

# Manly Council Environment Levy Report

A thriving community enhanced by heritage and lifestyle: Number 15 : November 2008



## Mayor's Report

Manly Council is committed to continuing the great environmental work that it has undertaken through programs funded by the Environment Levy.

The choice of Environment Levy projects is determined through a community consultation process in which project proposals are selected from environmental management priorities Council has developed in consultation with the community, based on suggestions from Committees of Council and the Precinct Community Forums, and with support and advice from Council's own specialist environmental scientific and education staff.

All project proposals are reviewed by the Manly Community Environment Committee prior to ratification by Council.

This latest report documents the progress in Environment Levy projects over the last 14 months. During the 2007/2008 reporting period, Council spent \$969,318 on Environment Levy projects.

The following table shows the approved 2008/2009 funding program, setting aside \$986,000 (including \$40,000 of anticipated interest) supported by \$2,818,452 in Federal and State Government grant funding for a total of 58 individual projects.

This new budget includes funding for Council's 'Climate Change Icon Project' which focuses on greenhouse reduction technologies and energy efficiencies.

The total funding allocated for the Climate Change Icon Project is \$150,000, including \$93,000 from the current year's Environment Levy budget, and a further \$57,000 drawn from savings made from last year's projects.

This report provides just a snapshot of just some of the Environment Levy projects underway in Manly.

Further information on these and the many other Environment Levy funded projects can be located on Council's website at [www.manly.nsw.gov.au/environment.html](http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/environment.html)

Lastly, I invite you all to Manly's annual Ocean Care Day Festival celebrating the 'International Year of the Reef' on Sunday 7 December, 2008 from 11am - 5pm on the Manly Beachfront. See you there!



Councillor Jean Hay  
Mayor

## Environment Levy Program 2008/09

Program Name	2008/09
<b>Biodiversity Program</b>	
Burnt Bridge Creek Restoration	\$66,000
Bushland Restoration Program	\$180,000
Endangered Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Plan Implementation	\$28,000
Endangered Little Penguin Recovery Plan Implementation	\$17,000
<b>Water Cycle Management Program</b>	
Water Cycle Management	\$73,000
Water Cycle Monitoring and Integrated Decision Support Tool Development	\$28,000
Sustainable Groundwater and Aquifer Recharge Study	\$44,000
Sustainable Water Resources (Water Plan implementation)	\$64,000
GPT + Water Tanks Maintenance Vote (up to 10% permitted - \$94,600)	\$49,000
<b>Lagoon Conservation &amp; Remediation Program</b>	
Sustainable Catchments Education Program	\$75,000
<b>Coastline Management Program</b>	
Coastal Environmental Projects	\$137,000
<b>Education for Sustainability Program</b>	
Education for Sustainability Strategy Implementation	\$100,000
Ocean Care Day	\$18,000
Manly Ambassadors Program	\$4,000
Community Awareness of Levy Projects - Communication Strategy	\$10,000
<b>Climate Change Program</b>	
Climate Change Icon Program as per Council resolution 12/5/08	\$93,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$986,000</b>

## Some Current Projects

### Sustainable Water Resources and Water Savings

In 2007/08, Manly Council achieved further substantial reductions in organisational water consumption, from 105 million litres per year (2006/2007) to 79 million litres per year (2007/2008).

This was achieved through the ongoing installation of rainwater tanks on Council properties, installation of water efficiency devices and alternative water source development. Council has now achieved a total of 55 percent reduction on 2000/2001 water consumption.

### Education for Sustainability

One of the many steps in Council's Schools Education Program includes the Catchment Snapshot and Water Testing Day in August, when local high school students visit the bush and sample the water in their local creeks.

They also have the opportunity to check out some local water bugs and to develop an educational and fun presentation using dance, theatre or song for the Sustainability Youth Forum where all the children come together to discuss their findings and the health of their local waterways.



### Coastal & Estuary Plans

Council is working with the community, government agencies and other groups in developing and implementing Coastal and Estuary Management Plans. Plans recently adopted include Manly Ocean Beach (including Emergency Action Plan) and Clontarf/Bantry Bay. Current priorities are the development of plans for Manly Cove and North Harbour, which are to be released for public comment during early 2009. See [www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Marine---Coastal.html](http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Marine---Coastal.html)

### Our treasured Little Penguins

Manly's volunteer Little Penguin Wardens' protection and education efforts saw eight **Little Penguin** chicks successfully raised at West Esplanade nest sites last season!

To further assist, Council will be providing barriers and signage to prohibit access, maintain dogs on-leash and to avoid flash photography of penguins in the vicinity. These chicks are in addition to approximately 104 chicks fledged within Manly's broader population of endangered Little Penguins last season.



### Bush Regeneration Progress

Three years of bush regeneration have proven successful, with contractors working in bushland at Burnt Bridge Creek, Manly Scenic Walkway, Seaforth Crescent and West Street having advanced restoration to the point their services are no longer required. These sites will now be maintained by Council's own Bush Regenerators. Contractors will move into previously un-worked areas, ensuring bush regeneration progress continues.

### Removing Coral Trees

At Burnt Bridge Creek, Council has been removing Coral Trees for environmental and safety reasons. Coral trees harm creeks by causing de-oxygenation of the water, fallen branches blocking creek flow, and the dense canopy overshadowing creek banks making it difficult to re-establish native plant species.

Manly Council, the RTA and Balgowlah Golf Course have been working closely to cull some of the trees and replace them with native species.



### Gross Pollutants Trapped

In the last financial year, Manly Council undertook the cleaning of 24 structural stormwater gross pollutant trap (GPT) devices in the Manly area on a regular basis, in response to rainfall and catchment conditions.

In total, 158 tonnes of gross sediment, organic matter, and litter was captured and prevented from entering our waterways.

### Fisher Bay Mangrove Expansion Project

At present, mangroves only occur in 0.05 hecatres of Manly's Local Government Area. Five hundred locally collected *Avicennia marina* seedlings are being raised to transplant in Fisher Bay in March 2009 by Council's bush regeneration staff.

This project is one of the 85 management options in the adopted Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan.

This levy funded project will contribute in the restoration of an important intertidal ecosystem.

