect this critically endangered ecological community into the future.

# Bush Connect Program

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

## Achievements 2021–22

- More than 150 Landcare volunteers collected native seed and contributed it to the Berry Public School Nursery. They also planted over 1,500 native tubestock plants, which will strengthen habitat connectivity throughout the Berry Corridor project area.
- Landholders across 42 sites in the Goulburn District have been involved in a local Rivers of Carbon project. They have completed fencing, set up alternative stock water, carried out erosion works, planted tubestock and sowed by direct seeding. These activities all help to increase, enhance and link remnant vegetation by restoring riparian corridors, which improves biodiversity and connectivity across the region.
- A further 275.5 hectares of vegetation on farms has been enhanced, restored and connected to 3,367 hectares of wildlife habitat, supported within the first 5 years of the Slopes to Summit project area.
- Over 15,000 volunteer hours have contributed to the regeneration of more than 137 hectares of forest across 17 properties, which will restore and create linkages between Wilsons and Coopers creeks in the Goonengerry area.

## Bush Connect Program outcomes since 2015



**5,989 hectares** of new bushland corridors created



**202,361 seedlings** planted and **52 kilograms** of native seed sown, helping to revegetate **747 hectares**



**1,693 hectares** of degraded bushland currently under regeneration



**121 kilometres** of fencing installed, protecting over **1,500 hectares**



**102 contractors** employed for **42,503 hours** on conservation activities



**2,247 volunteers** contributed **125,711 hours** to on-ground works

Note: This data comes from 15 projects, with 10 reports from Stage 6, and the balance reporting on Stages 4 and 5.

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2021–22: \$313,669.



# River Connections Program

**The \$8,999,220 project, Refreshing River Management – New partnership and stewardship pathways for improving river health, led by the Murray Local Land Services, is a large-scale, long-term collaboration between community and government organisations. The project partners will develop new approaches for integrated river management to improve riparian and river health across 2,500 hectares in 3 pilot areas in the Murray and Riverina regions.**

## Achievements 2021–22

- During Stage 1, the project leadership group and partners have focused on formalising their roles and responsibilities and have made sure a strong governance framework is in place to underpin the project's delivery.
- There are 3 project target areas – Upper Billabong, Riverina Highlands and Central Billabong. Three Waterway Management Plans are being developed and will be used to guide the on-ground works and monitoring for each area. Literature reviews and community consultation sessions have been carried out. Griffith University (a project partner) has used a social marketing program to gather information from landholders, particularly their values and motivators. Workshops for each target area are planned for October and November 2022.
- Project promotion and awareness-raising activities have been a key feature of the past 12 months, which included video interviews, establishing a social media presence, and the collection of community input for each of the project areas via targeted web surveys. The ability to provide direct input into the project design was highly valued by the local communities. Members of the project team have attended field days and festivals, which has helped raise awareness of the project's objectives. It has also spurred landholders' interest in being involved in the project.

# Major restoration and rehabilitation projects



*NPWS staff in the Snowy region, working to eradicate Hawkweed.*

## Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication

This project commenced in 2018–19 when the Trust awarded \$7,270,500 to NPWS to deliver the Accelerating Hawkweed Eradication project for a period of 10 years. The project uses several different approaches in its efforts to eradicate orange and mouse-ear hawkweed from New South Wales. One is to support the development of new detection tools and techniques to locate weeds. Other approaches include research to fill knowledge gaps, increasing surveillance capacity, and improving early detection through public education and innovative behaviour-change campaigns. The project also engages with community volunteers in protecting the biodiversity and production values of the Snowy Monaro Region.

A new outlier infestation was discovered in 2020, so in 2021–22 the project's focus changed. The new approach concentrated on defining the extent and location of orange hawkweed infestation using

innovative remote detection mechanisms such as drones and helicopter aerial surveillance. This helped the researchers make significant progress in the search for orange hawkweed.

During 2021–22, project partners surveyed 9,514 hectares of new orange hawkweed area across public and private land, including an impressive 9,374 hectares of aerial surveillance. Three new locations were found on private property and 7 within Kosciuszko National Park, all of which were either near or between known locations.

NPWS and partner agency staff, volunteers and weed detection dogs surveyed over 50 hectares for mouse-ear hawkweed. One new site was found near an existing site. Control measures were applied at all the known orange and mouse-ear hawkweed sites.

The project is ongoing until 2029.



## Bushfire Relief Fund for Wildlife Rehabilitators

The \$998,900 Bushfire Relief Fund for Wildlife Rehabilitators program was established in response to the devastating impact of the 2019-20 bushfire season, which burnt over 5 million hectares of bushland and resulted in significant impacts to native wildlife.

NPWS partnered with the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife to provide funding from the Relief Fund to volunteer rehabilitators and worked with emergency response agencies and support organisations to improve coordination and enhance capacity for wildlife response in bushfire operations. The funding also helped to enhance access to veterinary support for wildlife response in emergencies.

As well as training vets and nurses to increase capacity of the veterinary sector during future emergency events, the funding has enabled volunteers to be trained in bushfire awareness and response, and helped Taronga Conservation Society Australia develop an electronic handbook on wildlife emergency response for firefighters. The handbook, and an online training course, are now available to all NSW firefighters.

An evaluation of the 7-week trial of a 'NSW Televet Service for Wildlife' in 2021 has provided several recommendations for a second trial of the Televet service.

The program is due for completion in late 2022.



*The rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife is supported as part of the Bushfire Relief Fund project.*

## Contaminated Land Management Program – Council Gasworks

This program provides funding to eligible councils to help with the investigation and remediation of former council gasworks sites.

In 2021-22, the Trust awarded up to \$200,000 for investigation and up to \$500,000 for remediation of a former council gasworks site in Parkes.

Investigation work has also been carried out at former council gasworks sites in Dubbo and Tamworth. Similar work that is currently underway in Orange and Wellington is due to be finished in 2022-23.

Table 2

### Contaminated Land Management grant awarded 2021-22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Parkes Shire Council	Former Parkes Council Gasworks Site Investigation and Remediation	Parkes Shire	\$700,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$700,00</b>

### Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program – Phase 2

Flying-fox populations are in decline because of threats such as habitat loss and extreme weather events. Under the Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program, critical work is being done to find and share ways of enhancing, restoring or creating flying-fox habitat so that conflict with humans is reduced. In 2018, \$5 million was awarded to Local Government NSW for this 12-year program.

During the past year, Trust funding has supported activities under the Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program Phase 2. The program provides funding for eligible councils through 2 funding streams: Flying-fox Camp Habitat Restoration and Flying-fox Foraging Habitat Restoration.

Fourteen Flying-fox Camp Habitat Restoration applications have been received and 3 applications – for MidCoast Council, Fairfield City Council and Singleton Council – have been funded so far.

Three Flying-fox Foraging Habitat Restoration applications were received and 2 applications – for MidCoast Council and Shellharbour City Council – have been funded so far.

Other applications are being assessed and the program will continue into the next financial year.

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### Lord Howe Island Weed Eradication

Lord Howe Island continues to experience an ecological revival. The reproductive capacity of the island's flora has been enhanced, helped by the eradication of rodents and a break in the 3-year drought. The increase in the quantity of flowers and fruits is noticeable and there are rafts of seedling beds across most flora species.

The \$508,946 program has been funded since 2015, and is now in its final reporting year. It has shown the importance of weed search, to address the immediate threat of widespread weeds and to act early on new invaders. The Lord Howe Island Board pre-emptively listed 68 priority weeds for eradication, using various methods including unique and innovative technologies.

This year the project has used drones to detect weeds from above, and continued efforts to control weeds at a distance using specialised herbicide capsules fired from a paintball marker.



*Drones are helping to eradicate weeds on Lord Howe Island.*



### NSW Rewilding Initiative

In 2021, the NPWS was awarded a 10-year, \$20.289-million grant to set up four new feral-predator-free areas across New South Wales. The sites, with a total area of around 45,000 hectares, were chosen and work has already begun at all of them. The sites are: Western Sydney (Shanes Park), North-east New South Wales (Ngambaa Nature Reserve), Central New South Wales (Yathong Nature Reserve) and South-east New South Wales at Nungatta (South East Forest National Park).

**Western Sydney.** The Premier announced a new 500-hectare national park and feral-predator-free area at Shanes Park in September 2021. Approvals have been given for the Statement of Management Intent and a review of environmental factors. Final designs of the fence are finished, and baseline surveys have begun. Vegetation management at the site began in June 2022.

**North-east New South Wales.** The Minister for Environment approved an amendment to the Ngambaa Nature Reserve Plan of Management on 1 October 2021. Since then, important access and road reserve issues have been resolved with the Forestry Corporation of NSW and baseline surveys have begun. All of the relevant environmental and cultural heritage assessments have been finished and will be exhibited in the next financial year.

**Central New South Wales.** Revision of the Central Mallee Reserves Plan of Management was approved by the Minister for Environment on 1 October 2021. The final fence alignment for the site has been changed in consideration of native title implications on the former Yathong State Forest land. Concept plans for staff accommodation and onsite storage and maintenance facilities at Yathong Homestead have been prepared. A detailed, staged implementation plan has been completed, which

involves the construction of internal fencing along existing fire trails. All of the relevant environmental and cultural heritage assessments have been completed and will be exhibited soon.



*Mallee Cliffs fence.*

**South-east New South Wales.** In May 2022 the Minister for Environment announced a 2000-hectare site in South East Forest National Park as the latest feral-predator-free area. A draft amendment to the South East Forest National Park and Egan Peaks Nature Reserve Plan of Management has been prepared and exhibited. All of the relevant environmental and cultural heritage assessments have been finished and will be exhibited soon.

Recruitment of the project team across all sites is near completion. Already completed are important fire reserve management planning, eradication planning, detailed engineering design and delivery of fencing materials.

## Seed funding grants

An important part of the Trust’s role is to support grantees as they develop business plans for their projects. This is the purpose of seed funding grants. During 2021–22, 2 grants were awarded to assist in the development of business plans for the Large Forest Owls – Safe Havens, and Seabirds to Seascapes – Protecting Coastal Biodiversity projects.

The Large Forest Owls project will focus on activities that will rehabilitate high-priority areas of barking owl habitat. The information gained will be shared through partner organisations to help guide ongoing management of the habitat.

The Seabirds to Seascapes project will focus on understanding how coastal restoration influences marine species, as well as broader biodiversity.

Table 3

### Seed funding grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Large Forest Owls – Safe Havens	Clarence Valley Council and Richmond Valley Council	\$20,700
Department of Planning and Environment	Seabirds to Seascapes – Protecting Coastal Biodiversity	Statewide	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$40,700</b>

Milestone payments for all active major restoration and rehabilitation grants in 2021–22: \$1,863,814.



# Protecting our Places Program

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

## Achievements 2021–22

- Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council land needed protection from illegal access to the property. More than 500 metres of fencing was installed to protect 25 hectares from the impacts of such illegal access. This has prevented injury to fauna, damage to vegetation caused by 4WD vehicles, and has reduced the risk of unmanaged fire and the dumping of rubbish.
- Community volunteers supported by Blue Mountains City Council have contributed over 180 hours to rehabilitate riparian vegetation along Kedumba Creek and have created habitat around the lake at The Gully Aboriginal Place. During the past 12 months, over 50 species of birds were recorded using the rehabilitating Catalina Lake and its adjacent riparian zone. More than 6 hectares have been treated for weeds and 1,000 native plants installed. Logs, rock piles and reptile shelters were added to create a range of habitat types to protect wildlife from predators such as off-leash dogs, foxes and cats. The meeting, yarning and healing area next to the lake was also finished.
- Budjiti Traditional Owners held two cultural camps, with 20 Budjiti people taking part. The participants walked Country looking for artefacts; checking on the health of plants, waterways and animals; and searching for bush medicines. The knowledge they shared supported an invaluable intergenerational exchange and led to a revision of the Budjiti bush tucker booklet and the development of a bush tucker poster.
- At Mount Keira Summit Park, 9.4 hectares were treated for weeds and 0.25 hectares planted with around 1,000 native plants. Aboriginal people were employed to undertake the work, which took around 411 hours.

### Grants awarded in 2021–22



Applications received  
**13**



Grants funded  
**7**



Funding sought  
**\$961,148**



Funding awarded  
**\$557,694**

## Protecting our Places Program outcomes



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



**585 volunteers** have contributed over **5,110** hours, and **32 contractors** employed for more than **2,110** hours



**215 Aboriginal people on Country**, who contributed over **6,100** hours



**480 people** participated in **61** training events in conservation or regeneration activities



**10.75 hectares** revegetated with **6850** trees, shrubs and grasses planted (including bush tucker)



**80 organisations** actively collaborating on these projects

Note: This data is drawn from 5 projects awarded in 2017, 4 projects in 2018 and 2 projects in 2019 that have been approved to progress to Stage 2 implementation. Several of these projects have had extensions due to drought conditions, bushfires, floods and the impact of COVID-19.

Table 4

### Protecting our Places grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Ltd	Gilah Gardens – Stage 2	Albury City	\$80,000
Blue Mountains Dharug Association	Healthy Dharug Ngurra Project	Blue Mountains City	\$78,800
Bundjalung Tribal Society Ltd	Employing Bundjalung People to Showcase the Youngman's Creek Watershed Rehabilitation	Ballina Shire	\$79,994
Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	Fire Management for CHDLALC Owned Land at Ya Warra	Coffs Harbour City	\$80,000
Dorodong Association Incorporated	Dorodong Association Indigenous Protected Area Cultural Restoration Project	Bellingen Shire	\$80,000
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Lake Illawarra Entrance: Conservation and Restoration of a Culturally Sensitive Landscape	Wollongong City Shellharbour City	\$80,000
Nari Nari Tribal Council	Back From the Brink – Hay Plains Plains Wanderer Protection Project	Hay Shire	\$78,900
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$557,694</b>

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2021–22: \$274,938.



## CASE STUDY

### A place of healing and restoration



The Gully Aboriginal Place in the Blue Mountains, not far from Katoomba’s busy main street, is gradually being regenerated with the help of Trust funding.

The Gully Traditional Owners have shared their stories and cultural knowledge and invited the broader Blue Mountains community, including schools, to work alongside them. They plan to restore The Gully Aboriginal Place and develop The Gully as a principal site for practical reconciliation in the Blue Mountains.

The project has included bush regeneration and stream-bank stabilisation as well as habitat-enhancement planting around the lake. The lake itself attracts more than 50 species of birds and it provides a home for long-necked turtles, crayfish, native fish and frogs. The Gully Traditional Owners’ co-management and land management capacity has been strengthened through training sessions and there has been a program of activities to support cultural awareness through events and workshops.

The enthusiastic local Garguree Swampcare Group has worked for many years to help the Blue Mountains City Council’s environment team and The Gully Traditional Owners slowly transform the edge of Catalina Lake.

In February 2022 a group of about 40 Garguree volunteers met the team from ABC TV’s *Gardening Australia*, led by Costa Georgiadis, to devote their morning to planting some 200 swamp plants near the edge of the lake. This is in line with the Traditional Owners’ vision for a natural habitat to surround the lake –providing a suitable habitat for native fauna –rather than mown grass.

Traditional Owners Aunty Sharyn and David King welcomed the group to Country and talked about The Gully and Garguree, sharing The Gully’s story of healing and restoration. A meeting, yarning and healing area developed next to the lake has been an important part of the restoration.

After their morning’s work was over the whole group enjoyed a bush tucker feast and watched the yellow-tailed black cockatoos circle overhead.



Top: The yarning circle, on the edge of Catalina Lake. Above: Volunteers planted 200 swamp plants during the Gardening Australia visit.

# Environmental Education Program

A \$1-million annual program intended to develop the community’s knowledge, skills and commitment to improving the environment. Involvement in the program should encourage behaviour change so that the community is ready for sustainability challenges.

## Grants awarded in 2021–22



Applications received  
**50**



Funding sought  
**\$5,763,121**



Grants funded  
**9**



Funding awarded  
**\$978,103**

## Achievements 2021–22

- Nearly 50 early childhood centres, schools and tertiary organisations registered projects through the Take Me Outside program, which encourages participants to adopt a natural space and value the environmental importance of such spaces.
- The Sounding the Chorus of Frogs in Corowa Wetlands program focused on creating an awareness of local frogs and protecting their habitat. Two local wetlands have been remediated as part of this program.
- Over 3 years, Trust funds were used to support Waverley Council Living Connections program to provide over 5,000 native plants to schools, households and community gardens for planting in the Waverley LGA.

## Environmental Education Program outcomes



**431** training and awareness raising events delivered to **20,043** people



**306** educational products and resources produced



**6,100** students (primary, secondary and tertiary) involved for **11,188** hours



**305** volunteers contributed over **4,307** hours



**212** organisations involved and/or collaborating on these projects

Note: This data is drawn from 25 projects that were funded in the 2017–2019 grant years, with 10 of these projects (40%) now complete. COVID lockdowns and floods impacted some of these projects during this reporting timeframe.

The Environmental Education Program was not offered in 2018 as the program was being redesigned based on program evaluation recommendations.



Table 5

## Environmental Education grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Byron Coastal and ICOLL Centre Inc	Byron Bay ICOLL (Intermittently Closed and Open Lake Lagoon) rehabilitation through citizen science	Byron Shire	\$56,930
Department of Planning and Environment	Creating Community through Communication: Using a Systems-based Framework to Foster Community Engagement within the Biodiversity and Culturally rich Cessnock Forests	Cessnock City	\$250,000
Griffith University	Promoting Renewable Energy Adoption through E-Waste Upcycling	Tweed Shire	\$60,000
Ku-ring-gai Council	Sustainable Riding in Nature	Ku-ring-gai Council	\$28,500
MidCoast Council	Backyards for Biodiversity in Smiths Lake	MidCoast Council	\$59,740
Murrumbidgee Landcare Association Inc.	Connecting young people with nature: Benefits for biodiversity, mental health and social connection	Wagga Wagga City	\$60,000
Riverina Local Land Services	Box Gum Grassy Woodlands – transforming the value for land-holders from bush to generational asset	Wagga Wagga City	\$161,933
University of Canberra	Environmental Sustainability Education Program for the NSW Construction Industry	Sydney City	\$60,000
Waminda	Grow Harvest Heal – saving our species through traditional food stories	MidCoast Council	\$241,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$978,103</b>

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2021–22: \$934,317.

## CASE STUDY

### Cessnock City Council's Citizens, Science & Woodland Birds of Cessnock



*This threatened species mural, painted on a local business, was inspired by the Trust-funded project in the Cessnock City Council area.*

The forests of the Cessnock LGA are hotspots of biodiversity for woodland birds. These areas are extremely important because they represent the last large woodland remnant on the floor of the Lower Hunter Valley and so are home to a range of birds that are restricted to unfragmented lowland habitats. The area is also recognised as being vitally important for the critically endangered regent honeyeater which breeds there, and the swift parrot.

Many of these woodland areas are affected by rubbish dumping, vandalism, arson and illegal firewood collection. Cessnock City Council could have viewed this as a costly nuisance but instead took action to help the community learn the value of the forests. Council set about increasing awareness of the importance of the forests as habitat for woodland birds, many of which are declining nationally. The regent honeyeater became a 'flagship' species for the project because the area is so vital to the species' survival.

The \$92,014 project has built on the 'Threatened and Declining Woodland Birds of the Cessnock-Kurri Region' (2009) project, which showed there was community interest. Council worked with

established partners – BirdLife Australia, Hunter Local Land Services, the Department of Planning and Environment, Friends of Werakata National Park and Hunter Bird Observers Club – to attract members of the local community to a citizen science project that would give them the tools to gather information about the birds living in these forests.

Community members who became involved in biodiversity workshops and 'bioblitz' events found they were motivated to plant more trees, join local Landcare groups and work towards putting 51 hectares of land under conservation covenants. This project also brought about partnerships with other agencies and organisations and inspired members of the general public and the business community to become 'biodiversity champions'. Two business ambassadors offered to support the project and a mural featuring major threatened species was painted on the wall of a local business – an outcome that was never expected at the beginning of the project.

Those who have been involved so far will keep working to achieve a cultural shift, to a broader community that is passionate and proud of the local bushland and its biodiversity.



## Major education projects



Students learning about the environment through immersive learning.

### Immersive Learning

In July 2018, the Trust awarded a \$462,463 grant to the NPWS for the Immersive Learning project. The vision for the project was that it would fill a gap in environmental education by connecting classrooms in Western Sydney to natural and cultural heritage, specifically tailored to the needs of students in the area. The project, now in its fourth year, is currently being delivered online rather than face to face because of COVID-related impacts.

In partnership with Greening Australia, NPWS developed Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) Cooling Schools Google Site to host junior ranger content. This site has information for teachers, including videos, links and activities for students, and is linked to the NSW Syllabus in Geography, Science and Technology.

Using content developed for the Stage 4 teacher-guided excursions, NPWS is also developing a Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) Geography Google Site to include investigative, fieldwork-based environmental studies.

Both Google sites are intended to expand the capacity of teachers to teach their students about the local environment. They include activities and teacher instructions. Google Analytics will allow NPWS to find out how many users there are on each site, their level of interaction and their location.



RSPCA media campaign for 'Keeping Cats Safe at Home'.

### Keeping Cats Safe at Home

This project began in 2021 with a \$2.54-million, 4-year grant provided to the RSPCA NSW. It aims to reduce the impact of domestic cats on wildlife by encouraging cat owners to keep their cats safe at home. For many cat owners this will involve a change in behaviour and, in recognition of that, an expert behaviour-change consultant has been engaged to design and implement place-based behaviour-change strategies. Project impact will be monitored through an ecology research project with the University of New England.

Eleven councils from across New South Wales were selected to be partners in the project. They include urban, regional, remote, coastal and inland areas, which have a variety of cat-management challenges.

During the second year of the project, cat and cat owner data has been collected, tailored behaviour-change strategies have been completed and a social marketing campaign has been launched. The project officially launched in June 2022 and is now well into its implementation phase. Over its remaining years the project will develop a social marketing campaign and website, create a series of information handouts for cat owners, develop curriculum-linked content on cats for primary school children, and set up free cat desexing and microchipping programs.



## Performance Scorecards

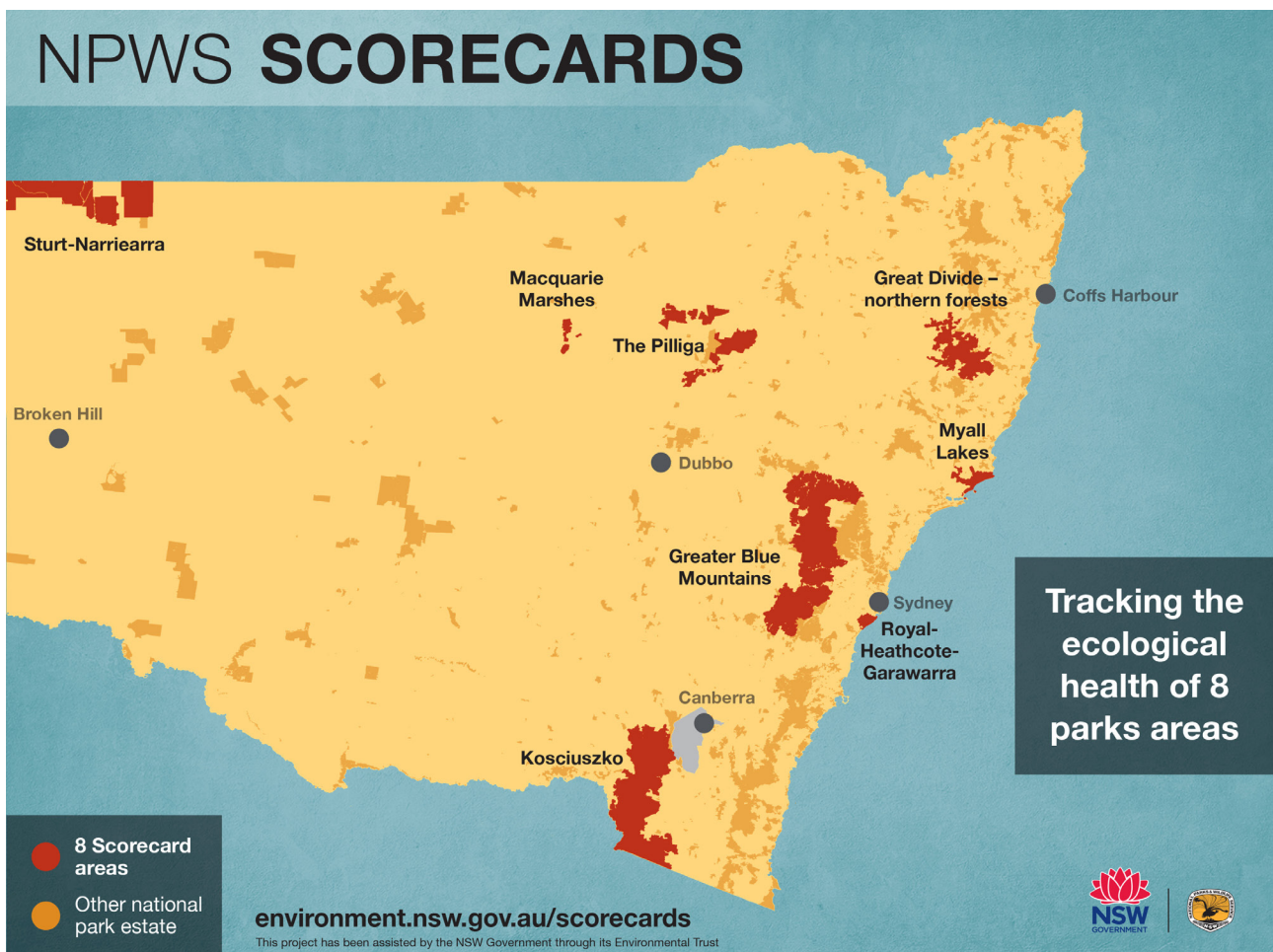
The National Park Performance Scorecards initiative (Scorecards) is a \$7-million program led by the NPWS which, using key ecological indicators, will allow a scientific assessment of the health of national parks over time. The information gained will contribute to monitoring and management decisions for the New South Wales national parks estate.

This year several milestones were achieved. The program:

- developed a NPWS Ecological Health Performance Scorecards Program Strategy
- developed Environmental Health Monitoring Plans in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW), containing a conceptual model, indicators, metrics and implementation plans, including survey design and methodology prepared for Tranche 1 sites (Kosciuszko National Park and Royal Heathcote/Garawarra)

- confirmed the 8 major national park aggregations for which scorecards will be produced (see a map of sites below)
- developed a draft Ecological Health Monitoring Framework to guide future implementation of the scorecards program across the NPWS estate
- purchased 400 outdoor monitoring cameras for the program, with supporting equipment for ecological monitoring of Tranche 1 sites and a preliminary survey of the data-deficient Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park.

Scorecards for Tranche 1 sites will be developed by December 2022. The results of the Tranche 1 pilot will then be analysed and will be used to guide the further rollout of the program across the other 6 scorecards areas. As the program grows, it will support resource prioritisation and capacity building, to make sure resources are focused on improving the health and conservation management of the NPWS estate.



NPWS scorecards site map.

### Plant Sure Environmentally Safe Ornamental Plant Scheme

Funding of \$1 million was awarded to the Nursery and Garden Industry of NSW and ACT in 2017, to prevent future environmental impacts from invasive weeds by reducing the availability of high-risk (weedy) ornamental plants from supply and trade in New South Wales. In Phase 2, the project will test the premise that the Plant Sure Scheme will make it easier for everyone to garden responsibly. This will involve conducting a 'proof of concept' 18-month trial in New South Wales, to find out if the scheme will be viable, credible and self-sustaining in the future.

Achievements this year:

- The project's [Plant Sure website](#) is up and running, including a detailed educational resource library, blog and access to the plant risk assessment tool and research portal.
- Close to 700 plant risk assessments were completed and added to the plant database in the [Plant Sure research portal](#). This will help users to easily identify plants of lower, medium and higher invasiveness.
- A further 4,379 ornamental plants, of the more than 30,000 traded in Australia, have been marked for priority assessment.
- The project has been promoted directly to more than 1,860 stakeholders through 6 face-to-face workshops, 11 online presentations and 3 conference presentations. These engagements have promoted the project, helped to gather stakeholder input and recruited participants to the scheme's trial.
- A communications, marketing and creative campaign to launch a trial in selected nurseries in Greater Sydney has been drafted and is ready for the launch in spring 2022.
- Social media channels have been established on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn to support the marketing campaign.
- The first demonstration garden was built in Western Sydney through collaboration with industry and local government partners. The garden is planted with ornamental plants of low invasive risk.
- Consultations have been held with other state industry associations; research organisations; and local, state and federal government agencies. These have helped to introduce the program and plan a national rollout after the trial period.



## Wildlife Heroes

This \$1.47-million grant awarded to the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife in 2019 is helping to care for wildlife carers. The funds are being used to increase the capacity of the volunteer wildlife rehabilitation sector to meet ongoing community demands for assistance with wildlife. The funds also help to improve animal care standards, support training for vets and volunteer wildlife carers and guarantee the ongoing sustainability of the sector.

This year the project achievements included:

- delivery of \$26,000 in grants through the Small Assets Fund to enable veterinary clinics that treat native wildlife to acquire assets for use in the rescue, treatment and rehabilitation of native animals
- provision of \$56,000 through the Flood Emergency Fund 2022 grant program to support wildlife rescue and rehabilitation volunteer groups affected by the NSW flood event of February 2022
- completion of the Q Fever Vaccination Grant Program, which increased the number of volunteer wildlife rehabilitators vaccinated against Q fever by 130
- continuation of Wildlife Friendly Vets programs, which include forming strategic partnerships with wildlife hospitals and expanding educational opportunities to encompass marine veterinarians

- expansion of the Caring for Carers campaign to its second phase, improving the physical and mental health of wildlife carers through a Q fever communication and vaccination campaign, and providing an ongoing podcast series
- improvement of emergency response in bushfire situations by funding placements in the Basic Wildfire Training course, the minimum requirement for being granted access to fire grounds in an emergency.



*Helping wildlife carers through the Wildlife Heroes project.*

## Seed funding

Seed funding was provided to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW to develop a business plan for the Voices for Power project which will be considered by the Trust in 2022–23.

Table 6

### Seed funding grant awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Voices for Power – Mobile Community Hub	Various in Western Sydney	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$20,000</b>

Milestone payments for all active major education grants in 2020–21: \$3,152,842.

# Environmental Research Program

**This year this \$500,000 program will assess the status of priority native plant species affected by the 2019–20 bushfires in New South Wales.**

Projects awarded under the 2021–22 round will support applied research to:

- address knowledge gaps in research
- gather evidence to assess the status of priority native plant species affected
- guide recovery strategies and actions for plant species affected by the 2019–20 bushfires.

## Achievements 2021–22\*

- The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) carried out research to develop a better understanding of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in sediment, especially the risks they pose to the health of benthic organisms in coastal estuarine and marine environments. This project found that organic carbon concentration had an influence on PFAS and causes acute and chronic toxicity to benthic invertebrates, thus contributing data and knowledge used to assess and manage risks posed by PFAS to benthic organisms and the broader aquatic estuarine–marine ecosystem.
- The University of Wollongong produced a world-first model of first-order fire impacts on fauna and the first Australian model of first-order impacts on flora and soils. The Fire Research and Modelling Environment is now the only peer-reviewed fire-behaviour model for south-eastern Australian forests. It is also the only model of its type in the world to link vegetation composition to quantified predictions of risk from wildfire.

\* Relates to previous research priority areas

## Grants awarded in 2021–22



Applications received  
**5**



Funding sought  
**\$457,249**



Grants funded  
**2**



Funding awarded  
**\$192,134**

## Environmental Research Program outcomes



**38 innovative technologies** or new methods or approaches to previously known work generated



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



**72 resources and articles** produced, including items published in academic journals and other scientific publications



**526 people** contributed, including 42 postgraduate students and 302 volunteers



**81 organisations** involved and/or collaborating on these projects

Note: This data is drawn from 28 projects that continued after being funded in the 2017–19 grant years, with 11 of these projects (39%) now complete.



Table 7

## Environmental Research grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
University of Technology Sydney	Post-Bushfire Ecological Assessments of Threatened Flora in NSW	Statewide	\$148,134
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Wingecarribee Rare Flora Species Surveys	Wingecarribee Shire	\$44,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$192,134</b>

Milestone payments for all active grants in 2021–22: \$571,365.

# Major research projects

## Clean Technology Innovation

### Clean Technology Research and Development Grants Program

There was extremely high interest in round 1 of the \$40-million contestable Clean Technology Research and Development Grants program. The program received 85 expressions of interest (EOIs) with a combined value of approximately \$97 million.

The EOIs were spread across the program priority areas of electrification and energy systems, land and primary industries and power fuels including hydrogen. One of the program's objectives is to promote collaboration, and 78% of EOIs involved partnerships between private companies, universities and/or government agencies.

With \$5 million in grants on offer in round 1, 10 EOIs (with a combined value of approximately \$13 million) progressed to the full application stage. The Trust will meet early in the 2022–23 financial year to decide which applicants will receive grant funding.

### Low Emissions Specifications Program

This year the Trust awarded a grant of approximately \$15 million to the Office of Energy and Climate Change to deliver the Low Emissions Specifications Program over 8 years.

The aim of this program is to speed up and support the adoption of low emissions specifications in specific industry and government sectors to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales. This will require close collaboration with industry to generate and promote the adoption of a range of voluntary benchmarks, standards, ratings and labels.

The program will be delivered over 3 stages to help the NSW Government and industry strengthen partnerships, collaborate on the co-design of activities and build on existing initiatives to overcome barriers to decarbonisation.

Stage 1 of the program, which began during this year, will focus on developing:

- technical specifications for domestic and light commercial electric vehicle chargers

- low emission building materials for NSW Government procurement
- a residential industry roadmap to increase uptake of home energy ratings.

### NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub

Approximately \$15 million was awarded in 2020–21 to the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer to deliver the NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub (the Hub) over 9 years.

The program's aim is to establish a NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub that will accelerate the development and adoption of clean technologies. The result will be to reduce emissions while generating economic benefits for New South Wales, with collaborative efforts from government, industry and research partners.

The Hub will coordinate work in 3 focus areas:

- electrification and energy systems
- land and primary industries
- power fuels, including hydrogen.

The Hub will set up partnerships and improve engagement through informal and formal events and meetings. It will also connect industry contacts to research expertise and help with project plans and bids.

The first year of the 9-year project has started well, with the completion of the first stage of the project. This included setting up an expert reference group and identifying a consortium to lead the Hub through an 'expression of interest' and 'request for proposal' process.

Stage 2 began in June 2022 with the appointment of the consortium as the Hub lead, and the focus will now be on the establishment and implementation of the Hub.



## Biocontrol research for weed management

This program carries out research and trials on how to reduce weeds, and their impact, through biocontrol. Biocontrol uses an invasive plant's

natural enemies for weed control and is often a more appropriate method than herbicides or manual removal.

### Achievements 2021–22

- Release of the foliar blight fungus pathogen *Venturia paralias* into the environment at 122 key locations in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania for the biological control of sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) that grows on NSW beaches.
- Publication of 2 scientific papers on the research carried out on the sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) biocontrol agent.
- Further testing of 6 additional plant species to support an application for the release of the stem-wilting bug *Catorhintha schaffneri* biocontrol agent for leaf cactus (*Pereskia aculeata*).
- Continued mass-rearing of 20,050 Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia pallida*) cladodes (segments) infected with the cochineal bug *Dactylopius tomentosus* biocontrol agent for Hudson pear at a dedicated facility in Lightning Ridge, including release at 26 field sites (approximately 26,000 hectares) in western New South Wales with ongoing, long-term monitoring at 2 field sites.
- Continued mass-release of the leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis*, the biocontrol agent for wandering trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), including providing an additional 3,200 units of the fungus to 79 registered participants which has enabled the release of the fungus in 278 locations with ongoing monitoring showing a 100% establishment rate.
- Ongoing research into several new possible biocontrol agents and their weed targets to support nominations as targets for biocontrol and applications for release of biocontrol agents in Australia.

A new grant of \$499,792 was awarded to the CSIRO as part of its ongoing biocontrol program. The funding will support research on the most promising biocontrol agents for leaf cactus

(*Pereskia aculeata*) and Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and the nomination of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) as a target for weed biocontrol research.

Table 8

### Biocontrol research grant awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
CSIRO	Biocontrol Research for Weed Management Stage 3 – Implementation Plan 4 (2022)	Statewide	\$499,792
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$499,792</b>



*Feral cat traps being transported to a site in the Central Mallee region of NSW.*

### Developing strategies for effective feral cat management

This has been the third year of a 5-year project, with a grant of \$14.68 million, to manage feral cat populations in the north-east, south-east and western regions of New South Wales. The project partners – University of New England, NPWS and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – have used ongoing integrated management strategies but are also developing new tools. They particularly focus on monitoring, including the use of individual identification algorithms, control techniques and a plan to anticipate future control needs.

Surveying and monitoring for predators and prey has continued at all sites this year. A computer model using artificial intelligence to process camera trap images was developed and will assist in identifying cats and processing data. The project team also carried out live trapping of feral cats to collect telemetry data and to test and refine trapping techniques, and GPS tracking collars, fitted to the cats before release, are providing insights into previously unknown movement and behaviour of the animals. The team has also begun trialling different control techniques for feral cats, including experimental baiting and assessing future uses of the Felixer Grooming Trap.



*Feral deer management in Kosciuszko National Park.*

### Feral deer management

Feral deer are emerging as animals of ecological concern due to the threat they pose to many species of plants and animals. NPWS has been researching this issue in the Kosciuszko National Park area, looking for cost-effective and humane methods to control the population and reduce their environmental impact. This 8-year project is now in its third year, and with a grant of \$9.21 million, NPWS is developing and trialling various control methods which will be evaluated to inform future project activities. Other strategies are still being developed for use in the project area and on adjoining properties.

Field testing of the ecological monitoring methodology has finished and sampling will continue until the end of the project. Aerial-assisted netting and Clover trapping of wild deer continues. The GPS tracking collars fitted before release are providing insights into previously unknown movement and behaviour.

The first in a series of feral deer control events is complete, which will help in the field testing of the project's novel management techniques over the next two years.

When the project is finished, informative and instructional videos promoting its results will be available. Meanwhile the team conducts regular communication and engagement sessions and captures images and footage for the archive.

### Healthy Seeds for Resilient Restoration

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation has now finished its Healthy Seeds project, which commenced in 2019 with a grant of \$385,000 from the Trust. The aim of the project was to better understand the complex issues affecting the quality and supply of native seed for ecological restoration, and deliver solutions for a healthy native seed industry in New South Wales.

Key project achievements:

- A New South Wales state audit was undertaken, as well as investigations into native seed supply, the capability of seed production areas, and sector barriers and opportunities.
- The Healthy Seeds Roadmap was drafted. It is a strategic plan for improving native seed supply for ecological restoration.
- The Australian Native Seed Survey Report was published in March 2020. It gives details of the issues faced by the native seed sector.
- The Florabank Guidelines were reviewed and updated. This is a series of modules which follow the seed supply chain.
- The results of this project will help guide future work by the Trust, including investment into solving the issue of securing quality seeds for ecological restoration.

### Untangling the Causes of Tree Dieback

In September 2019, the Trust awarded a \$1.342-million grant over 5 years for a project that would address knowledge gaps in declining ecosystem health due to dieback in New South Wales. The funding was awarded under a hybrid grant model, \$1 million of which was provided to the Trust's Contestable Grants team to administer a competitive dieback research grants stream and \$342,000 to the Natural Resources Commission to manage the project. The project is expected to deliver a defensible causal model and a specific funding stream under the Trust's contestable grants Environmental Research Program.

There are 3 stages to the project:

- 1. Planning:** The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) established a project steering group and developed a research priorities paper to guide the selection of research projects.
- 2. Research:** This is currently underway through the Trust's established contestable grants Environmental Research Program, with 6 grants in place.
- 3. Disseminating research findings:** The NRC will amalgamate and circulate research findings.

The NRC oversees the dieback research program to make sure it provides robust and practical evidence to support decision making for policy and the adaptive management of forests. A key role of the NRC is to bring together researchers, forest managers and other stakeholders and share information.

The NRC partnered with ANU to host the Eucalyptus Dieback Symposium in April 2022. One hundred and twenty delegates attended, including academics, Traditional Owners, industry, land managers and environmental groups. Researchers engaged by the program presented an overview of the research project and progress to date. The symposium helped forge a common understanding across the different projects and identified opportunities for collaboration.

Milestone payments for all active major research grants in 2021–22: \$5,094,526.



### CASE STUDY

#### Beyond Fencing

Feral cats and foxes have caused havoc among wildlife in many parts of Australia, resulting in the loss of many species in the wild, especially small mammals. Sturt National Park in Far West New South Wales has recently been at the centre of innovative research and management to control introduced pests and restore native creatures to the wild. The Beyond Fencing project, supported by a Trust grant of \$500,000, is part of a larger project – ‘Wild Deserts’ led by UNSW and Ecological Horizons, in collaboration with NPWS. With the broad aim of restoring the desert ecosystem, Wild Deserts will gradually reintroduce 7 locally extinct mammals, control invasive species and manage kangaroo numbers.

Under the Beyond Fencing project, four small mammal species – the greater bilby, burrowing bettong, western quoll and crest-tailed mulgara – will be introduced to a 100-square-kilometre ‘Wild Training Zone’. Ecologists are keen to see if the native mammals can adapt to living there alongside low densities of feral cats and foxes. The Wild Training Zone is designed as a training ground for the predator-naïve reintroduced mammals, giving them a chance to learn the skills needed to coexist with feral predators beyond fences.

Two dedicated ecologists, Reece Pedler and Rebecca West, have been living on site in Sturt National Park for the past five years, carrying out the fieldwork for this adventurous and ambitious project. Specialised fencing, to keep feral animals out, was built around two large areas, enclosing 40 square kilometres of land. The team’s first task was to eradicate every rabbit, fox and cat within that area before they could begin to introduce the native mammals. The already harsh desert landscape, partly the result of overgrazing in the 18th and early 19th centuries, became even more challenging after years of drought. But eventually, in March 2020 the drought broke. Rain restored waterways, vegetation revived and the conditions were right for the first release of native animals. The team has now had the pleasure of checking on those individuals, noting their condition and weight and recording the first offspring of a new generation. The Wild Deserts project was recently featured on the ABC program, Australian Story.

One key technique used in the eradication of cats and foxes is the Felixer Grooming Trap, an automated tool that helps to control the density of cat and fox numbers. A 12-month toxic field trial of the Felixer outside the Wild Training Zone captured 7,983 images of animals or objects and administered the toxic 1080 gel to 90 cats and one fox. A trial of the Felixer trap’s impact on cat populations inside the Wild Training Zone area began in March 2022. Ten feral cats

were captured and fitted with satellite collars and major insights into their behaviour are being recorded.

Spotlighting, track/spoor transects and a remote camera grid have been among the methods used to track predator-prey populations. The result has provided a baseline of predator density, which will help to set a suitable balance for population densities inside the Wild Training Zone.



*Setting up the Felixer Grooming Trap for the Beyond Fencing project.*

## Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative

Waste Less, Recycle More is Australia's largest waste and recycling fund, helping communities and businesses reduce waste to landfill. Under the initiative the Trust has delivered a range of contestable grant rounds in partnership with, and on behalf of the NSW EPA.

**\$802 million** funding through Waste Less, Recycle More (WLRM) I & II since 2013

**\$57 million** available from Trust funds up to 2021–22 under Waste Less, Recycle More II

**\$16.25 million** available through the Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) Transition package funding from NSW Government

**\$25 million** provided by the Australian Government under its Recycling Modernisation Fund to match funding from the NSW Government under WLRM and delivered under Remanufacture NSW

**\$5 million** in funding from the Australian Government under its Food Waste for Healthy Soils (FWHS) Fund to match funding from the NSW Government under WLRM and AWT

In 2021–22, a total of **26 projects** were awarded funding.

### Organics Infrastructure Fund

Food and garden waste accounts for the largest proportion of waste going to landfill from homes and businesses in New South Wales. The successful diversion and reuse of organic waste is critical to achieving the NSW Government's target of net zero emissions of organics from landfill by 2030.

### Alternative Waste Treatment Transition Package

In 2020–21, \$16.25 million in funding was made available under the Phase 2 Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) Transition Package. This funding supported councils affected by the NSW EPA decision to withdraw agreement for mixed waste organics output to be included in landfill materials. Grants were available to eligible councils under the Organics Collections Grants Program and both councils and AWT operators under the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program.

### Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund

In 2021–22, the NSW EPA applied for matched funding under the Australian Government's national \$57-million Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund (FWHS). Led by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, the fund supports the establishment of processing infrastructure with similar criteria to the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program. Applications were open to State and Territory governments only. The Australian Government and NSW Government will each contribute \$5 million. The program is delivered by the Trust in partnership with the NSW EPA.

## Organics Collections Grants Program – household stream

The Organics Collections program provides grants of up to \$1.3 million for eligible councils to implement new garden only, food only or combined food and garden organics kerbside collection services. The funding supports audits, community education and the purchase of infrastructure such as bins and kitchen caddies.

**26,474 tonnes** per annum is the projected volume of organic waste that will be diverted from landfill through a new or enhanced kerbside service funded by the Organics Collections Grants Program

**62,190 households** will receive a new or enhanced organics recycling service in this round, funded by the Organics Collections Grants Program.

### Grants awarded in 2021–22



**Applications received**  
**7**



**Funding sought**  
**\$3,947,394**



**Grants funded**  
**6**



**Funding awarded**  
**\$2,647,644**

Table 9

### Organics Collections grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
<b>Household stream</b>			
Bayside Council	Bayside Council Organics Collections Harmonisation	Bayside Council	\$1,255,768*
Canada Bay Council	The Rhodes to FOGO: FOGO Trial in MUDs	Canada Bay Council	\$235,626
Hay Shire Council	Hay Shire Council FOGO Collection Program	Hay Shire	\$106,102
Kyogle Council	Kyogle Council FOGO Collection	Kyogle Council	\$503,324
Penrith City Council	Penrith MUDs FOGO implementation and trial	Penrith City	\$521,824*
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	CSU Organics Recovery Project	Port Macquarie	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,647,644</b>

\* indicates AWT funded grants



## Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program

Providing more than \$65 million since 2013 to a broad range of projects that process organic waste or support food donation

The Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program (OILS) includes 5 streams:

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

In 2021–2022 only Stream 1 (organics processing infrastructure) was offered. This stream aims to improve the processing capacity for source-separated food organics and garden organics collected from households, commercial and industrial businesses across New South Wales to divert waste that would previously have gone to landfill.

### Grants awarded in 2021–22



**Applications received**  
**27**



**Funding sought**  
**\$32,550,248**



**Grants funded**  
**12**



**Funding awarded**  
**\$12,300,843**

**306,003 tonnes** per annum projected additional source separated organics waste-processing capacity to be created by projects funded under the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program

Table 10

### Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grants awarded 2021–22

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
<b>Stream 1: Organics processing infrastructure</b>			
Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd	New composting facility at Buttonderry	Central Coast Council	\$1,915,000 ***
Bettergrow Pty Ltd	Warragundi Composting Facility	Mid-Western Regional Council	\$2,000,000 ***
Global Renewables Eastern Creek Pty Ltd	GRL Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) transition project	Blacktown City	\$2,000,000 ***
Goterra Pty Ltd	Upcycling organic waste in regional NSW using BSFL	Port Stephens Council	\$1,110,000
Hay Shire Council	Hay Shire Organics Processing Facility	Hay Shire	\$503,000
Loop Organics Pty Ltd	Ravensworth facility composting equipment	Singleton Council	\$400,775 **
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council Organics Recycling Facility (ORF)	Muswellbrook Shire	\$600,000 ***
Polpure Pty Limited	Development of a worm casting production facility	Orange City	\$490,000 **

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Remondis Australia Pty Ltd	Awaba ORRF expansion project	Lake Macquarie City	\$2,000,000
Sydney Water Corporation	Waste to Energy Project at Liverpool WWTP	Liverpool City	\$638,833
Upper Hunter Shire Council	Upper Hunter Shire Council organic waste – Improving waste processing opportunities	Upper Hunter Shire	\$70,000
Worm Tech Pty Ltd	Organics recovery – for circular economy	Murrumbidgee Shire	\$573,235 ***
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$12,300,843</b>

\*\* indicates FWHS funded grants

\*\*\* indicates both AWT and FWHS funded grants

## Supporting the COAG waste export bans

To support COAG waste export bans, the Australian Government announced a \$190-million Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) that will generate a \$600-million recycling investment and drive a billion-dollar transformation of Australia's waste and recycling capacity.

The Remanufacture NSW Grants Program and Remanufacture NSW Regional and Remote Grants Program are co-funded by the Australian Government through the RMF and the NSW Government through the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative. Both programs are delivered by the Trust in partnership with the EPA.

The Australian Government is contributing \$29.5 million in co-funding to this program. As part of its contribution to New South Wales, the Australian Government agreed to recognise the \$19.2 million previously awarded by New South Wales to grant-funded recycling infrastructure projects. The Trust will contribute a further \$10.3 million to meet its remaining co-funding requirement.

## Remanufacture NSW Regional and Remote Grants Program

This grant program offered regional and remote organisations in New South Wales the opportunity to apply for funding from a pool of \$7 million available nationally through the Australian Government's Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) and Remanufacture NSW. The program will fund projects that increase the capacity of sorting, processing and manufacturing or remanufacturing activities in regional and remote locations.

### Grants awarded in 2021–22



**Applications received**  
**15**



**Funding sought**  
**\$27,716,857**



**Grants funded**  
**8**



**Funding awarded**  
**\$4,833,418**

Table 11

**Remanufacture NSW Regional and Remote grants awarded 2021–22**

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Hay Shire Council	Hay Materials Recovery Facility	Hay Shire	\$909,800
Molycop	Cootamundra Resource Recovery Facility for HDPE and tyres	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	\$840,900
Nowra Chemical Manufacturers Pty Ltd	Direct Re-Use Drum Washer	Shoalhaven City	\$49,900
Reform 3D Pty Ltd	Reforming recovered polymers using 3D printing	Albury City	\$163,731
Scipher Technologies Pty Ltd	Scipher e-waste plastics separation and recovery	Albury City	\$1,000,000
Shoalhaven City Council	Shoalhaven Rubber Crumb Plant project	Shoalhaven City	\$514,000
Tamworth Regional Council	Establishment of Tamworth Regional Resource Recovery Centre	Tamworth Regional	\$1,000,000
Vinrec Australia Pty Ltd	Vinrec Moama new plastic recycling project	Murray River Council	\$355,087
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$4,833,418</b>

All milestone payments made across active waste grants in 2021–22:

- Improved Systems for Household Problem Wastes Fund: \$71,676 under the Community Recycling Centres Grants Program
- Landfill Consolidation Fund: \$77,117 under the Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grants Program
- Organics Infrastructure Fund: \$2,575,630 under the Local Government Organics Collection Systems Grants Program, Organics Collections Grants Program, and Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program
- Recycling Innovation Fund: \$53,820 under the Innovation in Priority Problem Wastes Management Grants Program
- Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund: \$5,854,635 under the Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Grants Program and Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Grants Program
- Alternative Waste Treatment Transition Fund: \$872,375 under the Organics Collections Grants Program and Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program
- Remanufacture NSW: \$3,500,796 jointly funded by the Australian Government’s Recycling Modernisation Fund and the NSW Government’s Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.



## CASE STUDY

### Circular approach to diverting organic waste away from landfill

When food waste decays in landfill it creates methane, a greenhouse gas with emissions 25 times more harmful than CO<sub>2</sub>. In New South Wales, emissions from food and garden wastes decomposing in landfill – some 45% of all material sent to landfill – make up more than 2% of the State's total net annual emissions.

A significant amount of water, energy, land and fertiliser are needed to grow, process and transport food in the first place, so sending food to landfill is particularly wasteful. A closed-loop system can avoid this by using waste as a resource to make products.

Thanks to a \$376,560 grant from the Trust, the University of Sydney has taken a major step towards setting up a closed-loop system that will reduce its environmental impact. The university has installed a HotRot organics processor, an aerobic digester, at its Camperdown campus and has set up various source-separation bin systems. Staff and students are encouraged to separate and recycle their food waste from on-site cafes, and staff and student kitchens as well as the college kitchens.

The project has two aims:

- to divert organics waste from landfill and so reduce the environmental impact of landfilling
- to support a circular approach to food waste on campus by creating compost to be used on the grounds.

The organic aerobic digester project will not only provide a cost-effective solution for on-site closed-loop recycling of organics waste, it will also show students, staff and the NSW community how the process can work in a city environment, reusing the compost locally. This could divert up to 155 tonnes of food and organic waste from landfill every year.

The process at the University of Sydney is expected to process up to 0.5 tonnes of organic material a day at peak capacity. In one month, 1.5 tonnes of organic waste was diverted and the volume will keep increasing as more locations on site are brought into the program.

The university is producing good compost. It will be tested so that it can receive an organics exemption order before being used on the campus grounds and that process should be finished before the end of 2022.

Through newsletters and talks on campus, the project has reached over 5,000 staff and 50,000 students. It has also given students the chance to select the organic process – from collection through to composting – as a thesis topic. An official opening for the project, attended by the Minister for Environment, the Vice Chancellor and university executives, was held early in 2022.



*Sydney University's HotRot biodigester at its Camperdown campus*





A sharp-shinned hawk is perched on a thick, light-brown tree branch. The hawk has a dark, mottled pattern on its chest and wings, and a lighter, barred pattern on its tail. Its eyes are a striking yellow, and its beak is dark and hooked. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest or wooded area. The word "Finances" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey horizontal band.

Finances





## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Environmental Trust

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Environmental Trust (the Trust), which comprise the Statement by the Accountable Authority, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2022, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows, for the year then ended, notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

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

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

#### Basis for Opinion

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

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

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

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

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

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

## **The Members of the Trust's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The members of the Trust are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the GSF Act, GSF Regulation and Treasurer's Directions. The members of the Trust's responsibilities also include such internal control as the members of the Trust determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

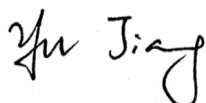
- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

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

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

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

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



Reiky Jiang  
Director, Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

12 October 2022  
SYDNEY

**Environmental Trust**  
**Statement by the Accountable Authority**  
for the year ended 30 June 2022

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

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



Hon. James Griffin MP  
Chair

Date: 10/10/22



Atticus Fleming AM  
Trust Member

Date: 7.10.2022



BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Actual 2022 \$'000	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>				
Operating expenses	<u>2(a)</u>	4,976	6,322	4,764
Grants and subsidies	<u>2(b)</u>	43,714	87,181	57,569
<b>Total expenses excluding losses</b>		<b>48,690</b>	<b>93,503</b>	<b>62,333</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Grants and contributions	<u>3(a)</u>	47,883	82,567	63,027
Other income	<u>3(b)</u>	1,755	9,596	1,081
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>49,638</b>	<b>92,163</b>	<b>64,108</b>
Other gains/(losses)	4	667	-	(189)
<b>Net result</b>		<b>1,615</b>	<b>(1,340)</b>	<b>1,586</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>1,615</b>	<b>(1,340)</b>	<b>1,586</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Actual 2022 \$'000	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	8,031	1,489	7,264
Receivables	7	1,647	3,068	794
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>9,678</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>8,058</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>9,678</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>8,058</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Payables	8	2,715	3,387	2,710
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,715</b>	<b>3,387</b>	<b>2,710</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>2,715</b>	<b>3,387</b>	<b>2,710</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>6,963</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>5,348</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Accumulated funds		6,963	1,170	5,348
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>6,963</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>5,348</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>		5,348	5,348
Net result for the year		1,615	1,615
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,615</b>	<b>1,615</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>		<b>6,963</b>	<b>6,963</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>		3,762	3,762
Net result for the year		1,586	1,586
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,586</b>	<b>1,586</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>		<b>5,348</b>	<b>5,348</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Actual 2022 \$'000	Budget 2022 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Grants and subsidies		(43,714)	(87,181)	(57,569)
Operating		(4,971)	(6,322)	(5,630)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(48,685)</b>	(93,503)	<b>(63,199)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants and other contributions		48,550	82,567	63,027
Other		902	9,596	3,356
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>49,452</b>	92,163	<b>66,383</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	12	<b>767</b>	(1,340)	<b>3,184</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>767</b>	(1,340)	<b>3,184</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents		7,264	2,829	4,080
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	6	<b>8,031</b>	1,489	<b>7,264</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### (a) Reporting entity

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

The Trust is an independent GSF agency established by the NSW government to fund a broad range of organisations to undertake projects that enhance the environment of NSW. The Trust administers grants across a diverse range of programs, including contestable grants, major projects and various NSW Government initiatives. The Trust contributes to the State Outcome of delivering *resilient and sustainable environment and energy*. Refer [note 5](#).

The Trust is administered by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), which was renamed on 21 December 2021 from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment under the *Administrative Arrangements (Second Perrottet Ministry – Transitional) Order 2021*.

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for Environment and Heritage. At 30 June 2022, the members of the Trust were the Coordinator-General, Environment and Heritage Group, within DPE, and representatives from local government, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and NSW Treasury.

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

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

### (b) Basis of preparation

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

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

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

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

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency, which is the Trust's presentation and functional currency, except in [note 14\(i\)](#) which is in whole dollars.

### (c) Statement of compliance

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

### (d) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

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

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

### (e) Comparative information

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

In the 2021-22 comparative details, the Trust reclassified an item of expense from ‘operating expenses’ to ‘other gains/(losses)’ relating to impairment of receivables to align with their nature and better reflect their activity. Refer [note 2\(a\)](#) and [note 4](#). There is no change to the net result and equity position of the Trust for the 2021-22 financial year.

**(f) Insurance**

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

**(g) Budgeted amounts**

The budgeted amounts are drawn from the original budgeted financial statements presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period. Subsequent amendments to the original budget (e.g. adjustment for transfer of functions between entities as a result of Administrative Arrangements Orders or approved budget proposals) are not reflected in the budgeted amounts. Major variances between the original budgeted amounts and the actual amounts disclosed in the primary financial statements are explained in [note 11](#).

**(h) Equity and reserves – accumulated funds**

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

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

(i) The following are effective for the first time in the 2021-22 financial year and have been assessed to have no impact on the financial statements:

- AASB 2020-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions: Tier 2 Disclosures
- AASB 2020-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2
- AASB 2020-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments
- AASB 2021-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Transition to Tier 2: Simplified Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Entities
- AASB 2021-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021
- AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities

(ii) Issued but not yet effective:

NSW public sector entities do not early adopt new Australian Accounting Standards, unless Treasury determines otherwise. The following new Australian Accounting standards have not been applied and are not yet effective (NSW Treasury mandate TPG 22-07):

- AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (effective from 1 January 2022)
- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements 2018–2020 and Other Amendments (effective from 1 January 2022)
- AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date (effective from 1 January 2022)
- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates
- AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards

The Trust has assessed any potential impact on the financial statements due to these new accounting standards or interpretations and find that there will be no financial impact when implemented. However, when AASB 2021-2 is adopted there will be a disclosure amendment due to the change in the presentation of accounting policies as “material accounting policies” instead of “significant accounting policies”.

**(j) Deemed appropriations**

The Trust controls the Environmental Trust Fund which is a special deposits account established under section 18 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* into which is paid all of the money that is expended by the Trust in the exercise of its functions. The Trust therefore does not have any deemed appropriations and hence no disclosure under section 4.7 of the GSF Act on movement of deemed appropriations is required. Refer [note 6](#).

**(k) Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

## 2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

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

<b>(a) Other operating expenses</b>	<b>2022 \$'000</b>	<b>2021 \$'000</b>
Corporate and specialist support	4,453	4,329
Fees for services	446	387
Advertising, printing and publishing	8	2
Auditor's remuneration - audit of the financial statements	39	38
Travel	5	1
Other	25	7
	<b>4,976</b>	<b>4,764</b>

In the 2021-22 comparative details, the total operating expenses have been reduced by \$189,000 due to the reclassification of impairment of receivables to 'other gains(losses)'. Refer [note 1\(e\)](#) and [note 4](#).

**Recognition and measurement**

*Corporate and specialist support*

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

<b>(b) Grants and subsidies</b>	<b>2022 \$'000</b>	<b>2021 \$'000</b>
State and Local Governments	24,785	42,379
Other	18,454	14,321
Commonwealth Government	475	869
	<b>43,714</b>	<b>57,569</b>

**Recognition and measurement**

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



### 3. REVENUE

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058), dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15. Comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

(a) Grants and other contributions	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations	47,883	63,027
	<b>47,883</b>	<b>63,027</b>

The above grants include recurrent funding of \$39 million (2021: \$59.5 million) from DPE, the principal department in the Planning and Environment Cluster, \$7.7 million grant from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) towards the *Waste Less Recycle More program* (2021: nil) and \$1.2 million grant from DPE towards major grants program (2021:\$3.5 million, including for *Saving our Species program*).

#### Recognition and measurement

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

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

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

Income from grants without sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised when the Trust obtains control over the granted assets i.e. obtains cash.

No element of financing is deemed present as funding payments are usually received in advance or shortly after the relevant obligation is satisfied. Revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal will not occur. This is based on past experience and terms specified in the contract.

Receipt of volunteer services is recognised when and only when the fair value of those services can be reliably determined, and the services would have been purchased if not donated. Volunteer services are measured at fair value. As at 30 June 2022, the Trust did not use any volunteer services (2021: nil).

(b) Other income	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Fines (Court awarded)	234	-
Refunds by grantees of unspent grants	1,521	1,081
	<b>1,755</b>	<b>1,081</b>

#### Recognition and measurement

##### *(i) Refunds by grantees of unspent grants*

Refunds are recognised by the Trust in the period in which the unspent grant amounts by grantees gets identified by or advised to the Trust through the grant acquittal process. Refer [note 7](#) and [note 10](#).

The Trust receives refunds from a number of grantees from its contestable grants and major grants programs due to factors such as withdrawals by grantees and the inability of grantees to achieve milestones within acceptable timeframes, given the impacts of the drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19.

##### *(ii) Fines (Court awarded)*

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

#### 4. OTHER GAINS/(LOSSES)

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Impairment of receivables	667	(189)
	<b>667</b>	<b>(189)</b>

Impairments relate to debtors from whom the Trust has requested the return of unspent grants. Refer [note 7](#) and [note 3\(b\)](#).

In the 2021-22 comparative details, an amount of \$189,000 has been reclassified from 'operating expenses' relating to impairment of receivables. Refer [note 1\(e\)](#) and [note 2\(a\)](#).

#### **Recognition and measurement**

##### *Impairment of receivables*

Impairment gains/(losses) may arise on non-financial assets held by the Trust from time to time. Accounting for impairment gains/(losses) is dependent upon the individual asset (or group of assets) subject to impairment. Refer [note 7](#) for accounting policies and events giving rise to impairment gains/(losses).

The amount allowed for impairment is the difference between the carrying amount of the receivables and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The amount of an impairment gain/(loss) is recognised in the net result for the year. If due to any event an impaired receivable regains its value, the Trust realises an impairment gain. Refer [note 7](#).

#### 5. STATE OUTCOME DESCRIPTION

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

**Connecting communities to resilient and sustainable energy and local environments** -Protecting and preserving the quality of our environment through active stewardship to support a healthy New South Wales and securing an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy future.

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

#### 6. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	8,031	7,264
	<b>8,031</b>	<b>7,264</b>

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank.

Cash and cash equivalent assets recognised in the statement of financial position are reconciled at the end of the financial year to the statement of cash flows as follows:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents (per statement of financial position)	8,031	7,264
Closing cash and cash equivalents (per statement of cash flows)	<b>8,031</b>	<b>7,264</b>

Refer [note 13](#) for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

Restricted cash includes cash at bank and on hand as at 30 June 2022 of \$8,030,728 (2021: \$7,263,716). Restricted cash represents the cash held by the Trust in the special deposits account established under section 18 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. Refer [note 1\(j\)](#).

## 7. CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Trade debtors	1,489	1,019
Expected credit loss	(191)	(858)
GST receivable	349	633
	<b>1,647</b>	<b>794</b>
<b>Movements in the allowance for expected credit losses:</b>		
Balance at 1 July	858	3,124
Amounts written off during the year	-	(2,455)
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in net results	(667)	189
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>858</b>

Details regarding credit risk of trade debtors that are neither past due nor impaired, are disclosed in note 13.

### **Recognition and measurement**

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

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

### **Subsequent measurement**

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

### **Impairment**

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

For trade receivables, the Trust applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. It recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Trust has established a provision matrix based on its historical credit loss experience for trade receivables, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the receivables.

If due to any event an impaired receivable regains its value, the Trust realises an impairment gain. Any gains or losses on impairment are recognised through statement of comprehensive income.

## 8. CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Creditors	25	1,138
Accrued expenses	2,690	1,572
	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,710</b>

Details regarding liquidity risk, including a maturity analysis of the above payables, are disclosed in note 13.



## **Recognition and measurement**

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

## **9. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE**

There were no commitments as at 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).

## **10. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**

*Contingent liabilities:*

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).

*Contingent assets:*

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

## **11. BUDGET REVIEW**

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

### **(a) Net result**

The actual net surplus of \$1.6 million was higher than the budgeted loss of (\$1.3 million) by \$2.9 million. This favourable variance was a result of lower than budgeted expenses of \$44.8 million and higher than budgeted 'other gains' of \$0.7 million, partly offset by reduced revenue of \$42.6 million. Major expenses and revenue variances were due to:

	<b>\$ million</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
– Reduction in grant expenses due to delayed commencement by the Trust of some of its grants programs and slower than expected progress by grantees due to their resourcing and approvals issues, delays arising from floods and the impacts of COVID 19. As part of the 2021-22 State Budget process, the Trust obtained approval to reallocate the majority of these grants to future years.	43.5
– Minor variances in operating expenses across a range of categories.	1.3
<b>Total under expenditure</b>	<b>44.8</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
– Lower revenue mainly due to the reallocation of government funding to future years to correspond with the timing of expenses (refer above).	(42.6)
<b>Total lower than budgeted revenue</b>	<b>(42.6)</b>
– Additional 'other gains' due to the recovery of bad debts, not included in the budget.	0.7
<b>Variance in net result</b>	<b>2.9</b>

## (b) Assets and liabilities

Net assets were higher by \$5.8 million mainly due to higher than budgeted cash (refer below) and reduced payables due to the timing of payment of outstanding invoices. This was partly offset by lower receivables mainly due to the receipt of outstanding amounts, previously impaired and lower unpaid refunds from grantees.

Actual cash of \$8 million was higher than the budget of \$1.5 million by \$6.5 million mainly due to higher than budgeted net result and opening cash balance.

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

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	767	3,184
Increase/(decrease) in receivables	853	(2,275)
Decrease/(increase) in creditors	(5)	677
<b>Net result</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>1,586</b>

## 13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

The Trust has an overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Trust on a continuous basis.

### (a) Financial instrument categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Class:				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	N/A	8,031	7,264
Receivables <sup>1</sup>	7	Receivables (amortised cost)	1,298	161
			<b>9,329</b>	<b>7,425</b>
Financial liabilities	Note	Category	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Class:				
Payables <sup>2</sup>	8	Financial liabilities (at amortised cost)	2,715	2,710
			<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,710</b>

## Notes

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

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

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

### **(b) Derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities**

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the Trust transfers the financial asset:

- where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred; or
- where the Trust has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, if the Trust has not retained control.

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

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

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

### **(c) Financial risks**

#### **(i) Credit risk**

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

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

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

#### **Cash**

Cash comprises bank balances within the NSW Treasury Banking System.

#### **Receivables – trade debtors**

Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand.

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

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

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

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



The loss allowance for trade debtors as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021 was determined as follows:

<b>30 June 2022</b>						
<b>\$'000</b>						
	<b>Current</b>	<b>&lt;30 days</b>	<b>30-60 days</b>	<b>61-90 days</b>	<b>&gt;91 days</b>	<b>Total</b>
Expected credit loss rate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	51.2%	
Estimated total gross carrying amount	890	-	-	226	373	1,489
Expected credit loss	-	-	-	-	(191)	(191)

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

#### **Notes**

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

#### **(ii) Liquidity risk**

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

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

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

Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in NSW TC 11/12. For small business suppliers, where terms are not specified, payment is made not later than 30 days from date of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. For other suppliers, if trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. For small business suppliers, where payment is not made within the specified time period, simple interest must be paid automatically unless an existing contract specifies otherwise. The applicable rate of interest for the year was 8.04% (2021: 8.06%). No interest was paid for year ended 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).

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

	\$'000					Maturity Dates		
	Weighted average effective interest rate	Nominal amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
<b>At 30 June 2022</b>								
Payables	-	2,715	-	-	2,715	2,715	-	-
<b>At 30 June 2021</b>								
Payables	-	2,710	-	-	2,710	2,710	-	-

**Notes**

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

**(iii) Market risk**

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

**(iv) Interest Rate Risk**

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through the Trust’s interest-bearing liabilities. Under the Treasury banking system, the Trust does not earn any interest and does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or at fair value through other comprehensive income. Therefore, for these financial instruments, a change in interest rates would not affect the carrying value or interest paid/earned. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a change in the circumstances or arrangements between the Trust and the Treasury.

**14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

**Key management personnel**

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

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

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Trust sitting fees	2,072	2,310
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>2,310</b>

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

The Trust did not enter into any transactions with key management personnel, their close family members and any entities controlled or jointly controlled by them during the year.

ii) Other transactions with key management personnel and related entities

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

Grant payments allow the Trust to meet State Outcome (refer [note 5](#)) and grants to the NSW government agencies in aggregate are a significant component of its operations. In 2021-22, total grants in the amount of \$16.9 million (2021: \$33.4 million) were paid to DPE, whose Coordinator-General, Environment and Heritage Group is a member of the Trust. Refer [note 2\(b\)](#). The Trust members approve the award of grants to recipients based on documented processes and procedures, which include evidence-based support such as grant guidelines, application forms, business cases, business plans and independent technical reviews. Where a grant application from DPE is identified, a conflict of interest is disclosed by the DPE member of the Trust at the meeting, which is minuted. The member also refrains from voting in these instances. In 2021-22, the Trust also paid \$4.5 million (2021: \$4.3 million) to DPE for specialist and administrative services as well as its share of corporate services. The fair value of these services is charged to the Trust under a Service Agreement with DPE and disclosed in [note 2\(a\)](#). The Trust receives government funding as a recurrent grant through DPE and receives further grant funding from other government agencies to support its service delivery objectives. Refer [note 3\(a\)](#).

## 15. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Trust will continue to assess uncertainty in the market due to current economic conditions, such as the effect of inflation and interest rates on the fair value of Trust's financial assets, namely receivables. Given the uncertainty, there may be new evidence that materially impacts the fair value assessment at 30 June 2022. The year-end financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty. Also refer [note 1\(k\)](#).

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

**End of audited financial statements.**









# Appendices



## Administration of the Trust

Table 12

### Indicators of activity of administering the Trust

	2021–22	2020–21
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives and support	\$48 million	\$62 million
Number of contestable programs and other small grant programs running	22	21
Number of major programs and projects running	30	32
Number of new contestable grant projects approved	79	91
Number of new major programs and projects approved	6	8
Number of applications/expressions of interest processed	186	240
Number of grant payments processed	296	314

The Trust (or its delegate) may approve timeline variations for projects, including extending projects beyond their approved completion date by up to 18 months due to natural disasters.

COVID-19 restrictions eased across the State during the 2021–22 financial year but the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on grant delivery remained an issue. Grant delivery was also hampered by the wet summer experienced across large parts of the State. Storm damage and floods restricted site access and limited the amount of work that could be done.

Extensions and variations were approved for the following projects:

- Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter Inc. – Best practice sustainability education and engagement for NSW
- Australian National University – Environmental drivers, landscape determinants and control of snow gum dieback
- Bathurst Regional Council – Rehabilitation of the Macquarie River Riparian Corridor
- Bathurst Regional Council – River Connections: knowing and caring for the Wambool/Macquarie River
- Bathurst Regional Council – Wetlands Enhancement: Bathurst Brick Pits
- Bellingen Shire Council – Dorrigo Landfill closure and remediation
- Big Scrub Landcare Inc. – Improving genetic diversity to secure rainforest restoration outcomes
- Border Ranges Alliance – Restoring and extending riparian connectivity at Toonumbar
- Byron Shire Council – Flying Improvement: working towards flying-fox and community coexistence
- Canterbury Bankstown Council – Adopt a wetland
- Central Tablelands Landcare Inc. – Riparian restoration through revegetation
- City of Newcastle Council – Summerhill Organics Recycling Facility
- CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship – Biocontrol Research for Weed Management
- Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council – Darkinjung Mirring Women Muree (the fire spirit) Warre Warren Project
- Department of Planning and Environment – Addressing the knowledge gaps of data deficient seabirds of NSW
- Department of Planning and Environment – Immersive Learning in Local and National Parks in Western Sydney
- Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Trust – Protection and restoration of ‘Hungry Hill’ at Dungog Common
- Envite Environment – Community Conservation of the Emu in the Bungawalbin Stage 2
- Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife – Wildlife Heroes
- Georges River Council – Restoration and Rehabilitation of Gannons Park, Peakhurst



- Goulburn Mulwaree Council – Goulburn Region Community Recycling Centre
- Hovells Creek Landcare Group Inc. – Hovells Creek Catchment Erosion Control and Habitat Rehabilitation
- Hunter Local Land Services – A Beacon in the Landscape: Recognising and Enhancing Habitat at Mount Breckin
- Hunter Local Land Services – Beyond the Bend: Wollombi Brook Riparian Rehabilitation Project, Broke
- Hunter Local Land Services – Working Towards Eradication of Giant Reed on the Pages River in the Upper Hunter
- Lord Howe Island Board – Sallywood Swamp Forest Project on Lord Howe Island – Phase 1
- Macquarie University – Building with Nature: Using Potato Waste to Restore NSW Oyster Reefs
- Macquarie University – Darug Caring-as-Country: Creating Local Environmental Stewards
- Macquarie University – Predicting the impacts of groundwater abstraction on groundwater ecosystems
- Maitland City Council – Protection of Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest
- MidCoast Council – Backyard bushcare in Pacific Palms
- MidCoast Council – Beyond the Shed Stage 2
- MidCoast Council – Burgess Cape Hawke Seal Rocks Cliff Top LTRF Restoration Project
- Mothers Ancestral Guardians Indigenous Corporation – Restoring Cultural Practice for Country in Rick Farley Reserve
- Murrin Bridge Local Aboriginal Land Council – Managing biodiversity on Barooga Karrai
- North Coast Regional Landcare Network Inc. – Rising strong: conserving biodiversity in a changing climate
- Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation – Caring for Gostwyck grinding grooves
- Nursery and Garden Industry NSW and ACT Ltd – PlantSure: Environmentally Safe Ornamental Plant Scheme
- Orange City Council – Contamination Investigation and Remediation of former Orange Gasworks Site
- Parramatta City Council – Parramatta Community Recycling Centre
- Penrith City Council – Preserving Cumberland Plain Threatened Species in Penrith LGA through education and weed management
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council – Grand Canyon: Protecting Redbox Reserve endangered ecological community from erosion
- Queensland University of Technology – Promoting stewardship: identifying pathways to greater participation
- SecondBite Melbourne – SecondBite NSW operational expansion
- Snowy Monaro Regional Council – Keeping a ‘Hawk-Eye’ on Hawkweed
- SOILCO Pty Ltd – Kembla Grange Composting and Manufacturing Facility (KG CMF)
- St Ives High School Parents and Citizens Association Incorporated – St Ives High School Regeneration for STIF
- Sydney Institute of Marine Science – Adapting to coastal tropicalisation: implications for food security
- Tamworth Regional Council – Tamworth Regional Gasworks Investigation and Remediation, Peel Street, Tamworth
- The Mulloon Institute Limited – Landscape Rehydration Capacity Building: developing curriculum
- Tweed Shire Council – Conserving Cockatoos and Curlews on the Tweed Coast
- University of New England – Causes, Projections and Reversal of Eucalypt Decline and Dieback on the New England Tablelands
- University of Sydney – Advancing fauna conservation in post-fire environments
- University of Wollongong – Modelling fire risk to fauna
- Upper Hunter Shire Council – Organic waste collection: Upper Hunter Shire
- Upper Kangaroo Valley Landcare Group Inc. – Eradicate *Mandevilla laxa*
- Waverley Council – Living connections
- Western Sydney University – On-site analysis for intelligence gathering at pollution incidents
- Yawiriawiri Murri Ganuur Descendants Aboriginal Corporation – Aboriginal Ancestral Camp Revitalisations

## Structure and management of the Trust

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

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

The Trust administration's major functions are:

- researching, designing and implementing new programs
- developing and managing program governance
- providing technical and other assistance to grantees
- coordinating technical committee assessments
- servicing Trust meetings and technical review committees to facilitate good decision making
- negotiating grants and agreements, approving project plans and making payments
- monitoring and acquitting funded projects
- reviewing and evaluating programs and procedures.

## Grants administration

Trust administrative governance is rigorous and includes project and financial reporting, payment schedules and other requirements. The Trust pays funds in instalments in advance or through milestone payments except for very short or small projects. The Trust's Technical Review Committees play an important role in assessing grant applications, keeping the Trust informed of project outcomes, advising on program business plans, monitoring program implementation and providing ongoing advice to the Trust.

Applicants for most Waste Less, Recycle More infrastructure programs must provide a cost-benefit analysis for their projects based on NSW Treasury's NSW Government Guidelines for Economic Appraisal. These analyses are reviewed by independent experts who report their findings to the technical review committee to help with the overall assessment of proposals. A probity auditor reviews all program documentation and observes all technical review committee meetings to make

sure the decision-making process meets the highest standards of integrity.

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

## Technical Review Committees: Review of role and function

In 2021, the Grants Branch commissioned a review to explore the role and function of the subcommittees and Technical Review Committees (TRCs) and to provide recommendations for improving their operation. The areas in the scope of the review included committee composition, appointment processes, terms of appointment, and the role and remit in assessing applications and overseeing approved grants.

The review endorsed the use of subcommittees and TRCs as they provide independent technical and scientific expertise that supports informed and defensible decision making. The review found the model to be consistent with best practice grants administration principles.

The report identified a number of key areas where the work of the subcommittees and TRCs could be strengthened, and set out a series of recommendations for addressing the issues. The majority of recommendations were accepted by Trust administration and an implementation strategy is now underway.

## Organisational performance

Trust staff are employed within the department and subject to its administration and organisational performance programs. These include the disability inclusion action plan, workforce diversity, the multicultural policies and services program, work health and safety etc. Further information on these policies and other organisational issues is available in the *NSW Department of Planning and Environment Annual Report 2021-22*.

## Assets

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

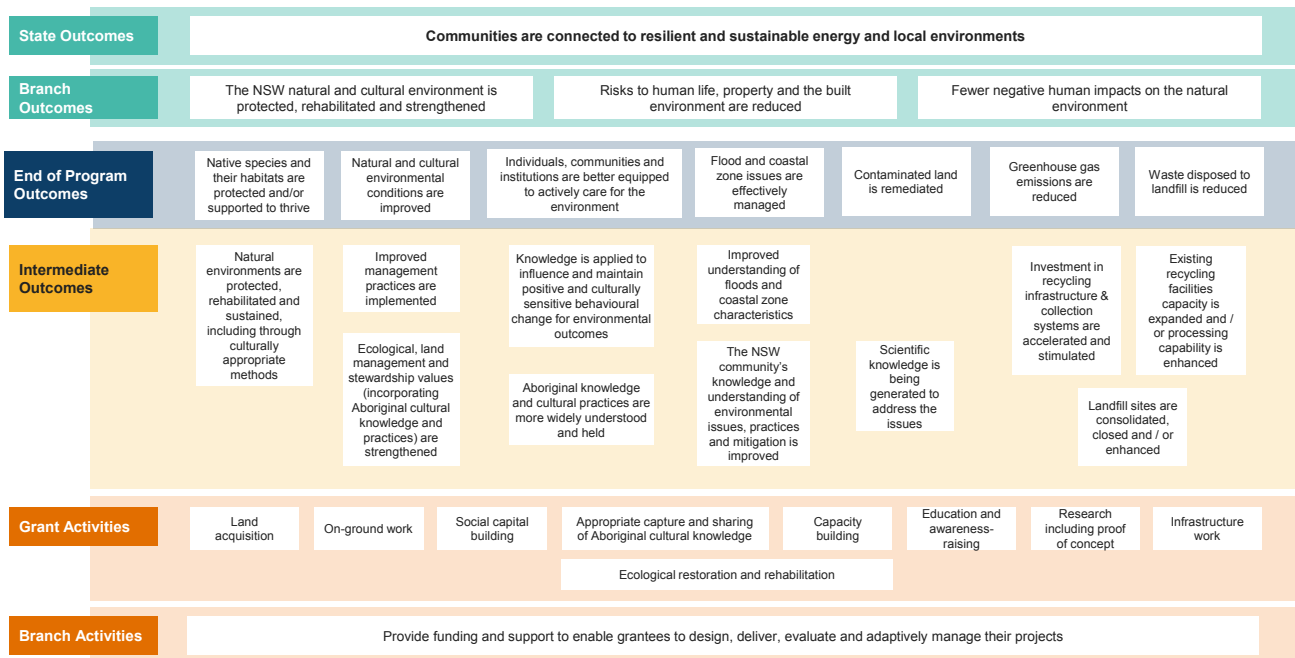
## Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement

Trust programs capture measurable environmental outcomes through an integrated monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework. Grantees report on performance indicators, enabling the Trust to assess project and program achievements and consider broad progress towards statewide environmental goals. The new grants management system (GMS) incorporates these principles in its design to support the planning and successful delivery of funded projects.

During this year the Branch reviewed and updated its approach to Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI). The enhanced MERI framework has an increased focus on the impact

and outcomes of programs and projects funded, as well as a stronger alignment with State outcome indicators. The project performance information that will be collected in the future will consider both quantitative and qualitative evidence as well as incorporating the potential to learn and improve.

Through this collaborative work, a Grants Branch Program Logic has been developed, which includes both the Trust and the Department of Planning and Environment Coast Estuary and Flood programs administered by the Branch. This Logic is a living document that will evolve as new priorities emerge. Implementation of the new MERI Framework has begun and will continue into the next year.



Grants Branch Program Logic.



## Risk management, business continuity and insurance activities

The Department of Planning and Environment (the department) supports the Trust to manage risks.

In 2021–22, the department continued to implement its enterprise-wide risk management framework across its business and the cluster entities to which it provides risk management services. The framework reflects its commitment to provide a consistent and systematic process to manage risks across the cluster. It is consistent with international risk management standard (ISO 31000-2018) and the *NSW Treasury Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the NSW Public Sector* (TPP20-08). It provides the principles and tools for risk management practice and culture within the department and cluster.

During 2021–22 several improvements were made to the framework, which flowed to the Trust. These included conducting a risk maturity assessment, the drafting of a risk appetite statement for the department, and the commencement of a project to provide an enterprise governance, risk and compliance system. Further to these developments, quarterly risk reporting to the Environmental Trust Audit and Risk Committee was undertaken and alignment enabled with the department's Enterprise Risk Register.

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

The Trust utilises the Department of Planning and Environment's Business Continuity Management (BCM) process, which is based on ISO 22301:2019. The process has been rolled out across all entities that make up the Planning and Environment Cluster which have employees employed in or through the department and includes a comprehensive document suite to prepare for and respond to incidents and events that impact critical business operations.

BCM documentation includes 'preparation' documents which are used to plan, coordinate and maintain the BCM process on an ongoing basis, and organisation level 'response' plans which are used to activate and guide an appropriate business continuity response when disruption occurs.

In 2021–22, the Trust utilised the BCM process as part of the department's response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The department became a corporate partner of the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) in 2021. Membership provides the opportunity for staff to become affiliate members of the BCI and access a wide range of business continuity tools and resources. Awareness training to support key staff has also been held.

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

## Audit and review

### Internal audit

During the reporting period the Trust was supported by the department's internal audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy for the General Government Sector (TPP20-08). The Chief Audit Executive (CAE) and internal audit function for the Trust is provided by the department's Internal Audit Branch, Governance and Legal Group. The internal audit function provides independent and objective review and advisory services designed to improve operations, risk management, controls and governance processes.

This year the internal audit team conducted a review of fraud and corruption risks in the Trust's Contestable Grant Programs. The review examined the potential fraud risks that the Trust may be exposed to and set out proposed recommendations in mitigating fraud and corruption risks.

The report will be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee and Trust in 2022–23.

### Audit and Risk Committee

During the reporting period, a standalone Audit and Risk Committee for the Trust was created and met. Previously, the Trust fell under the remit of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Principal Department-Led Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). During the reporting period, the Chief Audit Executive reported to, and Trust management presented to, the ARC. Eight ARC meetings were held during the 2021-22 financial year which included oversight of the Trust. These were either meetings of the DPE Principal Department-Led ARC or the standalone Trust ARC.

## External reviews

The Natural Resources Commission completed an evaluation of the Protection of Koalas in the Murrumbidgee Flora Reserves project in 2021–22, following significant delays due to the 2019–20 bushfires and COVID-19 restrictions.

Twelve stakeholders involved in different parts of the project, including the chairs of the Biamanga and Gulaga management boards, impacted stakeholders, grantors, expert reviewers and representatives, were interviewed as part of the evaluation to determine:

- whether the project delivered the expected outcomes
- whether its design and approach were effective
- what could be learnt from it to improve future projects and long-term outcomes.

The Commission found that the expected short-term project outcomes were delivered but also made several recommendations for Trust administration and the grantee to consider.

A review of the Community Bush Regeneration program undertaken by the Natural Resources Commission has been completed. The Commission's final evaluation report, and the Trust administration response, will be presented to the Trust in late 2022.

## Ethics and integrity

The department revised its Code of Ethics and Conduct in March 2022. The Code is web-based and provides an accessible and up to date resource for all employees to understand and comply with their integrity related obligations. The revision of the Code followed extensive consultation with employees and community stakeholders. The Code shapes the way we act and work together as an organisation, to deliver outcomes for the NSW's growing and future communities.

Significant Code of Ethics and Conduct developments in the reporting period include:

- **Conflicts of interest requirements relating to the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme Protocol** -The department implemented this protocol and delivered training and awareness across the department. The protocol outlines the mandatory requirements to address integrity risks and establishes rules for the consistent management of BOS conflict of interests.

- **Organisational compliance framework** –The framework is comprised of a compliance policy, procedure, and register. It ensures departmental compliance with key legislative and regulatory obligations in the performance of its functions.
- **Lobbying of government official's policy** –The lobbying policy was updated in response to the ICAC's public inquiry into lobbying, access, and influence in New South Wales. The revised policy aligns with the Premier's whole of government response to lobbying reform, which accepted 27 of the ICAC's recommendations to strengthen lobbying integrity measures across the State.
- **Ethics portal** –The department operates a centralised, automated declaration platform to make it easier for employees to submit their integrity related declarations and applications. Throughout 2021–2022, considerable enhancements were made to strengthen safeguards and enable a new range of reporting capabilities.

The department continues to work in collaboration with central agencies, such as the NSW Ombudsman, the Audit Office of New South Wales, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, NSW Procurement, NSW Transport and NSW Treasury, to ensure leading practice guidance is continually revised, developed, and implemented.

## Public Interest Disclosures Act

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

There was one public interest disclosure made by Trust officials for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

## Corporate governance

### Standing Order 52

Under Standing Order 52, the Parliament of NSW can order the production of Executive Government papers to the House.

In the 2021–22 financial year, there were no orders passed by the Legislative Council that required the Environmental Trust to produce documents.

## Service-related complaints

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

## Public access to information

Under Schedule 3 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, the Environmental Trust is a subsidiary agency for the purposes of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act). Therefore, all statistical information about access applications required to be included in an annual report regarding the Trust, in compliance with s125 of the GIPA Act and Clause 8 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, is included in the annual report for the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

## Privacy

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

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

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



# Internal audit and risk management statement

## Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement for the 2021-2022 Financial Year for the Environmental Trust

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

### Core Requirements

#### Risk Management Framework

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

#### Internal Audit Function

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

#### Audit and Risk Committee

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

**Note:** with reference to core requirement 3.1, arrangements were made for the Environmental Trust during the 2021/22 financial year to hold separate Audit and Risk Committee meetings for the Trust as part of the Principal Department Led Shared Audit and Risk Committee arrangement.

## Membership

The independent chair and members of the Audit and Risk Committee are:

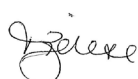
Role	Name	Start Term Date	Finish Term Date
Independent Chair	Penny Hutchinson	1 February 2020	31 January 2023
Independent Member	Brian Blood	1 February 2020	31 January 2023
Independent Member	Julie Elliott	1 November 2019	31 October 2022
Independent Member	Alan Zammit	1 November 2019	31 October 2022

## Shared Arrangements

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

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

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



Tina Bidese  
Secretary  
NSW Environmental Trust

Date: 5/08/2022

Agency Contact:

Simonne Daly  
Executive Director Governance  
02 9585 6184

# Cyber Security Policy Attestation statement

## Cyber Security Annual Attestation Statement for the 2021-2022 Financial Year for the Department of Planning and Environment

I, Michael Cassel, am committed to ensuring that the cyber security defences of the Department of Planning and Environment will continue to be strengthened.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, the Department of Planning and Environment has completed independent audits of its Cyber Security Uplift Program, cyber security controls, and the department's maturity against the NSW Cyber Security Policy. These audits identified both positive progress and opportunities for improvement, consistent with the evolving cyber security threat landscape.

The Department of Planning and Environment has a Cyber Security Strategy in place to ensure continuous improvement and management of cyber security governance, risk, and resilience. Risks to the information and systems of DPE are continually assessed and managed through ongoing cyber security projects and business-as-usual initiatives.

The Department of Planning and Environment has a cyber security response plan that has been exercised during the 2021-2022 financial year. The plan will continue to be reviewed and tested to maintain its currency and effectiveness.

The Department of Planning and Environment's Digital Information Office has maintained compliance with the international security standard, ISO 27001 Information Technology -Security techniques-Information security management systems, as certified by an Accredited Third Party (BSI) during the 2021/2022 financial year (Certificate Number: IS 645082).

The Department will continue to harden its technology environments and increase awareness of cyber security and privacy risks for all staff.

This attestation covers the following departments and agencies:

- Department of Planning and Environment
- Aboriginal Housing Office
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust
- Boundaries Commission
- Cape Byron Reserve Trust
- Coffs Coast Regional Park Trust Board
- Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission
- Environmental Trust
- Heritage Council NSW
- Heritage Division
- Lands Administration Ministerial Corporation
- Local Government Grants Commission
- Local Government Remuneration Tribunal
- National Trust of Australia
- National Parks under Part 4A
- NSW Land and Housing Corporation
- Office of Strategic Lands (Planning Ministerial Corporation) (Corporation Sole)
- Regional Planning Panels (Northern, Southern, Western Hunter and Central Coast)



- Sydney District Planning Panels (Eastern City, North, South, Central City, West)
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee
- Water Administration Ministerial Corporation



**Michael Cassel**

**Secretary**

**NSW Department of Planning and Environment**

Date: *5 October 2022*

## Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust

As defined in section 6 of the Environmental Trust Act, the Trust consists of 5 members.

- Minister for Environment and Heritage (as Chairperson)
- Secretary of NSW Treasury
- Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment

- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of 3 nominated by the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of 3 nominated by Local Government NSW (LGNSW).

In 2021–22 the Trust met 3 times via a combination of face-to-face and online meetings.

### Members of the Trust and meeting attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
The Hon. Matt Kean MP	Chairperson from 1 May 2019 – 20 December 2021 NSW Minister for Energy and Environment (statutory appointment)	2	2
The Hon. James Griffin MP	Chairperson from 21 December 2021 NSW Minister for Environment and Heritage (statutory appointment)	1	1
Ms Jenny Merkley	Deputy for Secretary of NSW Treasury from 28 November 2016	2	3
Dr Paul Grimes	Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment from 1 October 2020 – 28 January 2022	2	2
Mr Atticus Fleming	Deputy for Secretary, Department of Planning and Environment from 29 January 2022	1	1
Professor Donald White	Chairperson Nature Conservation Council of NSW (9 December 2019 – 14 November 2022)	3	3
Councillor Linda Scott	Representative of Local Government NSW (10 November 2021 – 31 October 2024)	3	3

A number of decisions were also made out of session.

## Membership of Trust Technical Review Committees

Under section 9 of the Environmental Trust Act, technical review committees assess and recommend grant applications and business plans, and may provide program guidance and review progress and final reports. Membership of each committee that met during 2021–22 is set out below.

Trust subcommittees were renamed as technical review committees (TRCs) in April 2022 following a review of TRC roles and function.

### Major Projects

#### Biodiversity Technical Review Committee

**Dr James Brazill-Boast (Chairperson)**

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

**Mr Michael Vyse**

Science and Planning Manager, Greening Australia

**Ms Katie McRobert**

General Manager, Australian Farm Institute

**Ms Nicole Maher**

Community representative, Regional Landcare Coordinator, Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.

**Ms Kirsty McIntyre**

Senior Policy Officer, Environment, Local Government NSW

**Dr Bryony Horton**

Senior Team Leader, Department of Planning and Environment

#### Clean Tech Technical Review Committee

**Ms Suzanne Toumbourou (Chairperson)**

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Recycling

**Dr Stephen White**

Energy Efficiency Domain Leader, CSIRO

**Mr Douglas McCloskey**

Policy Officer, Public Interest Advocacy Centre

**Ms Alison Scotland**

Executive Director, Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council

#### Community and Sustainability Technical Review Committee

**Dr Tony Wilkins (Chairperson)**

Principal, AP Wilkins and Associates

**Ms Susy Cenedese**

Strategy Manager, Environment, Local Government NSW

**Dr Greg Walkerden**

Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Macquarie University

**Professor Don White**

Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

**Mr Richard Davies**

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

**Mr Paul Flemons**

Manager, Digital Collections and Citizen Science, Australian Museum

#### Invasive Species Technical Review Committee

**Mr Quentin Hart (Chairperson)**

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

**Professor Kristine French**

University of Wollongong

**Ms Susy Cenedese**

Strategy Manager, Environment, Local Government NSW

**Dr Paul Downey**

Community Representative, Paul Downey Consulting

**Mr Bob Makinson**

Community Representative, Bob Makinson Consulting

### Contestable grant programs

#### Environmental Education Program

**Ms Roz Hall (Chairperson)**

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

**Ms Karen Paroissien**

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

**Ms Erika Van Schellebeck**

Sustainability Education and Engagement Consultant



## Environmental Research Program

### **Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)**

Former Director, Environmental Protection Science, Office of Environment and Heritage

### **Dr Graeme Batley**

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

### **Dr Derek Van Dyk**

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

### **Dr Greg Summerell**

Senior Team Leader, Fire and Culture Science, Department of Planning and Environment

## Protecting our Places Program

### **Professor Jack Beetson (Chairperson)**

*- to April 2022*

Executive Director, Literacy for Life Foundation

### **Mr Joshua Brown (A/Chairperson)**

Director, JB Aboriginal Strategy & Consulting

### **Ms Connie Chatfield**

Former Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Local Government NSW

### **Mr Danny Hirschfield**

Team Supervisor, Sydney Bush Regeneration Company

### **Mr Stuart Jordan**

Acting Community Economic Development Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

### **Ms Maria Woods (Chairperson)**

Former Board Member, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services

### **Mr James Dawson**

Senior Team Leader, Ecosystems and Threatened Species – Illawarra, Department of Planning and Environment

### **Ms Kris Hely**

Bush Regeneration Consultant, New Earth Regeneration

### **Mr Chris Scott**

State Management Committee, Landcare NSW

### **Ms Vivien Howard**

Strategy and Investments Advisor, Central Tablelands Local Land Services

### **Mr Alan McGufficke**

State Management Committee, Landcare NSW

### **Mr Mathew Misdale**

Bushland and Biodiversity Officer, Campbelltown City Council

## Waste Less, Recycle More grant programs

### Organics Collections Grants Program

#### **Mr Justin Lang (Chairperson)**

Manager Local Government and Infrastructure, Green Industries SA

#### **Dr James Turnell**

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

#### **Mr Ken Wilson**

Waste and Sustainability Coordinator, Clarence Valley Council

### Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program

#### **Mr Brock Baker (Chairperson)**

Principal Consultant, Brock Baker Environmental Consulting

#### **Mr Justin Lang**

Manager Local Government and Infrastructure, Green Industries SA

#### **Dr James Turnell**

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

#### **Mr Michael Wood**

Director, Oakwood Consultants Pty Ltd

### Remanufacture NSW Grants Program

#### **Professor William Clarke (Chairperson)**

School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland

#### **Mr Frank Klostermann**

Principal, Full Circle Advisory Pty Ltd

#### **Mr Han Michel**

General Manager, E-three & Associates Pty Ltd

### Remanufacture NSW Remote and Regional Grants Program

#### **Professor William Clarke (Chairperson)**

School of Civil Engineering, University of Queensland

#### **Mr Frank Klostermann**

Principal, Full Circle Advisory Pty Ltd

#### **Mr Han Michel**

General Manager, E-three & Associates Pty Ltd

## Contact information

### Public access and Trust offices

The Trust's contact details are:

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12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

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Web: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/environmental-trust](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/environmental-trust)

### Publications

Visit the Trust's website for grant program guidelines, application forms and annual reports from 1992–93 to 2020–21.

## Abbreviations

ANU	Australian National University	K2C	Kosciuszko to Coast
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee	LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
AWT	alternative waste treatment	LGA	Local Government Area
BAM	biodiversity assessment method	LGNSW	Local Government NSW
BCI	Business Continuity Institute	MERI	monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement
BCM	business continuity management	MUDs	Multi-unit Dwellings
BSFL	Black Solder Larvae	NCC	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
COAG	Council of Australian Governments	NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
COVID-19	the disease caused by the 2019–20 coronavirus	NRC	Natural Resources Commission
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	OILS	Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program
CSU	Charles Sturt University	ORRF	Organics Resource Recovery Facility
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment	PFAS	perfluoroalkyl substances
DPI	Department of Primary Industries	RMF	Recycling Modernisation Fund
EOI	expression of interest	RoC	Rivers of Carbon
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority	RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals NSW
FOGO	food organics and garden organics	SoS	Saving our Species
FWHS	Food Waste for Healthy Soils	TRC	technical review committee
GMS	grants management system	UNSW	University of NSW
GPS	global positioning system	WLRM	Waste Less, Recycle More
GRL	Global Renewables Ltd	WWTP	wastewater treatment plant
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene		

## Photographs

- 5 Water Nutgrass (*Cyperus aquatilis*) inflorescence. Photo: Lachlan Copeland/DPE
- 7 Avenel Station, purchased under the Land Acquisition Program, will contribute to the NSW Government's goal to create a parks system that protects the full range of habitats in NSW. Photo: DPE
- 8 Bundjalung National Park. Photo: John Spencer/DPE
- 13 Grabben Gullen – Rivers of Carbon, before restoration works. Photo: Australian River Restoration Centre
- 13 Grabben Gullen – Rivers of Carbon, after revegetation works. Photo: Australian River Restoration Centre
- 15 The Trust's SoS Partnership Grants Program is helping to save the scarlet robin. Photo: Jackie Miles/DPE
- 17 Mid Lachlan Landcare group is working to protect the critically endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodland in a fenced remnant area. Photo: Tracee Burke/Mid Lachlan Landcare
- 20 NPWS staff in the Snowy region, working to eradicate Hawkweed. Photo: Leisl Grant/DPE
- 21 The rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife is supported as part of the Bushfire Relief Fund project. Photo: Doug Beckers/DPE
- 22 Drones are helping to eradicate weeds on Lord Howe Island. Photo: Sue Bower, Lord Howe Island Board
- 23 Mallee Cliffs fence. Photo: Brad Leue/Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- 27 Top: The yarning circle, on the edge of Catalina Lake. Photo: Jane Anderson -Garguree Bushcare
- 27 Bottom: Volunteers planted 200 swamp plants during the Gardening Australia visit. Photo: Jane Anderson -Garguree Bushcare
- 30 This threatened species mural, painted on a local business, was inspired by the Trust-funded project in the Cessnock City Council area. Photo: Andi Mether/Zest Events International
- 31 Students learning about the environment through immersive learning. Photo: Adam Hollingworth/DPE
- 31 RSPCA media campaign for 'Keeping Cats Safe at Home'
- 32 NPWS scorecards site map
- 34 Helping wildlife carers through the Wildlife Heroes project. Photo: Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife
- 39 Feral cat traps being transported to a site in the Central Mallee region of NSW. Photo: Assoc. Prof. Guy Ballard/UNE & DPI
- 39 Feral deer management in Kosciuszko National Park. Photo: DPE
- 41 Setting up the Felixer Grooming Trap for the Beyond Fencing project. Photo: Richard Kingsford/UNSW
- 47 Sydney University's HotRot biodigester at its Camperdown campus. Photo: Sydney University
- 49 Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*). Photo: DPE
- 69 Regent honey eater (*Anthochaera phrygia*). Photo: Mick Roderick/DPE



