



Greater Taree
City Council

Environmental Action Plan

November 2013



Adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 20 November 2013

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1 Summary

The *Manning Valley Community Plan 2010-2030* identifies 'Respecting the Environment' as one of the Key Directions for Council. During the preparation of the Community Plan two community surveys were undertaken to identify areas of concern and attitudes towards funding the objectives of the plan. While many people rated the environment as a high priority during this process, one survey identified that around 60% of respondents were 'unsure' as to what environmental issues required action from Council. To explore this matter further in consultation with the community, Council sought and was subsequently successful in obtaining funding through the NSW Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment Program to appoint a project officer to coordinate the development of an Environmental Action Plan.

Feedback obtained from the community through a series of public workshops and a survey has provided Council with a better understanding of the community's priorities for environmental projects, which has been used to assist in the development of the Environmental Action Plan.

In addition to the above, the community also voiced strong support for dredging of the Manning River estuary and to improve boating facilities. While a Maintenance Dredging Strategy and a Boating Infrastructure Plan have both been prepared, Council has had to rely heavily on external grants to fund the works, which has been limited due to some funding bodies requiring matching funding. As these types of projects can result in outcomes that benefit the environment they have also been included in the Environmental Action Plan, but under its own theme.

The Plan is comprised of two parts – low cost projects and process improvements that can largely be undertaken in-house, and projects that require significant funding and resources.

While a number of avenues are available to help fund the Plan, the only sustainable option for Council is to introduce an environmental levy (Special Rate Variation). An environmental levy is considered the most effective way for Council to be able to provide matching funding for applications to external grant programs. Great Lakes Council has almost tripled their Environmental Rate this way since introducing it over ten years ago, which value adds to funding provided by the community.

Many of the environmental projects proposed in the plan, particularly those aimed at improving the water quality of the Manning River, generate a range of other benefits for the community by supporting the local economy through increased tourism and recreational use and improving the productivity of our oyster and fishing industries. The broader benefits of protecting the environment can be clearly seen in the Great Lakes LGA where the health of the Wallis Lake is now the keystone of Great Lake's tourism, commercial fishing and oyster industries.

2 Plan Development

The development of the Environmental Action Plan commenced in August 2012 and has involved the following components:

- A review of existing plans and strategies to prioritise local environmental issues and identify outstanding actions.
- Benchmarking of Council's environmental programs against those undertaken at Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, and Great Lakes Councils.
- Development of a Natural Asset Register to document the LGA's key environmental assets and what actions are required to properly protect and manage these.

- Surveys of Council's Natural Area Reserves to document their values, their usage, management issues, risks, and potential for future development.
- A detailed analysis of current funding options and grant programs was undertaken to establish the conditions, eligibility, long-term commitments, and requirements for matching funding.
- Consultation with environmental groups and government agencies involved in natural resource management including MidCoast Water, Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Crown Lands, Office of Environment and Heritage, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Forests and NSW Fisheries, to identify common goals and potential partnerships.
- Consultation with relevant Council staff to identify Council's key environmental risks and the associated legal obligations and management implications for Council.

The resulting information was then presented to the community via a series of public workshops held during November and December 2012, and also formed the basis of a survey to seek input from the community on priorities for future environmental projects for Council.

During the consultation process a range of project ideas were also presented to the community and the feedback received showed that the community had an expectation of Council being involved in a wide range of environmental projects with a focus on achieving on-ground results; with all projects having educational and interpretive aspects as subsidiary components.

The Environmental Action Plan proposes a range of projects to address the key environmental issues raised by the community, and the objectives and strategies of the Manning Valley Community Plan under the Key Direction of 'Respecting the Environment' (see Appendix A).

The approach taken in the development of this plan was to distil the priorities into groups of clearly defined themes and projects, and setting priority criteria and target locations so that the community can clearly see where Council will be involved in the development and implementation of environmental projects. The plan also reflects a group of projects that relate primarily to improvements to Council processes, many of which can be undertaken by Council staff with minimal resources, and where Council has an advocacy or supporting role.

The Environmental Action Plan sits under Council's Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework which includes the annual Operational Plan, 4-year Delivery Plan, and the 10-year Long Term Financial Plan. The recognition of the Environmental Action Plan and the associated environmental levy in these documents will ensure that the actions translate from being identified as matters of importance, to being included in plans for implementation and resourcing.

The Environmental Action Plan should be reviewed every 5 years, or in line with any approved period for a Special Rate Variation, to ensure it is kept relevant and up to date. Monitoring of environmental indicators will be undertaken in conjunction with each project which will provide valuable information to inform future reviews. Project progress and achievements will be publicly reported annually in combination with Council's Annual Report, where Council is required to measure its performance in meeting the objectives of the Manning Valley Community Plan.

3 Identification of Environmental Issues

Part of the process in developing the Environmental Action Plan was to compile a summary of existing plans which include actions that identify Council as responsible for its implementation such as the Manning River Estuary Management Plan, the Wallis Lake Catchment Management Plan and the Greater Taree Environmental Management Plan. Regional natural resource management plans such as the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan and the Mid North Coast Regional Conservation Plan were also used to identify environmental issues affecting Greater Taree.

These actions were then reviewed as some are outdated and no longer relevant, some are completed, and many have commenced but are only partly completed. Many of the plans are aspirational with Council identified as being the lead organisation for many of the actions without any resourcing allocated to enable delivery, resulting in many actions being undelivered. The outstanding actions that are still considered relevant and a priority for Council have been incorporated into the projects proposed in this plan.

Council's statutory obligations such as the protection of Council's assets, public health and safety requirements, preventing environmental pollution, and avoiding damage to natural assets such as plant and animal populations listed as threatened under State and Federal legislation, were also considered to assist in identifying priorities in this plan.

Following subsequent consultation with the community via workshops and surveys, it was indicated that Council should concentrate on developing projects and actions which address the following key environmental issues:

- Acid drainage from exposed acid sulfate soils and resulting impacts on water quality and the oyster and fishing industries.
- Degradation of rivers, estuaries and wetlands, including sedimentation, loss of vegetation, river bank erosion, and resulting impacts on water quality.
- Loss of biodiversity including the degradation, loss and fragmentation of native vegetation and wildlife habitat.
- Resource consumption, population growth and associated impacts of development.
- Soil degradation including erosion and mass soil movement (e.g. landslips).

A summary of the community survey responses received by Council are presented in Appendix B.

4 Prioritising Actions to address Environmental Issues

Actions to address environmental issues were prioritised based on the consideration of the following:

- What evidence is there – either anecdotal or scientific – that there is a problem?
- Is there sustained or widespread community concern about the problem?
- Does Council have a legal responsibility in this area?
- Can Council make a significant difference to the problem?
- In addressing this problem, would Council be duplicating previous work, existing programs or other authority's responsibilities?

- If it is not addressed, will it result in irreversible environmental damage?
- Is the issue likely to become dangerous or more expensive for the community or Council if it is not addressed?

Actions that are considered a high priority are those that:

- Involve key strategic initiatives that address big-picture issues.
- Address multiple issues and deliver compound benefits.
- Help to meet Council's legislative responsibilities.
- Incorporate objectives whose achievement is considered time and resource efficient.
- Address, or arise from, the regional Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan.

The priority environmental actions fall into the following three broad themes, which have been used to organise the plan's proposed projects:

1. Estuary and Water Quality
2. Biodiversity
3. Sustainability and Environmental Performance

Dredging and improvements to recreational facilities within foreshore areas have also been included as a separate theme in the plan, which are proposed to be implemented in line with the priorities established in the Greater Taree Maintenance Dredging Strategy and the Manning Valley Boating Infrastructure Plan.

5 Resourcing the Plan

The actions to address the environmental issues raised by the community may be resourced via a range of methods or a combination of these:

1. Through the use of Council's ability to control and guide development and building.
2. Implementation through existing Council programs such as waste management and noxious weed control.
3. Through the use of existing available staff time and resources (via general revenue), so that programs can be developed and implemented by staff in conjunction with their normal work program. Many of these items involve normal 'reflective practice' reviews and improvements to work processes.
4. Via collaboration with a range of other government and non-government groups and individuals. Some of these actions may be undertaken by other groups with the support and assistance of Council, e.g. provision of administrative and technical support.
5. Through targeted projects identified by Council and funded by developers, through Voluntary Planning Agreements for example. In addition the 'offsets' required of developers to achieve the 'maintain or improve' test within the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* also provide the impetus for developers to offset any negative impacts of proposals. These and other similar mechanisms may harness development to provide positive environmental benefits.

6. Through the prioritisation of proposed projects, so that staff time and resources, and the preparation of grant applications and special budgetary requests to Council, can be undertaken in a systematic way – working on the items of highest priority first. A summary of the government grant programs currently available to fund the environmental projects proposed in this plan are summarised in Appendix C.

While there are some government funding programs which do not require matching funding, funding is not guaranteed or recurrent and the application process is often extremely competitive, with project proposals being assessed on the basis of value for money. Proposals that represent greatest benefit for every dollar invested will be considered of greater merit. Funding bodies always encourage applicants to develop projects which include partnerships, collaboration, other funding sources and in-kind contributions. These all tend to improve project outcomes and make applications more competitive. A number of improvements to Council's grant application processes are also proposed to increase Council's chances of securing funding and these are summarised in Appendix D.

7. Through the raising of funds via fees – statutory fees, cost-recovery charges, or the introduction of an environmental levy. An environmental levy is considered the most effective way for Council to be able to provide matching funding for applications to external grant programs. Great Lakes Council has almost tripled their environmental rate this way since introducing it over ten years ago. Appendix E contains an example of what an environmental levy works program might look like based on a 5% rate over a 5-year period. Proposed funding allocations have been applied to environmental project priorities based on the feedback received from the community. This includes 1% being allocated to dredging and improvements to boating facilities.

6 Investment Principles

There are a number of investment principles which will be considered in developing the projects proposed in the plan including:

1. Seeking a Special Rate Variation for an environmental levy to have funds to dedicate to projects.
2. Matching the environmental levy with applications to other external funding, to increase funds available for projects.
3. Community engagement and involvement to include volunteer work in the cost of proposed projects.
4. Partnerships and collaborations to share resourcing of projects over a wide range of groups and agencies.
5. Technical reviews and support for applications – using local experts to help develop the best possible project proposal.
6. Capacity building, training and employment opportunities for the Aboriginal community should be part of all project proposals.
7. Work undertaken on private land should be secured through landholder management agreements which commit the landholder to a maintenance period following completion of the works.

7 Action Plan

The following two sections break the actions into the following two categories:

- a) Actions involving Council by way of advocacy, provision of technical/administrative support and the implementation of low cost improvements.
- b) Major projects requiring significant investment. This category is divided into the following four themes:
 - i. Estuary and Water Quality
 - ii. Biodiversity
 - iii. Sustainability and Environmental Performance
 - iv. Dredging and Foreshore Improvements

7a Advocacy, Technical Support & Low Cost Improvements

The following environmental issues were identified by the community during the consultation phase as local priorities, however many of these issues can largely be addressed in-house without the allocation of significant funding. This may include improvements to internal work processes and systems dealing with development assessment, strategic planning proposals, and other regulatory services. Some of the issues identified are not considered to be the primary responsibility of Council and so Council's role in addressing these issues may only be through collaborations with other State Government agencies or as an advocate for the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	CURRENT/PROPOSED ACTION
Investigation into the impacts of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) Mining	<p>Council has adopted a position statement on CSG mining which supports the rigorous assessment of the environmental risks, social and economic impacts of CSG mining proposals. This position statement was developed in collaboration with MidCoast Water's Sustainable Water Cycle Management Committee.</p> <p>Council will continue to liaise with relevant State Government departments and collaborate with other councils in relation to any investigations into the impacts of proposed CSG mining, and provide information on proposed actions to the local community.</p>
Protection of agricultural land from potential impacts of activities like coal seam gas mining, urban expansion, and those which impact on water quality and natural resources	<p>Current agricultural land classification mapping for the region needs to be updated to better inform strategic planning to protect prime areas of agricultural land. This project is the responsibility of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) which Council may be able to participate in.</p>
Using the development assessment process to deliver improvements in landscape connectivity	<p>Council will continue to promote programs like Biobanking to developers to offset the environmental impact of development, and collaborate with the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage to identify priority local areas for the targeting of offsets.</p>

COMMUNITY ISSUE	CURRENT/PROPOSED ACTION
Avoiding conflicts between development and the environment	Council will improve access to accurate reliable information such as vegetation mapping, threatened species habitat and key threatening processes, upon which to base strategic planning decisions.
Improved bushfire preparedness in response to a higher likelihood of more frequent and intense bushfires as a result of Climate Change	<p>Council adopted a local Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan in 2011 which includes actions to address bushfire risk, namely improvements to development planning and emergency response procedures.</p> <p>Council will also continue to participate in the Greater Taree Bushfire Risk Management Committee and collaborate with other councils and government agencies to address this issue.</p>
Reduced impact of sewerage from on site effluent disposal systems on waterways	Council will continue to monitor and regulate on-site sewerage management systems to minimise the impacts of nutrients on local waterways. Council will also promote programs to address dairy and chicken litter nutrient management in collaboration with DPI.
Better management of threatened flora and fauna species	Development sites will be addressed through improvements in rezoning and development assessment processes such as the preparation of constraint mapping for environmentally sensitive land.
Council to promote best practices in environmental management	<p>Council to continue to collaborate with other agencies and councils to promote information to residents on environmental best practices, via its website, fact sheets, media, field days and community events, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental weeds & control methods - pest animals & control methods - reduction of resource consumption - carbon sequestration - acid sulfate soils management - habitat connectivity and revegetation of corridors - erosion & sediment control. - soil health - asset protection zones and fire prevention works

Legend for the Following Tables:

Theme	Broad area of work identified as forming a common theme for potential projects.
Project Activity	Specific activities which will be undertaken as part of the project.
Priority Areas	Priority areas or factors which have been previously identified as key local environmental issues in other studies and plans.
Estimated Project Costs	<p>Costs are based on the costs of past similar projects, cost estimating rate books, the Catchment Management Authority's project delivery costs, standard Council procurement processes, contract payment milestones and final expenditure reporting for completed grant projects.</p> <p>It is important to note that the project costs identified in the following tables may be subject to change based on CPI increases, available funding opportunities, collaborative partnership opportunities, etc.</p>
Potential Partnerships	Identification of potential supporting partners who have common interests or responsibilities in managing the environmental issue (many of these partner agencies also deliver environmental grant programs to provide funding assistance for these types of projects – see Appendix C).

7b Major Projects



Acid sulfate soil remediation – Big Swamp



Acid sulfate soil remediation - Cattai Wetlands



Rehabilitate coastal floodplain vegetation



Pollutant traps to improve water quality



Management of urban waterways & drains



Stabilisation of roadside erosion & landslips

THEME ONE: ESTUARY & WATER QUALITY



Improvements to roadside erosion control



Arrest dune erosion at beach access points



Stabilisation of active riverbank erosion



Protect & enhance coastal saltmarsh



Protect coastal wetlands



Protect & improve riparian buffers

7b Major Projects

Theme 1: Estuary & Water Quality

PROJECT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY AREAS	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS
a) Acid Sulfate Soil (ASS) Hot Spot Remediation	Identified ASS Hotspot areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cattai Wetlands – Big Swamp – Moto-Coopernook 	Land purchase at market price, plus remediation works at cost Boardwalks = \$450/m Bushfire trail maintenance = \$10,000/yr Weed & pest control at cost	Australian Government NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Catchment Management Authority DPI Fisheries Private Landholders
b) River Health	Active riverbank erosion areas as documented in the Manning Riverbank Study (1993) (now updated). Areas identified in the Wallis Lake Catchment Management Plan (2003). Areas contributing high levels of nutrients & faecal coliforms into waterways. Floodgate management.	Fence & replant = \$10,000+ per ha Fence & weed control = \$7,000 per ha Rock Fillets = \$110-250/m Rock Revetment = \$500/m	Private Landholders Catchment Management Authority NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Crown Lands DPI Fisheries MidCoast Water Great Lakes Council
c) Urban Waterway Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Browns Creek in Taree – Manning & Dawson Rivers in Cundletown & Taree – Wards & Vinegar Creeks in Harrington – Cedar Party Creek in Wingham – Racecourse Creek in Old Bar 	Regeneration = \$1,000 - \$5,000 per ha Concrete recreational path = \$235/m Gross Pollutant Trap = Range in price from \$15,000 - \$120,000 depending on level of treatment proposed	Australian Government NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Community Groups Neighbouring Residents Local Businesses DPI Fisheries
d) Roadside and Coastal Erosion Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Old Bar coastal erosion hotspot – 4WD/pedestrian beach access – Coastal dune erosion – Erosion prone roadsides – Creek road crossings – Crowdy Head, Wallabi Point cliffs 	Landslip stabilisation = \$20,000+ per site Fence to exclude public access = \$12/m Beach access improvements – costs vary	Private Landholders Catchment Management Authority NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Crown Lands
e) Coastal Floodplain Vegetation Protection & Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manning River Floodplain – Lansdowne River Floodplain – Other sites as identified (e.g. Stewarts River Floodplain) – Priorities from coastal studies 	Protective fencing = \$12/m Stock watering = \$8,000 per system Habitat enhancements and revegetation at cost	Australian Government Catchment Management Authority Office of Environment & Heritage Private Landholders Crown Lands, DPI Fisheries



Management of Council's natural reserves



Addressing vandalism of natural reserves



Programs to control environmental weeds



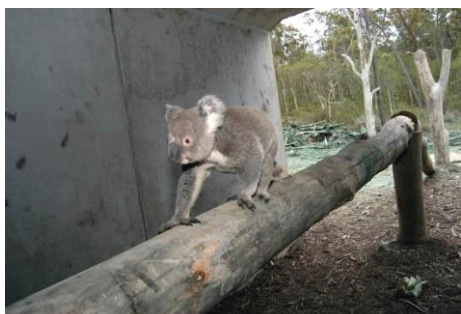
Removal fish barriers to enable habitat access



Active management of threatened species



Protection of habitat connectivity areas



Improve wildlife movement around roads



Revegetate cleared areas in habitat corridors



Improve wildlife blackspot areas



Improve habitat within Council's reserves



Feral animal control within Council's reserves



Construct walking paths, interpretative signs

7b Major Projects

Theme 2: Biodiversity

PROJECT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY AREAS	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS
a) Natural Reserve Management	Priorities identified in the surveys of Council's Natural Reserves	Habitat enhancements and revegetation at cost.	Crown Lands Catchment Management Authorities NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Community Groups
b) Environmental Weed / Pest Animal Control	Significant weed infestations & pest animals which threaten high value conservation areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Camphor Laurel – Small and Large-leaved Privet – Riparian Vine Weeds (Madeira Vine, Balloon Vine, Cats Claw Creeper) – Indian Mynas, Feral Deer, Wild Dogs, Foxes, Feral Cats 	\$250 - \$5,000/ha depending on level of weed infestation (mostly \$1,000-\$3,000/ha). Pest control varies depending on extent & severity of problem	Crown Lands Catchment Management Authorities NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Community Groups Private Landholders
c) Fish Barrier Removal	Priorities identified in DPI Fisheries' Report 'Reducing the Impact of Road Crossings on Aquatic Habitat in Coastal Waterways – Hunter/Central Rivers, NSW'.	\$10,000 - \$150,000 per site depending on design requirements.	DPI Fisheries Crown Lands Catchment Management Authorities NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
d) Wildlife Blackspot Enhancements & Landscape Connectivity Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Known blackspots sourced from wildlife fatality records (e.g. Koalas in Care, FAWNA). – Predicted problem areas from aerial photo analysis of habitat corridors. 	Fauna crossings = \$10,000 - \$30,000 per site depending on design requirements. Revegetation = \$3,000 - \$15,000 per ha depending on site.	Crown Lands Catchment Management Authorities NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Private Landholders Roads & Maritime Services Community Groups



Install renewable energy systems



Implement energy saving measures



Undertake water quality monitoring



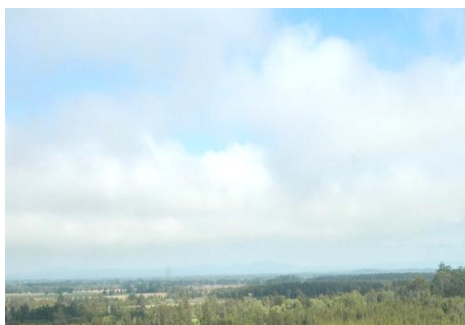
Measures to improve recycling & reuse



Collect & analyse natural resource data



Reduce water use & increase water reuse



Monitoring of air quality & noise pollution



Ecological surveys of future growth areas



Promote environmental best practice



Monitoring & mapping of habitat loss



Research soil carbon sequestration



Climate change adaptation

7b Major Projects

Theme 3: Sustainability & Environmental Performance

PROJECT ACTIVITY	PRIORITY AREAS	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS
a) Minimising our Carbon Footprint	<p>Collaborations, partnerships and projects to address facilities with high consumption of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Power – Water – Consumables / Waste 	<p>Variation in costs of systems – competitive tendering proposed in addition to seeking government rebates to reduce project costs.</p> <p>1kw solar panel = \$1,500 approx (after rebate)</p>	<p>Australian Government NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Residents Local Businesses Community Groups</p>
b) Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management	<p>Issues requiring improved monitoring, mapping, information and systems to inform better decision-making around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water quality – Threatened species – Native vegetation – Resource consumption – Habitat loss – Prime agricultural lands – Development of environmental planning strategies (e.g. Local Biodiversity Conservation Strategy) – Management of environmental risks / environmental compliance (e.g. through the development of Environmental Management Systems) 	<p>Engagement of consultants to undertake data monitoring and reporting, surveys and mapping will be required in most cases on a fee basis.</p> <p>Purchase of monitoring equipment may also be required.</p> <p>Opportunities for resource sharing with other agencies will be explored to reduce costs.</p>	<p>NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Department of Planning & Infrastructure Australian Government MidCoast Water Catchment Management Authority</p>
c) Climate Change Adaptation	<p>Implementation of GTCC Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Plan (2011)</p>	<p>Costs vary with types of project implemented - adaptation for sea level rise, increased fire frequency, temperatures, storm intensity & flooding.</p>	<p>NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Department of Planning & Infrastructure Australian Government Business & Industry SES</p>



Dredging of river for navigation purposes



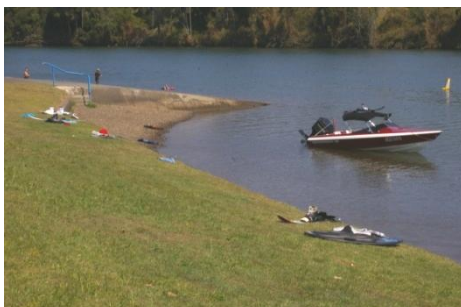
Enhance river access for boating users



Boating access facilities – pontoons



Riverside parks and visitor facilities



Boating access facilities – boat ramps



Boating user educational signage



Improvements to car parking facilities



Enhanced access for fishers



Fish cleaning stations



Light watercraft access points



Control riverbank erosion to maintain access



Facilitate use of river for water sports

7b Major Projects

Theme 4: Dredging & Foreshore Improvements

TARGET ACTIVITY	PRIORITY AREAS	ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS
a) Dredging for Navigation Purposes	<p>Priorities as established in the 'Greater Taree Maintenance Dredging Strategy' 2010</p> <p>Possible reuse or relocation of sand from dredging for sand replenishment sites</p>	<p>\$3-8/m³ for dredging costs (planning, administration and supervision costs additional)</p> <p>\$20,000 per site for revegetation of land disposal site</p>	<p>Crown Lands</p> <p>Local Industry Groups</p> <p>Community Groups (e.g. Farquhar Inlet Management Group)</p> <p>Recreational Boating Groups</p> <p>NSW Maritime</p> <p>NSW Fisheries</p>
b) Improvements to Foreshore Recreation Facilities	<p>Priorities as established in the 'Manning River Boating Infrastructure Plan' 2012</p> <p>Other priority sites as identified (e.g. foreshore areas not identified in the current the 'Manning River Boating Infrastructure Plan')</p> <p>Establishment of walking and cycle paths and interpretive trails to provide environmental education opportunities.</p>	<p>Toilet amenities = \$100,000 - \$150,000</p> <p>Fish cleaning station = \$10,000</p> <p>Pontoons = \$130,000</p> <p>Boat ramp improvements – costs vary</p> <p>Boardwalks = \$450/m</p>	<p>NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, Department of Planning & Infrastructure</p> <p>Australian Government</p> <p>NSW Maritime</p> <p>NSW Fisheries</p> <p>Community Groups (e.g. Farquhar Inlet Management Group)</p> <p>Crown Lands</p>

Appendix A

Manning Valley Community Plan 2010-2030: Respecting the Environment

Objective:

To recognise our responsibility as a community to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

The Manning Valley Community Plan 2010-2030 included 'Respecting the Environment' as one of five 'Key Directions' for Council after the community identified the protection of the environment as a high priority. The development of the Environment Action Plan was undertaken to identify what environmental projects Council should aim to deliver to meet the community's expectations of 'Respecting the Environment'. The following table shows how the proposed projects (in addition to process improvements undertaken in-house) address the strategies of the Community Plan under this Key Direction:

STRATEGIES	POSSIBLE ACTIONS	PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITY
7. Maintain and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development and maintenance of land-use planning and conservation strategies that provide for sustainable population growth, and the protection of natural areas.• Preparation and implementation of a biodiversity strategy to identify priorities and risks, and to conserve and enhance biodiversity.• Planning and implementing measures, in partnership with the community, to restore and protect key habitat corridors that protect sites of biological significance and prevent further extinction of flora and fauna.• Protect significant remnant vegetation and significant trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management• 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management• 2d: Wildlife Blackspot Enhancements and Landscape Connectivity Improvements.• 1e: Coastal Floodplain Vegetation Protection & Enhancement & 2a: Natural Reserve Management
8. Protect and preserve local water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In partnership with neighbouring councils ensure the preparation of an Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Manning River.• Facilitate processes and projects that will achieve stabilisation of the banks of the Manning River and its tributaries.• Prepare a maintenance dredging strategy for the Manning River and facilitate ongoing works to implement the strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently working to the Manning River Estuary Management Plan.• 1b: River Health.• 4a: Dredging for navigation purposes.

Appendix A

STRATEGIES	POSSIBLE ACTIONS	PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITY
8. Protect and preserve local water resources (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively manage the licensing of on-site sewerage treatment facilities so that operators meet the requirements of environmental performance and legislation. Continue to implement a programme to achieve effective management and rehabilitation of acid sulphate soils. Continue to implement a programme to achieve effective management of coastal wetlands. Continue to implement Council's Estuary and Coastal Management Plans. In partnership with relevant stakeholders, continue to monitor water quality within the Manning River, and other rivers in the catchment. Continue to monitor local air quality and conduct audits of potential polluting activity & develop strategies to help improve local air quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations of on-site sewerage treatment facilities are regulated through Council's On-site Sewerage Management Program. 1a: Acid Sulfate Soil Hot Spot Remediation. 1e: Coastal Floodplain Vegetation Protection & Enhancement. Theme 1: Estuary and Water Quality 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management. 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management.
10. **Effective management of environmental risks and hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and implement floodplain management plans for the Manning River, and other rivers in the catchment. Continue to participate in the implementation of the local Bushfire Risk Management Plan. Manage the provision of funds for the upgrading of local fire fighting facilities. Maintain an active role in weed management, and the control of feral animals and birds. Prepare and implement a land degradation management plan. Develop and implement an environmental management system for Council's operations. Continue to monitor, and take action as necessary, to mitigate unacceptable noise impacts within the local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 1 Estuary & Water Quality 3c: Climate Change Adaptation 3c: Climate Change Adaptation 2b: Environmental Weed / Pest Animal Control 1a & 1d: River Health, Roadside & Coastal Erosion Control Progressing in-house. 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management

Appendix A

STRATEGIES	POSSIBLE ACTIONS	PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITY
10. **Effective management of environmental risks and hazards (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness and behavioural change to improve water conservation, waste minimisation and the level of greenhouse gas emissions. Prepare and implement a coastal hazards management plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3a: Implementation of measures to reduce our carbon footprint. Coastal Zone Management Plan in preparation.
11. Manage the sustainable disposal of waste generated within the community, and facilitate and encourage recycling and reuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with adjacent councils continue to manage the regional waste disposal system. Provide facilities, information and services that will seek to maximise recycling and reuse of waste products. Educate and enforce responsible waste disposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All facilitated through Council's Waste Management Program & MidCoast Waste Services.
12. Ensure the preservation of quality agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the identification and zoning of prime agricultural land. Investigate and advocate opportunities for carbon sequestration to rural landholders. Advocate the enhancement of soil quality. In association with relevant partners advocate and educate for sustainable farming practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management 3a: Implementation of measures to reduce our carbon footprint.
13. A community that is informed and prepared for climate change and any necessary adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the potential risks of climate change and plan for community adaptation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3c: Climate Change Adaptation
14. Council is recognised for its leadership in sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and support businesses within the community to improve their environmental performance such as Sustainability Advantage Maximise energy and water efficiency in Council parks, facilities and buildings. Implement measures to achieve Council's commitment to greenhouse gas reductions and reduce our ecological/carbon footprint. Identify a dedicated source of funding for environmental management activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3a: Implementation of measures to reduce our carbon footprint. 3b: Enhanced Environmental Planning and Management. See Section 5: Resourcing the Plan

Appendix A

STRATEGIES	POSSIBLE ACTIONS	PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITY
15. Our community will have a high level of environmental knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a programme to identify gaps in environmental knowledge within the local community. • Develop an education programme, across all spheres of the community to improve the understanding of the natural environment and actions to address environmental management issues. • Develop interpretive sites such as Cattai Wetlands, to assist in the delivery of community and environmental education programs. • Provide opportunities for the community to participate in environmental management programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered through all proposed projects which will have environmental education components to raise community awareness of issues, interpretive components, and provide opportunities for community involvement and participation where appropriate.

*** Please note Strategy 9 does not exist.*

Summary of the Environmental Action Plan Survey Results

The following are the major findings from the 80 responses received:

- Most suggestions put to the community as possible areas for development of environmental projects were seen as being good suggestions – with most receiving ratings of very high or high priority. Of all the suggestions proposed for possible projects, 31 were rated as being of very high priority, 29 of high priority, and 15 of moderate priority; with none being rated (on average) as being of low or very low priority. This has resulted in all actions being retained for inclusion in the Environmental Action Plan, and the weightings used to allocate funding to each project.
- Of the suggestions presented there were a few that were clearly considered to be of very high importance to a large proportion of the respondents. These were (listed in order of highest to lowest %):
 - Investigate potential impacts of Coal Seam Gas mining (61%)
 - Zoning and protection of prime agricultural lands from inappropriate development (60%)
 - Reduce acid sulfate soil discharges into waterways (47%)
 - Strategic planning to avoid developments conflicting with natural assets, including a register of native vegetation clearing to monitor habitat loss (46%)
 - Improve strategic bushfire preparedness and improve capacity for fire control in high priority locations (42%)
 - Monitor and control on-site sewerage systems and their potential impacts on waterways (42%)
 - Implement projects to protect and enhance the environment of the Manning River and Browns Creek in Taree (41%)
 - Council should be a role model in promoting best practices in environmental management (40%)
 - Improve landscape connectivity to enable wildlife movement in the face of climate change, revegetation of corridor gaps, local corridors important to iconic species like Koalas (39%)
 - Develop and implement strategies to improve wildlife movements at black spots where wildlife and roads cause conflicts (39%)
 - Protection of landscape connectivity in development areas & improvement of landscape connectivity to enable wildlife movement in the face of climate change, through development offsets (38%)
 - Protection and management of threatened species in development areas and on Council lands (37%)
 - Dredging of waterways to improve navigation and enhance tidal flushing (37%)
 - Development of the Manning River and Browns Creek as open space networks for Taree residents (36%)

Appendix B

- Relative weightings of the different types of possible projects showed that the community thought projects dealing with water and soil (50% ranked this as worthy of 25% of the effort), pollution/consumption/risks (33% ranked this as worthy of 25% of the effort), and biodiversity (36% ranked this as worthy of 25% of the effort) were ranked as being more important than projects about volunteers & community involvement (37% ranked this as worthy of 10% of the effort), education & interpretation (40% ranked this as worthy of 5% of the effort), or local icons (48% ranked this as worthy of 5% of the effort). This has resulted in more resources being directed to the first 3 types of projects than the latter 3 types of projects in the Environmental Action Plan.
- 59% of respondents thought that Council should not limit itself to core areas, but be involved more widely in environmental projects of concern to the community. This supports the identification of 'Respecting the Environment' as being one of the 5 main pillars of the Community Strategic Plan, and the fact that the community sees Council's role as being much broader than just management of Council assets.
- 64% of respondents thought that Council should be working collaboratively with private landholders, and not just limited to Council owned or managed land, and that 70% of respondents thought that this should occur where arrangements were put in place to ensure the public funds used on private land were secured by some form of agreement with the landholder. This means that as part of projects Land Management Agreements (used by CMAs and Weeds Authorities) should be used to bind landholders to ongoing maintenance and correct use of works constructed on private land.
- The community supports Council seeking and obtaining funding for projects (both federal funding (97%) and state (95%) to help with the cost of undertaking projects; and 86% of respondents thought that Council should be paying for projects through seeking external funding. This means that there needs to be much more emphasis at Council on seeking external funding for projects, and if an Environmental Levy is introduced that this should not be the only source to fund projects, but that this needs to be used as seeding funding to obtain State and Federal funding, so that the local levy is leveraged to generate far more than just the levy amount.
- 71% of respondents thought that Council should be increasing its budget allocation to environmental projects to enable more projects to be undertaken; and 61% of respondents supported the idea of an Environmental Levy to help pay for environmental projects. Of the 57 respondents who supported an Environmental Levy 19 supported a low levy of 2.5%, 20 supported a moderate levy of 5%, and 8 supported a high levy of 7.5%.
- A separate petition from the Friends of Browns Creek was submitted with 300+ signatures, indicating a high level of support for the idea of creating a linear park through Taree along Browns Creek (which could also link to the Manning River Foreshore Park and possible linkage to the Dawson River).

Appendix C

External Grant Opportunities for Environmental Projects

Funding Program	Eligibility	Objectives	Contribution Requirements
FEDERAL			
<p>Biodiversity Fund (Australian Government Clean Energy Futures Fund) - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC)</p> <p>http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/biodiversity-fund/index.html</p>	<p>Local Government Community Groups Land Managers</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Fund is investing \$946m over six years to help land managers store carbon, enhance biodiversity and build greater environmental resilience across the Australian landscape. It provides support for the establishment of native vegetation or better management of existing native vegetation.</p> <p>To do this, it will fund eligible land managers for activities which restore, manage and better protect biodiversity on public and private land. It will also provide support to land managers who wish to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the new carbon market.</p> <p>Program will fund projects of up to \$5 million in value.</p>	<p>Project proposals will be assessed on the basis of value for money. Proposals that represent greatest benefit for every dollar invested will be considered of greater merit.</p> <p>10% of total project cost can be allocated for those costs associated with administering the project. Funding can also be used to fund staff costs.</p>
<p>Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative jointly administered by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) & the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC)</p> <p>http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/index.html</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>Caring for our Country is an ongoing initiative that will continue to offer multi-year funding to provide certainty for stakeholders. The Australian Government will commit more than \$2 billion to continue Caring for our Country from 2013-14 to 2017-18. The delivery of the second phase of Caring for our Country will be through two specific streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Sustainable Environment stream delivered by SEWPaC, and a Sustainable Agriculture stream delivered by DAFF. 	

Appendix C

Funding Program	Eligibility	Objectives	Contribution Requirements
Caring for our Country Target Area Grants (SEWPaC)	Various	<p>Caring for our Country Target Area Grants are the open call funding component of the Sustainable Environment stream of the Caring for our Country program and will provide funding of between \$50 000 and \$2 million for projects to maintain ecosystem services, protect our conservation estate, and enhance the capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect natural resources across six target areas (including 'Urban Waterways and Coastal Environments', which is the only one which applies to Greater Taree). Within these Target Areas, proposals must address one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserving and protecting species and ecosystems (matters of national environmental significance); • restoring and maintaining urban waterways and coastal environments; • protecting Ramsar sites and values; • protecting World Heritage sites' outstanding universal value and integrity; • Indigenous community capacity building for natural resource management, and • natural resource management community skills, knowledge and engagement. 	<p>The Australian Government encourages applicants to develop projects which include partnerships, collaboration, other funding sources and in-kind contributions. These all tend to improve outcomes of projects and make applications more competitive.</p>
Caring for our Country Community Environment Grants (SEWPaC)	Community Groups	<p>Community Environment Grants form part of the Sustainable Environment stream of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. Grants of between \$5000 and \$50 000 are available to help community groups and organisations to contribute to the sustainable management of Australia's environment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of ecosystem services, including ecological and cultural values • Protection of our conservation estate • Enhanced capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect natural resources 	

Appendix C

Funding Program	Eligibility	Objectives	Contribution Requirements
Caring for our Country Community Landcare Grants (DAFF)	Community Groups	The Community Landcare Grants form part of the Sustainable Agriculture stream of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. Grants of between \$5000 to \$50 000 will help local community-based organisations and groups take on-ground action as well as build their capacity and skills to manage their natural environment and productive lands, with a focus on sustainable farming and fisheries and agricultural innovation.	As above
STATE			
<p>Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Funding Programs**:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives Program (Property Vegetation Plans) • Partnership Program • Small Projects • Community Education, Events and Activities • Communities Caring for Catchments <p>http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/default.asp?section_id=6</p>	All landholders including Local Government and Community Groups	<p>The CMA provides various levels of funding and support to landholders, community groups, government agencies and industry to undertake natural resource management activities that help to meet the targets of the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan. Activities the CMA will invest in through these programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasonable employment cost for staff or contractors to deliver capacity building, education and on-ground implementation activities; • direct costs associated with project implementation, e.g. purchase of materials such as fencing, plants, rocks, etc; • reasonable employment cost for contractors for construction or implementation of on-ground works; • project maintenance, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; • capacity building and education activities that form a component of a larger project and where the activity leads directly to on-ground improvement of natural resource assets. 	The CMA encourages applicants to develop projects which include partnerships, collaboration, other funding sources and in-kind contributions. These all tend to improve outcomes of projects and make applications more competitive.

Appendix C

Funding Program	Eligibility	Objectives	Contribution Requirements
<p>NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Funding Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation • Community Bush Regeneration • Environmental Education • Environmental Research • Eco Schools • Protecting our Places • Integrated Environmental Program <p>http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/grantsintro.htm</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>OEH manages various grants programs under the banner of the NSW Environmental Trust. These programs fund projects that rehabilitate or regenerate the environment, or promote environmental education and sustainability.</p> <p>The aim of the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation program is to facilitate projects to prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation of any kind, run by community organisations and State and Local government organisations. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.</p> <p>The aim of the Education program is to support educational projects or programs that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour.</p>	<p>The Trust encourages applicants to develop projects which include partnerships, collaboration, other funding sources and in-kind contributions. These all tend to improve outcomes of projects and will make your application more competitive.</p>
<p>NSW Trade & Investment – Crown Lands</p> <p>Public Reserve Management Fund (PRMF)</p> <p>http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown-lands/crown-reserves/funding/prmf-funding</p>	<p>Managers of Crown Land including Local Government</p>	<p>The PRMF provides financial support for the development, maintenance and improvement of public reserves. PRMF funds are allocated each financial year to reserve managers through a robust assessment process.</p> <p>More than \$120m has been allocated by the NSW Government from the PRMF over the last ten years. This funding has supported important initiatives such as the development of Crown caravan parks, maintenance of showgrounds and community halls, and the improvement of local parks and reserves. Funding has also been allocated to councils to assist in the dredging of waterways.</p>	<p>As the value of applications received is typically twice that of the available funds, priority is given to those applications which best address the prescribed assessment criteria. Cash and/or in-kind contributions from the applicant would value add to the project and likely to make the application for funding more competitive.</p>

Appendix C

Funding Program	Eligibility	Objectives	Contribution Requirements
<p>Department of Industry & Investment - Primary Industries, Fishing & Aquaculture</p> <p>Recreational Fishing Trust</p> <p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/apply-for-funds</p>	<p>Anyone can apply including fishing clubs and organisations, universities, local councils, community groups and individuals</p>	<p>Provides funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for projects that improve recreational fishing in NSW including the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational fisheries enhancement; • angler education and information; • research on recreational fishing; • recreational fisheries access and facilities; and • recreational fisheries sustainability. 	<p>Matching funding or in-kind contributions required (e.g. staff time, volunteer labour)</p>
<p>Department of Industry & Investment - Primary Industries, Fishing & Aquaculture</p> <p>Habitat Action Grants</p> <p>www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program</p>	<p>Angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and organisations</p>	<p>Grants of up to \$40,000 available to undertake fish habitat rehabilitation projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removal or modification of barriers to fish passage • rehabilitation of riparian lands (river banks, wetlands, mangrove forests, saltmarsh) • re-snagging waterways with timber structure • removal of exotic vegetation from waterways • bank stabilisation works • reinstatement of natural flow regimes. 	<p>Matching funding or in-kind contributions required (e.g. staff time, volunteer labour)</p>
<p>NSW Transport - Roads & Maritime Services: Better Boating Program</p> <p>http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/mpd/infra_grants.html</p>	<p>Local Government, State Government, and registered boating groups and clubs located on public land which regularly use waterway infrastructure (e.g. fishing or sailing clubs)</p>	<p>The Better Boating Program (BBP) is a State Government grants program aimed at providing recreational boating infrastructure for the benefit of the boating community on NSW waterways. BBP grant funding is available for capital infrastructure works only including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade or provision of boat ramps, public wharves/jetties or pontoons. • Provision of public sewage pump-out facilities. • Installation of public moorings. • Recreational boat trailer parking. • Wash-down facilities at boat ramps. 	<p>Applicants must be able to demonstrate their contribution of the total project cost. The value of voluntary labour, donated materials or work undertaken free of charge on the project is allowed as part of the applicant's financial contribution to the project. A preference will be given to applications showing financial contribution & support from other stakeholders.</p>

Appendix C

Funding Program	Eligibility	Objectives	Contribution Requirements
<p>NSW Office of Environment and Heritage</p> <p>Coastal & Estuary Management Programs</p> <p>http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/InfoCoastEstFloodGrants.htm</p>	<p>Local councils</p> <p>CMAs</p>	<p>The primary objective of the Coastal Management Program is to provide support to local councils to manage the risks from coastal hazards such as coastal erosion.</p> <p>The primary objective of the Estuary Management Program is to provide support to councils to improve the health of NSW estuaries and understand the potential risks from climate change.</p> <p>The support provided to councils under these programs includes technical and financial assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare (or update) coastal zone management plans and associated technical studies (including estuary health and coastal hazard assessments) and; • undertake actions to manage the risks associated with coastal hazards and to protect or improve coastal environments and estuary health. 	<p>Grant offers are subject to availability of funds for each financial year and State-wide priorities. Funding of up to 50% of a project's costs will normally be offered for successful grant applications.</p>
FEDERAL			
<p>Australian Government – Department of Resources, Energy & Tourism</p> <p>Local Government Energy Efficiency Program & Community Energy Efficiency Program</p>	<p>Local Government</p> <p>Non-profit community organisations</p>	<p>The Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) is one of five programs established under the Australian Government's Low Carbon Communities (LCC) program. LGEEP complements existing LCC programs by supporting smaller-scale energy efficiency projects in local government buildings and community facilities.</p> <p>The Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) is a competitive merit-based grant program that provides co-funding to implement projects that deliver a range of energy efficiency measures in council and community owned buildings, facilities and sites.</p>	<p>Reduced co-contributions required where those authorities are situated in low socio-economic or otherwise disadvantaged areas, such as Greater Taree.</p>

****Please note that the new Local Lands Service which is due to commence in January 2014 is likely to dramatically impact upon these programs and it is uncertain as to what programs will be offered in the future.**

Proposed Improvements to Council's Grant Application Process

- **Clear Guidelines and investment principles**

There needs to be a clear guide to assist staff in determining what projects to develop and pursue, and to stimulate interest from private landholders and community groups in proposing projects. These guidelines and investment principles should include dealing with securing investments on private land, geographic spread of funding throughout the LGA, contributions from private landholders, maintenance requirements, costing of projects, permits and approvals.

- **Ability for Council to contribute funding to projects**

The inability for Council to contribute matching funding for applications is not attractive to some external funding bodies, so contribution from an Environmental Levy will improve this situation.

- **Much more lead time to develop applications**

Lead time needs to be allowed in development of projects, especially if stakeholder consultation is to be undertaken, negotiations undertaken with private landholders to obtain their consent for works, site inspections undertaken, detailed designs and costs developed, and external reviews of project proposals included in the process of project development.

- **Stakeholder consultation and letters of support**

Good projects are normally supported by letters of support from the community, to demonstrate to the funding body that the project has been discussed with stakeholders and there is wide community support for the project.

- **Volunteer support and other contributions**

Volunteer involvement in projects is an important factor in securing funding, not only in demonstrating widespread community support, but also that these volunteers can keep an eye on project sites and keep Council in touch with changes in conditions. Volunteer input can also be counted as a contribution to project costs, and the contributions therefore increase the likelihood of successful funding from external funding bodies.

- **Better processes for costing projects**

There are three levels of project costs related to their level of development and readiness for implementation:

- **Concept and Ballpark Costs** – rough concepts and costing ideas based on similar recent projects. This stage needs to have conceptual support from landholders.
- **Sketch plans and Rates Costs** – site plans developed with different treatments, and costs based on cost estimating rates books (several published rates books which are based on actual implementation costs for construction projects). This stage needs to negotiate landholder consent, and outline any permits/approvals required and delays expected to obtain these.

Appendix D

- Detailed Designs and Quotations – detailed designs developed, and costs based on actual competitive quotes by contractors to undertake the work. This stage also needs to obtain the consent in writing from landholders, as well as any required permits/approvals.
- Use of external technical review panels. Projects should be reviewed as drafts by local experts with technical expertise in the type of project being proposed (e.g. experts in revegetation, soil conservation, weed control etc), as well as experts in obtaining external funding. Their comments can then be used to alter and improve any proposals before they are submitted for funding.

Appendix E

Example of an Environmental Levy Works Program

(Based on 5% over 5 years)

THEME AREA	%	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
1. Estuary & Water Quality	2.5% (50% of levy)	\$667,000	\$687,000	\$707,600	\$728,900	\$750,700
2. Biodiversity	1% (20% of levy)	\$266,800	\$274,800	\$283,000	\$291,500	\$300,300
3. Sustainability & Environmental Performance	0.5% (10% of levy)	\$133,400	\$137,400	\$141,500	\$145,800	\$150,200
4. Dredging & Boating Improvements	1% (20% of levy)	\$266,800	\$274,800	\$283,000	\$291,500	\$300,300
TOTAL	5%	\$1,334,000	\$1,374,000	\$1,415,200	\$1,457,700	\$1,501,400