

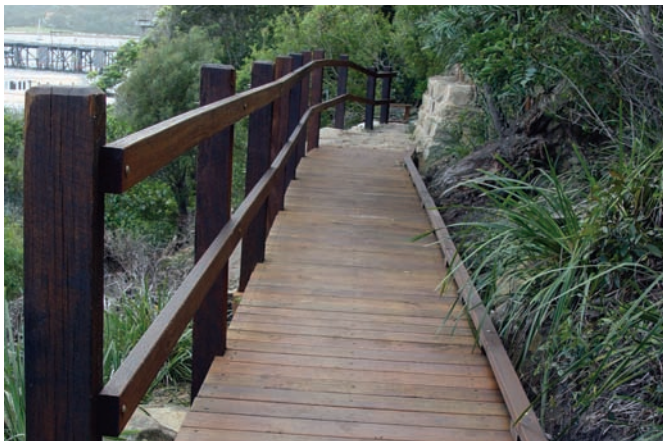
ENVIRONMENT LEVY

The Environment Levy has been in place for 11 years. It is due to expire in June 2013. Council applied for the levy to provide dedicated funding for important environmental projects. The Environment Levy raises \$1.8 million each year and this money is shared across a range of environmental projects in the areas of bushland, water, energy, community education and street trees.

What we have achieved

Bushland regeneration North Sydney has 49 hectares of bushland spread across 11 reserves. The levy funds regeneration work, including creating habitat for wildlife, maintaining our creeklines and removing weed infestations. Council has now completed a flora and fauna map which shows that our bushland is made up of 12 distinct vegetation communities.

Our reserves are home to 347 native plant species and 190 native bird and animal species, including five threatened species and three endangered ecological communities. In recent years we have seen the return of a number of species to the area including sightings of the endangered Powerful Owl, Rufus



Fantail, Sacred Kingfisher, Superb Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, Common Grass Yellow Butterfly, Eastern Water Dragon and, very recently, Lyre Birds.

Bushland support The Environment Levy also funds programs that directly support our bushland regeneration. This includes:

- Propagating seed and growing native plants in our community nursery to use in the bushland reserves
- monitoring wildlife to ensure appropriate habitat is available, especially for endangered species. Monitoring is done by both professionals and volunteers
- creating wildlife corridors for native animals so that they can move between reserves, including supporting our Native Havens program
- supporting and training our Bushcare and Adopt-a-Plot volunteers
- upgrading bushland tracks and maintaining interpretive signage

Water The Environment Levy pays to maintain the stormwater gross pollutant traps along the harbour foreshore. Each year we remove 26 tonnes of litter from the traps.

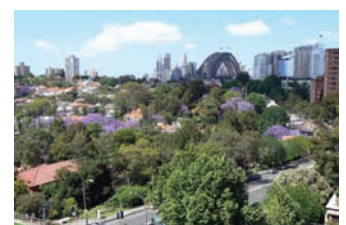


This litter would previously have found its way into the harbour. We also use levy funds to monitor stormwater quality and provide additional street sweeping in the stormwater catchment areas. In the coming years, money will also be allocated to look at water-sensitive urban design and to improve water efficiency in Council's many community facilities.

Energy Over the past decade, we have considerably reduced the amount of energy used in community facilities through the installation of solar panels and energy-efficient lighting and equipment. In the coming years, we hope to install a co-generation plant at the North Sydney Olympic Pool which will significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and feed energy back into the grid to off-set energy used at other Council facilities. We also use levy funds to purchase additional Green Power.

Community education Our sustainability workshops and events are among the most popular events run by Council. Some of the more popular workshops include maintaining your own bike, growing veggies on the balcony and learning how to build a herb spiral. We also support sustainability programs for schools and businesses. We now have 100 North Sydney businesses in the Better Business Partnership who are working to reduce their waste, energy and water use and develop sustainable purchasing and transport practices.

Street trees There are more than 18,000 street trees in the North Sydney local government area. Along with their aesthetic value, trees play an important role in reducing urban temperatures, trapping harmful pollution, reducing stormwater run-off and erosion, and providing habitat for wildlife. They are also linked to reduced stress, lower crime rates and higher property values. Levy funding contributes to street tree planting and to bundling overhead cables to reduce ugly tree pruning and protect wildlife.



PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY (\$)						
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Bushland regeneration (Port Jackson catchment)	274,000	281,000	288,000	295,000	303,000	310,000
Bushland regeneration (Middle Harbour catchment)	163,000	168,000	168,000	168,000	168,000	168,000
Bushland support	387,000	390,000	376,000	362,000	368,000	375,000
Street Trees	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Water	301,000	322,000	326,000	330,000	334,000	338,000
Energy	440,000	290,000	290,000	290,000	290,000	290,000
Community education	291,000	381,000	372,000	379,000	385,000	392,000

