

Manly Council Environment Levy Report

A thriving community enhanced by heritage and lifestyle: Number 14 : November 2007



Little Manly: image by Jane Murray

Mayor’s Report

Over the last twelve months, Council staff have worked diligently on more than 40 projects funded by the Environment Levy which is generously paid by the Ratepayers of Manly. These projects are approved by the Manly Community Environment Committee and by Council and are additionally supported by more than \$2,500,000 in grants from the State and Federal governments.

The 2007/08 approved Environment Levy funding program allocates \$948,000 plus anticipated interest, to a range of new projects including those that address biodiversity protection, water cycle management, Manly Lagoon conservation and remediation, coastline management, education for sustainability and also heritage conservation.

These programs have been drawn from priorities identified in various Plans of Management, council Studies, Recovery Plans and other planning documents prepared with active local community involvement. Of particular interest is the allocation to undertake a Climate Change risk assessment to guide Council’s planning for Climate Change - a priority issue for Manly Council in support of policy development, community education and infrastructural development within the Local Government Area.

During the year, Council’s environment initiatives were acknowledged with several key awards including a second prize in the NSW Local Government and Shires Associations’ Excellence in the Environment major sustainability award. In addition, Council was presented with a NSW Government ‘Green Globe’ Strategic Urban Water Management Leadership Award, recognising our innovative and strategic approach to water cycle management.

The Manly Community Environment Committee, comprising Councillors, Community representatives and Council Staff, met in September, 2007 to consider the 2006/07 year-end financial statements for the Environment Levy, and reported that the Levy funds are being expended in accordance with the stated aims of Council.

I extend my appreciation to the Committee for their assistance in monitoring the Environment Levy expenditure.



Dr Peter Macdonald
Mayor

Environment Levy Program 2007/08

Program Name	2007/08
Biodiversity Program	
Burnt Bridge Creek Restoration	\$68,000
Bushland Restoration Program	\$167,000
Endangered Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Plan Implementation	\$5,000
Endangered Little Penguin Recovery Plan Implementation	\$6,000
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	\$18,000
Erosion & Sediment Control at Tania Park	\$25,000
Noxious Weeds Liaison	\$58,000
Water Cycle Management Program	
Water Cycle Management	\$52,000
Water Cycle Monitoring and Integrated Decision Support Tool Development	\$37,000
Sustainable Water Resources	\$18,000
GPT Annual Maintenance Vote	\$50,000
Lagoon Conservation & Remediation Program	
ICMS / Manly Lagoon Rehabilitation Works*	\$91,000
Development of LM Graham Reserve Plan of Management	\$7,000
Coastline Management Program	
Coastal Environmental Projects	\$70,000
Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan Implementation*	\$80,000
Education for Sustainability Program	
Education for Sustainability Strategy Implementation	\$95,000
Ocean Care Day	\$13,000
Seachange for Sustainable Tourism	\$52,000
Manly Ambassadors	\$5,000
Manly Community Garden & Nursery	\$10,000
Hill To Harbour Tours	\$8,000
Environmental Management for Sustainable Futures	\$18,000
Community Awareness of Levy Projects	\$4,000
Climate Change Program	
Climate Change Impacts & Risk Assessment*	\$25,000
Total:	\$982,000

* supported with grant funding

Some Current Projects

Coastline Management

Works associated with the implementation of the Little Manly and Forty Baskets Landscape Masterplans which included upgrades to existing path networks, endemic flora plantings, improved dinghy storage and boating access.

Interpretive signage is being finalised for each location to provide reserve users with information on a range of environmental and heritage issues.

Remediation of high priority coastal hazards is progressing for stabilisation of cliff overhangs at Delwood and Fairlight Beach and other North Harbour locations.

Manly’s Sustainability Fair

This year, Council held its first Sustainability Fair.

The aim of the Fair was to educate local residents on sustainable living.



Held in conjunction with the Manly Food and Wine Festival, the theme of this year’s event was climate change.

The Fair showcased numerous exhibitors from different sustainability sectors, a free tour of a local sustainable house, expert speakers, entertainment and a free screening of ‘An Inconvenient Truth’.

Manly Lagoon Rehabilitation

Guided by the **Manly Lagoon Catchment Coodinating Committee**, Warringah and Manly Councils are investigating the removal of 10,500 cubic meters of accumulated sediment in the upper reaches of Manly Lagoon.

The works are one of 70 key actions developed under Council’s Integrated Catchment Management Strategy to rehabilitate the health of Lagoon, supported by the NSW Government and Council’s Environment Levy.

Burnt Bridge Creek Restoration Works

In 2007 some exciting projects were undertaken at **Burnt Bridge Creek** complementing the ongoing restoration program.



Council’s bushland staff constructed a sandstone sedimentation basin to address erosion caused by stormwater discharge. Coral Tree and weed eradication continued west of Pitt Street. A 600 square metre area was cleared to enable revegetation with native plants.

During National Tree Day in July, 65 people planted 900 plants to revegetate this area.

Volunteer Ambassadors

‘Manly Ambassadors’ is a volunteer program aimed at promoting environmental stewardship in the local community. Volunteers are invited to training opportunities and community events and are encouraged to share their knowledge with networks, while keeping an eye on our natural resources and reporting any issues.

Currently, 75 people are registered as Ambassadors. Contact: **9976 1658** or **volunteering@manly.nsw.gov.au**.

Bushland Restoration

Many projects have been undertaken to improve the quality of Manly’s bushland reserves.

Bush regeneration by Council staff,



contractors, and volunteers have have progressed the eradication of weeds.

Ecological burns have been undertaken in several reserves. The success of this is particularly evident at Tania Park which is showing amazing regeneration.

Council also commenced the eradication of rabbits at Bantry Reserve and Seaforth Oval, and this eradication project will resume in coming months.

Constructed Wetlands

Council and National Parks & Wildlife Service embarked on another joint project to address storm water impacts on Sydney Harbour National Park. A sandstone basin vegetated with native macrophytes was constructed to detain and treat runoff.

Council is also about to embark on a constructed mini-wetland project to address storm water runoff impacts in Wellings Reserve. Watch this space for further details.

Protecting our waterways

Manly Council maintains 23 stormwater quality improvement devices in the Manly Local Government Area to capture and prevent land-based pollutants from entering Manly’s waterways, funded from Manly’s Environment levy. These include Gross Pollution Traps, nets, and litter booms.

In the 2006/2007 financial year, these devices captured and prevented 182,450 kg or 182 ton of pollutants (sediment, rubbish, nutrients) from entering waterways, improving Manly’s natural environment.



A Gross Pollutant Trap at Clontarf Reserve is emptied.