

NSW REC NEWSLETTER

NSW
Roadside
Environment
Committee

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Latest news from the REC

- The REC is currently developing its strategic plan for 2013-2016. Any views on actions that could be included should be addressed to the REC Executive Officer (contact details below) by end of March 2013.
- The REC was recently involved in assessment panels for the 2012 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Roadside Management Award and the second round of the Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project.

Roadside Award winners announced

The Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise outstanding achievements by local councils in managing and protecting the environment. The awards are held annually and are open to all councils in NSW.

For the second year running the REC sponsored the Roadside Environmental Management Award category. The Awards were presented by the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, on Tuesday 4 December 2012 at Dockside Darling Harbour.

Albury City Council was announced Winner Division B and Overall Winner for the project *Albury City Council Working in Significant Environment Areas: Standard Operating Procedure*.

Tumut Shire Council was announced Winner Division A for the project *Tumut Shire Council Valuable Roadside Vegetation*.

Further details can be found at <http://www.lgsa.org.au/events-training/environment-awards>.



Dr Rachel Clancy of Albury City Council with the 2012 Roadside Environmental Management Award

Stop press: Funding announced for roadside vegetation projects

Local Government NSW is pleased to announce the latest round of Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP) grants for NSW Councils. These grants

are funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and are provided to councils to undertake priority on-ground roadside vegetation management works, consistent with a councils roadside vegetation management plan (RVMP).

The 2013 round will fund a total of 10 individual projects and two regional projects, involving 28 councils across NSW.

The two regional alliances from the Central West NSW region and the Murray region have both been awarded \$250,000 to coordinate the delivery of activities to improve the condition and connectivity of roadside vegetation across the region. An estimated 1,500,000 square metres of roadside will be regenerated through the removal of weeds and the protection and enhancement of the existing vegetation across the 19 councils areas involved in these two regional projects.

The RVIP funding continues to support projects to remove environmental weeds, undertake bush regeneration, direct seeding, protect endangered species, improve signage of environmentally sensitive areas and train staff including council works crews.

A complete list of successful projects is available on the LGNSW website: <http://www.lgnsw.org.au/policy/roadside-vegetation-implementation-project>

Latest on Local Land Services

On Thursday 4 October 2012, the NSW Minister for Primary Industries announced the transformation of the 13 Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), 14 Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs) and agricultural services provided by Agriculture NSW into Local Land Services. Local Land Services will be regionally-based, semi-autonomous, statutory organisations, which are governed by locally elected and skills-based Board members.

The key functions of the new Local Land Services will include: agricultural industry advice; animal and plant pest control and biosecurity; catchment planning and management; and, emergency assessment and response.

The NSW Natural Resources Commissioner Dr John Keniry is chairing a Reference Panel to oversee the construction of the new Local Land Services which will be operational in January 2014.

Local Land Service community consultation workshops are being held at 21 locations across the state, during February, March and April. The details of the workshops and other ways 'to have a say' are available at <http://engage.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices>.

After the consultation, the Stakeholder Reference Panel will make recommendations to the Minister on key pillars of Local Land Services, including Regional Boundaries, Governance for Local Land Services, services and the rating framework.

CSIRO soil mapping app

Australia's national soil databases can now be accessed in real time online through a new iPad app called SoilMapp.

The new app provides open access to the best and most up-to-date information for soil at any location in the country within a matter of seconds.

soilmapp

Information such as soil depth, acidity, salinity, soil carbon, soil water holding capacity and other attributes will help land managers, farmers and rural advisors make on-the-spot, decisions about how to more effectively manage their land.



This mobile device technology will deliver detailed scientific information on soils directly into the hands of farmers, rural consultants, agronomists, and potentially other soil enthusiasts like real estate agents, hobby farmers and keen bushwalkers.

The app has been developed by the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program (ACLEP) and CSIRO, with funding from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), because understanding soils is essential for sustaining healthy, natural environments and productive agricultural landscapes.

Find out more at:

<http://www.csiro.au/Organisation-Structure/Flagships/Sustainable-Agriculture-Flagship/SoilMapp-for-iPad.aspx>

Victorian Weeds and Pests Management Program

Roadsides provide a ready means for invasive plants and pest animals to spread throughout Victoria, threatening parks, forests and rural land asset values.

The Roadside Weeds and Pests Management Program (RWPP) is a \$7.8 million initiative to assist rural and regional councils to plan and manage 'regionally prohibited' and 'regionally controlled' weeds and pest animals on rural roadsides in line with State and regional priorities.

The program will assist the 56 councils across Victoria with responsibility for managing lengths of rural roadsides, in line with the recommendations of the Bailey Report. These councils will receive a funding allocation of up to \$50,000 per year for the next three years, to the end of June 2015, in order to manage invasive plants and pests along rural roadsides.

More details at:

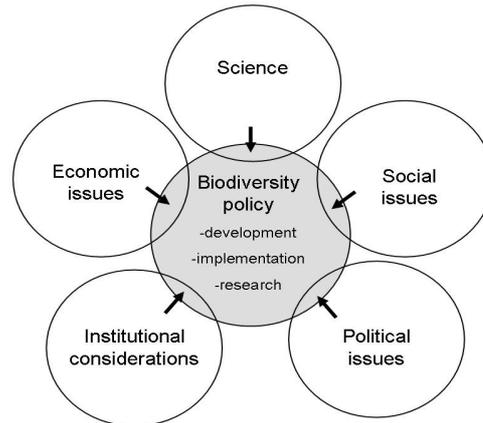
<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment/projects-and-programs/roadside-weeds-and-pests-management-program>

The Society for Biodiversity Policy

The Society for Biodiversity Policy is a non-political, professional association dedicated to advancing the study and practice of policy development for biodiversity management in Australasia.

The SBP aims to:

1. Advance the study of biodiversity policy and the way it is practiced.
2. Establish a network for sharing news and information about biodiversity policy in Australasia, including the creation of a strong online community.



3. Promote communication between biodiversity policy developers, implementers and researchers.
4. Improve communication between scientists and policy-makers and explore the role of science in biodiversity policy-making.
5. Create an open and inclusive network that promotes and facilitates dialogue about biodiversity policy in other forums– for example planning, law, public administration, science, agriculture etc.
6. Assist biodiversity policy professionals to access up-to-date information on ‘best-practice’ public policy resources.
7. Hold an annual event and online forums for presenting and discussing ideas relating to biodiversity policy practice and research.
8. Develop a register to allow members to contact other members with particular skills and interests.
9. Provide a forum for students and early career professionals to engage with biodiversity policy practitioners and researchers, and vice versa.

Who can join the Society for Biodiversity Policy?

- Biodiversity policy practitioners from all levels of government (this includes policy developers and implementers)
- Biodiversity policy practitioners from the private and NGO sectors
- Policy academics
- Conservation scientists with an interest in policy
- Policy academics and practitioners from policy spheres that overlap with biodiversity conservation such as water management or agriculture
- NGOs and policy think tanks
- Anyone with an interest in biodiversity policy development

More details from Beth Rickwood Tel: (02) 9995 6731

New South Wales State of the Environment 2012 (SoE 2012) reports on the status of the main environmental issues facing NSW. The report has been prepared by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* (the Act).

In November 2011, the NSW Government passed legislation to strengthen and reinvigorate the EPA. SoE reports are prepared every three years in accordance with the Act. SoE 2012 is the first SoE report to be prepared by the EPA since the recent reforms providing valuable time-series information about the environment.

SoE 2012 aims to provide credible, scientifically based, state-wide environmental information to assist those involved in environmental policy- and decision-making and managing the state's natural resources.

SoE 2012 assesses each environmental indicator's current status, its trend since SoE 2009, and the availability of information used to make an assessment against the indicator. The status and trend ratings depend on the extent and appropriateness of available information, both qualitative and quantitative, and the information availability rating signifies the level of information used to make the assessment.

The report can be accessed at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2012/index.htm>

The aim of this newsletter is to share information about the management of NSW linear reserve environments and profile the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC). For more information on the REC, including how to create roadside vegetation management plans, go to: www.rta.nsw.gov.au/rec

Please contact the REC Executive Officer (details below) if you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe.



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