

# Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Levy

Supporting you to enjoy and protect our natural environment.

## Key Achievements

Up to 30 June 2018

Environmental Levy has leveraged over \$12 million of grants since 2005

The Environmental Levy has delivered a number of environmental and social benefits, including:

- the protection of bushland and local biodiversity
- a reduction in the urban impacts of stormwater on riparian areas
- a reduction in potable water use
- a reduction in waste to landfill
- improvements to the condition of waterways
- the provision of cycle ways and recreational facilities in natural areas
- the control of dumping and encroachment into bushland
- a reduction in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- our community and local businesses living and operating more sustainably
- our community feeling more connected to nature and with others
- increased community well being



For more information, please visit [kmc.nsw.gov.au/elevy](http://kmc.nsw.gov.au/elevy)

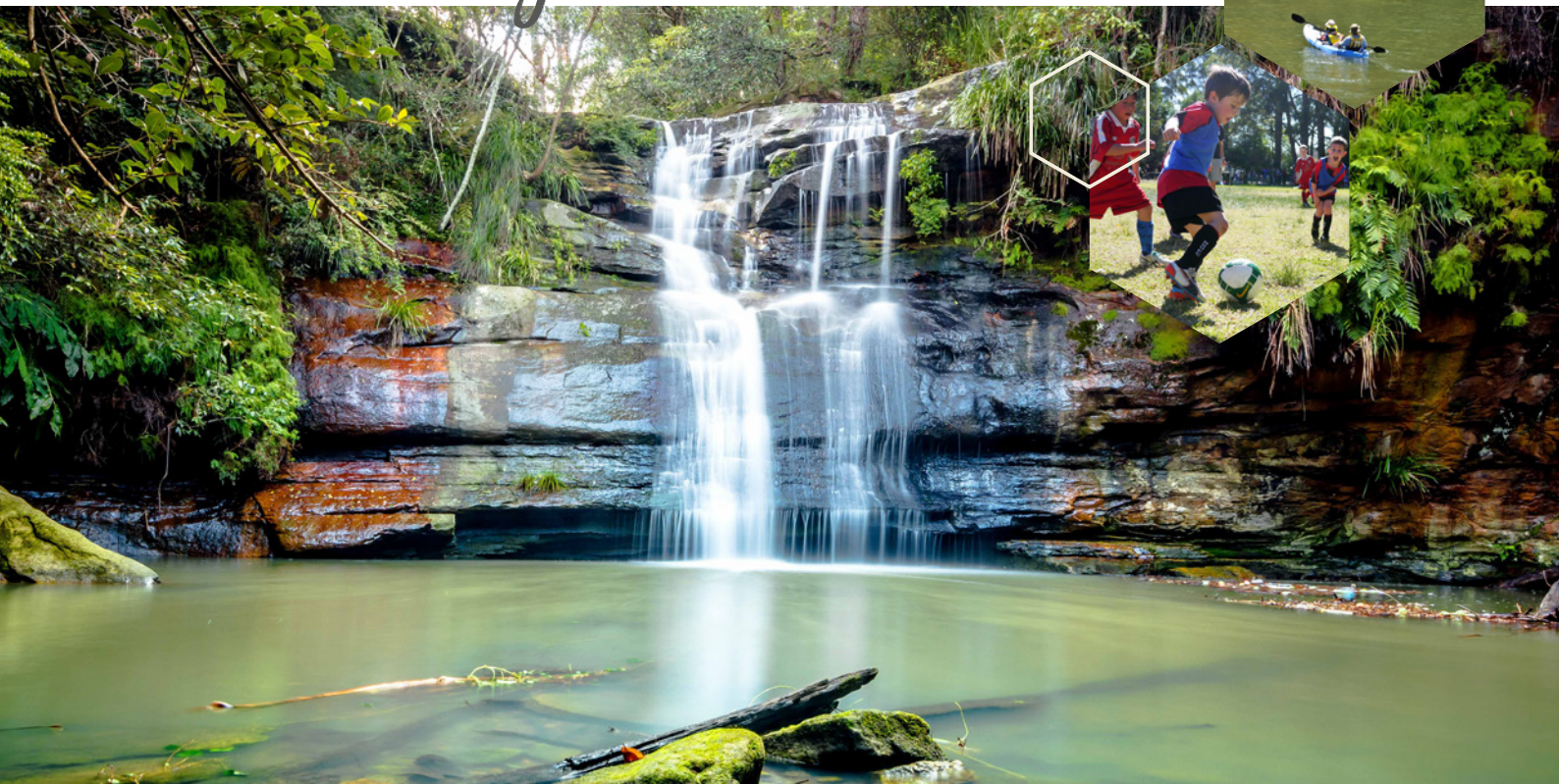


In addition, the multi-disciplinary team funded by the Environmental Levy fulfil a number of essential service functions for Council, ensuring best practice environmental management. Levy funded staff develop and review a range of environmental policies and strategies; respond to federal and state policy directions and legislative changes affecting Ku-ring-gai; provide input into the preparation of Council's land use planning documents; provide expert environmental guidance and advice within Council and to the community; participate in research partnerships; and prepare and review environmental assessments for all Council projects, ensuring that Council's legislative requirements are met.





# Water and Catchment Management



- 12,915 tonnes of rubbish diverted from our waterways (from our Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) devices, Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) and street sweeping) since 2012
- 651,157 kL of water reused (from our stormwater harvesting, leachate reuse and sewer mining systems) since 2012 (137,847kL of water harvested / reused in 17/18 equivalent to water used by 813 households and \$275,694 worth of potable water)
- 86% of total demand in 2017/18 across our reuse / harvesting sites being met by reused / harvested water
- Construction and management of 18 stormwater and rainwater harvesting and reuse systems; 2 leachate recycling systems; 2 sewer mining systems; 46 bio filter gardens; 1 roof top filter garden; and 78 stormwater quality improvement devices since 2005
- 12 creek restoration projects since 2005



# Sustainable Transport and Community Recreation



- Creation of Jubes Mountain Bike Park
- Creation of 9km of new cycle ways across the Ku-ring-gai LGA from Roseville to St Ives
- Maintenance of 27.8 kilometres of walking tracks and renewal of 2.3 kilometres of walking tracks in the Ku-ring-gai LGA since 2012





# Energy Management



- Solar PV installation at 10 Council Sites (Bridge Street Administration Building – 20kW; Suakin Street Depot – 100kW; Bancroft Art Centre – 12kW; Thomas Carlyle Childcare Centre – 19kW; North Turramurra Sewerage Treatment Plant – 41kW; Gordon Library – 52kW; Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre – 126kW; Turramurra Library – 29kW; St Ives Library – 25kW; and East Roseville Community Centre – 16kW), leading to total installed capacity of 440kW
- LED lighting upgrades at 13 community sites (St Ives Community Centre, West Lindfield Community Centre, Gordon Old School Building, East Roseville Community Centre, West Pymble Community Centre, Bancroft Art Centre, Thomas Carlyle Childcare Centre, St Ives Community Groups, Turramurra Library, Gordon Library, St Ives Library, Bridge Street Administration Building and Suakin Street Depot)
- Solar hot water at 10 community sites (Roseville Chase Oval, Thomas Carlyle Childcare Centre, Lindfield Oval (Tryon Oval), Gordon Library, Turramurra Oval (memorial), Golden Jubilee Oval, Old Bushland Depot, Wildflower Garden Pavilion, Wildflower Garden Residence and Marion St Theatre - Lower Floor)
- Solar heat pump upgrades at 2 community sites (St Ives Showground (grandstand) and St Ives Showground (residency))
- Improvements to HVAC (air conditioning) controls at 7 Council sites (Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre, Gordon Library, Council Chambers, Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre, Gordon Library, Suakin Street Depot and Bridge Street Administration Building)
- Energy efficiency upgrades of pool filtration and pool heating plant at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- Installation of pool covers at the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- Intelligent lighting controls at Gordon Library
- Installation of smart metering and/or automated monitoring systems at 18 Council sites (Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre, Gordon Library, North Turramurra Sewerage Treatment Plant, Gordon Golf Course Sewerage Treatment Plant, St Ives Showground, 828 Pacific Highway, Suakin Street Depot, Council Chambers, Lindfield Library, Turramurra Library, St Ives Library, Bancroft Art Centre, Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre, Gordon Old School Building, Bridge Street Administration Building, Former Council Nursery and Nursery Dwelling Pymble car park Pacific Highway)
- Reduction in annual electricity costs of \$150,000
- Reduction in annual electricity use of 745 MWh
- Reduction in annual emissions of 792 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- 13% reduction in annual energy use across all of Council's buildings and facilities





# Community Engagement



- Over 1,500 trees planted annually at National Tree Day by 120 volunteers
- \$112,109 in community rebates for the installation of 406 energy-efficient pool pumps, and 5 energy saving home retrofits, leading to annual savings of \$170,848, energy savings of 678MW hours and matched community investment of \$425,745
- \$43,562 in community rebates for 67 rainwater tanks with 328,133 L of capacity and 7 raingardens and matched community investment of \$179,981
- Tailored sustainability action plans and rebates for 22 unit blocks, with \$606,402 of annual savings identified in common areas of apartment blocks for energy management measures, such as replacing lights (emergency lights and lights in car parks, foyers, passages, gardens and garbage rooms); carbon monoxide sensors in car parks; solar installations to offset energy use in common areas; and a review of tariffs
- 75 Pool to Pond conversions (Wild Things program) since 2008
- 1,223 native bee hives distributed (731 in Ku-ring-gai and 492 across Sydney and surrounds), since 2006
- Tailored sustainability advice for 169 households and garden advice for 211 households
- 109 worm farms and 373 compost bins distributed, diverting 58 tonnes of waste from land fill
- Tailored sustainability action plans for over 260 Ku-ring-gai businesses, including 169 waste audits, 15 energy audits and 2 water audits
- Assisted 1,059 residents prepare for more extreme weather events through the Climate Wise Communities program, partnering with the SES, Red Cross, Police, RFS and Department of Health
- 400 members of the Chinese / Korean community participating in sustainability workshops and / or bushwalks
- \$786,365 distributed to community groups for 217 local environmental projects
- 27,952 participants in Council's Loving Living Ku-ring-gai program since 2012
- 10,200 actions taken by residents to benefit the environment since 2012
- Broadening community outreach through social media - Council's Loving Living Ku-ring-gai Facebook page now has 3,022 likes; the Loving Living Ku-ring-gai Twitter account has 602 followers; the YouTube Envirotube channel has 1,459 subscribers and the 100+ videos on the channel have registered 410,356 views; and the monthly sustainability e-news has 2,711 subscribers





# Bushland and Wildlife



## Biodiversity and bushland management

- Bush restoration activities in 38 priority bushland reserves, covering 60 hectares each year
- 23 ecological burns conducted since 2012 covering 14 hectares
- 99 hectare BioBanking site created at Sheldon Forest, Rofe Park and Commenarra Creek Reserve
- 687 environmental volunteers dedicating 13,610 volunteer hours per year to activities that benefit the environment
- 645 dumping and encroachment issues resolved and 36 bushland reserves proactively monitored (36.3 linear kilometres)

## Fauna monitoring

Greater understanding of flora and fauna species distribution and abundance to inform environmental and development assessments through fauna monitoring program:

- Grey-headed Flying-fox counts and extent mapping, to determine population trends and feeds for the National Flying-fox census run by the CSIRO
- Eastern Pygmy Possum monitoring, in collaboration with community volunteers, where 24 nest boxes are monitored monthly, providing data on abundance and distribution



- Microbats monitoring, where 30 sites around the Ku-ring-gai LGA are surveyed for microbats, providing insights into abundance, assemblage and distribution.
- Large reserve based fauna surveys. The most recent was a fauna survey in Sheldon Forest and Rofe Park, which will contribute to the development of a monitoring program to better understand the impacts to fauna associated with fire

## Bushfire management

- The completion of 7 kilometres of major fire trail upgrades since 2012