



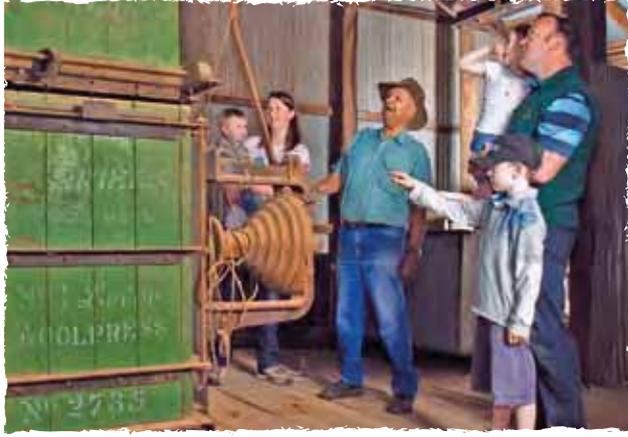
Environment,  
Climate Change  
& Water

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

# Annual Report

2009–10

*A healthy environment for life*



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# Overview



The Hon Frank Sartor MP  
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

The Hon Phillip Costa MP  
Minister for Water  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ministers

It is my pleasure to forward to you for presentation to the New South Wales Parliament the annual report of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, covering the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*. The department's combined financial statements received an unmodified opinion from the Auditor General.

Yours sincerely

**Lisa Corbyn**  
**Director General**



## Director General's review

I am pleased to present the 2009–10 annual report for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), which this year includes information on the NSW Office of Water. This has been a big year for developing significant new legislative proposals, implementing our major programs and delivering important services on behalf of the NSW Government.

The State Plan assigns a number of major priorities to the department which have been the focus for this year's critical programs. We have provided improved access to environmental information in a number of ways, such as through the 2009 NSW State of the Environment Report released in December 2009, the Let's Clear the Air website, and the public Clean Air Workshop held in Wagga Wagga in April 2010.

### Tackling climate change

DECCW is leading NSW's response to climate change and oversees the delivery of climate change programs in both mitigation and adaptation, including energy efficiency programs for NSW.

This year, we rolled out the next phase of the major Save Power campaign, featuring the black balloons, resulting in increased community awareness of, and motivation to improve, energy efficiency. We also initiated the NSW Home Power Savings Program for low income households. Both these initiatives are part of the NSW Government's \$150-million Energy Efficiency Strategy to help householders and businesses reduce their energy use and save money.

On the adaptation front, we released the NSW Climate Impact Profile and the NSW Government's Sea Level Rise Policy Statement to help the community and local government prepare for the impacts of sea level rise on coastal communities, and consulted on a proposed Coastal Protection Bill. These policies are supported by the Eastern Seaboard Climate Change Initiative, which will improve the amount and accuracy of information on the impacts of destructive weather systems along the coast. The NSW Environmental Trust has provided \$750,000 over three years for this initiative.

We are also working with industry to attract new investments in renewable energy by establishing six new renewable energy precincts, and facilitating NSW-based bids for funding under the Australian Government's Solar Flagships program.

### Secure and sustainable supplies of water

The NSW Office of Water is leading significant policy and regulatory reforms in sustainable water management and assisting water utilities to provide secure and high quality water and sewerage services. This year, the Metropolitan Water Plan was progressed as was a water sharing plan for the Sydney metropolitan region. We also prepared material to be able to comment on the Australian Government's draft Murray–Darling Basin Plan guide which will be released in October 2010.

### Biodiversity and natural resource management

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity – a celebration of the value of biodiversity in our lives. In May, we signed Australia's first biobanking agreement which will protect 80 hectares of private, high conservation land forever. This was supplemented by legislative amendments which have greatly strengthened the previous biodiversity certification provisions and are designed to help planning authorities deal with biodiversity strategically at landscape scales, rather than reactively at individual sites.

We initiated a major education campaign to promote land holder compliance with the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and are expanding and refining our use of satellite imagery to detect illegal native vegetation clearing. Our efforts to deliver environmental water to parched wetlands such as the Lowbidgee wetlands and Macquarie Marshes during the drought this year have also been unparalleled.

### National parks

It has been a huge year for national parks. This year we celebrated the creation of the state's 800th reserve following the declaration of a 2,800-hectare national park in the spectacular Capertee Valley. The NSW Government also passed legislation to create parks and reserves in the Riverina red gum forests covering 100,000 hectares, with a supporting timber industry structural adjustment and regional community development assistance package. The Government also brought forward legislative

amendments to increase tourism and visitation to our parks in a low-impact way, which will help build community understanding and support for our outstanding reserve system.

Operationally, we achieved a record hazard reduction burning program across 92,000 hectares of our parks, and completed the roll-out of a new asset maintenance system.

### **Aboriginal cultural heritage**

This year has seen significant milestones achieved in Aboriginal cultural heritage management. The appointment of the second Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee laid the foundation for a strong partnership as we move into a major reform program. This includes passing legislative amendments to significantly strengthen the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. Equally importantly, the NSW Government committed to consider stand-alone legislation for Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of a two-year consultation program.

### **A credible and efficient organisation**

Our people are the key to our organisation and this was highlighted at our February 2010 senior staff conference. The many awards and the international recognition that staff received this year are testimony to the commitment and contribution of DECCW staff to environment protection and natural resource management in NSW and beyond.

Turning to our own environmental performance, we are the first NSW Government agency to be formally recognised as a Bronze Partner under the Sustainability Advantage program. We continue to look at new ways to reduce our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, for example, by expanding our use of video conferencing to reduce air travel.

I would like to thank everyone in DECCW for their contribution this year. This includes DECCW staff and the members of various boards, trusts and advisory committees we work with, including the Environment Protection Authority Board, National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Botanic Gardens Trust and the Environmental Trust.

This year we also established the new independent Audit and Risk Committee which has strengthened our corporate governance.

I would also like to acknowledge significant partnerships that help us deliver our important environmental programs in NSW, including those with catchment management authorities, universities and community members.

I have been honoured to work with many Ministers, most recently Ministers Sartor and Costa this year, and appreciate the significant contribution that each has made to the environment, conservation, and natural resource and water management in NSW.



**Lisa Corbyn**  
**Director General**



Photo: SC Photography

## EPA Board

*EPA Board. Standing, left to right: Steve Beaman, Don White, Tony Wright, Robert Junor, Bev Smiles, Gerry Bates, Paul Stein, John Keniry. Seated, left to right: Lisa Corbyn, Genia McCaffery, Yvonne Stewart.*

### Chair's report

Over the past year, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Board has continued to independently oversee environmental regulation in NSW and advise on environmental policy and programs.

During 2009–10, the Board continued to progress whole-of-government collaboration and joint regulatory enforcement regarding environmental issues. This included meeting with the Directors General from Industry and Investment NSW and the NSW Department of Planning, to strategically approach the cumulative impacts of coal mining using land use planning.

The Board endorsed the Enforceable Undertakings Policy, which allows the EPA to accept a written undertaking relating to an actual or potential breach of the *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997* (POEO Act). This policy broadens the options available to the EPA for producing the best results in terms of lasting compliance with the law, redressing environmental harm and obtaining a lasting benefit for the environment. The EPA has used enforceable undertakings judiciously, reflecting the importance of maintaining regulatory credibility when choosing between legal proceedings and administrative responses to non-compliance.

Regulatory decisions taken by the Board included approving the EPA to grant a regulatory exemption for the use of a limited type of native forest biomaterial to maintain a new cogeneration plant as a renewable energy facility. After considering the technical and financial circumstances at the sugar mill plant from which the biomaterial is sourced, the Board approved the exemption on the condition that the company addressed the operational issues within a two-year period and limited sourcing native forest biomaterial to land subject to the relevant development approvals.

The Board approved an exemption to the POEO Clean Air Regulation for emissions expected to occur during the maintenance of a proposed insulation manufacturing plant in Newcastle. The Board supported the EPA's assessment that there would be no adverse impacts on human health or the environment, and considered the potential for saving greenhouse gas emissions offered by the company's production of thermal insulation protection for buildings.

Also considered were community concerns about the cumulative particulate emissions associated with industrial activity in the region.

The Board reviewed the progress of reforms to the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* and provided input to, and endorsed, the financial assurance policy for waste facilities. This policy will ensure that funds are available to rehabilitate sites where individual operators fail to protect the environment at waste facilities.

The Board's visit to Wagga Wagga was planned to coincide with the air quality workshop in April 2010. This provided an opportunity to coordinate the collaboration between key stakeholders to identify the causes of particulate pollution levels and develop a better approach to improving regional air quality.

The Board supports the department's use of social research to inform ongoing improvements to its regulation. The Board reviewed the outcomes of this social research as well as waste data for sectors such as the building construction industry and waste tyre disposal. Outcomes from this research are being used to develop better targeted waste compliance campaigns.

On behalf of the EPA Board, I would like to thank DECCW's Director General, Lisa Corbyn, and staff for their significant efforts and acknowledge their commitment and dedication to the protection of our environment.

**Paul Stein**  
Chair

# About DECCW

## Our vision

*A healthy environment for life*

## Our values

As individual staff, as work teams and as a department we seek to:

### 1. Protect the environment

We understand that the health of the environment underpins our social and economic prosperity as well as the health and wellbeing of the community.

### 2. Recognise the rights and status of Aboriginal people

We respect the unique rights and status of Aboriginal people based on their prior and continuing occupation of the land and waters of NSW, including the right to self-determination in economic, social and cultural development. We also acknowledge the importance of connection to Country for community wellbeing.

### 3. Act with integrity

We are ethical, impartial and honest. We are also open, accessible and accountable to the community and each other.

### 4. Act professionally

We treat everyone with respect. We need to be responsive and flexible and to get things done quickly and effectively. We base our decisions on facts, analysis and community values. We encourage debate but we speak with one voice once a decision has been made.

### 5. Work collaboratively

We value the knowledge, skills and experience of the people we work with. We encourage teamwork and work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes.

### 6. Be innovative

We bring energy and creativity to our work. We will learn and improve by questioning, challenging and thinking about the future.

### 7. Work safely

We aim to have the best health and safety practices.

## Who we are

The NSW Government created the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) through the publication of Administrative Orders effective from 1 July 2009. These orders changed the name of the former Department of Environment and Climate Change and combined its responsibilities with the water management responsibilities of the former Department of Water and Energy.

This report covers the activities of DECCW from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. The Botanic Gardens Trust, the NSW Environmental Trust and the 13 catchment management authorities, as separate statutory authorities, produce their own annual reports.

DECCW has responsibilities and powers under legislation for environment protection (including pollution, chemicals, waste and radiation); natural resource management (including native vegetation and coastal management); national parks and marine parks; native plants and animals; water extraction, management and supply; and the protection of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage.

DECCW is a regulator and manager of land and water. It develops policy and delivers programs across a wide range of areas, including programs to address the impacts of climate change in NSW. It leads policy and reform in sustainable water management, and guides the sustainable management of other natural resources including coastal environments and floodplains. DECCW manages more than 6.7 million hectares of parks and reserves, which is nearly 8.5% of all land in NSW, and 345,000 hectares of marine parks covering approximately 34% of NSW waters.

DECCW also provides staff, services and other support to the Botanic Gardens Trust, the NSW Environmental Trust, the NSW Marine Parks Authority, the Lord Howe Island Board, 13 catchment management authorities and the NSW Dam Safety Committee. In regulatory matters for environment protection, DECCW acts under the powers

of the statutory Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The independent EPA Board provides policy direction and approves significant prosecutions and exemptions under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

DECCW supports the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Minister for Water in performing their executive and statutory functions.

## What we do

DECCW manages:

- climate change and greenhouse gas issues
- sustainability programs, including environmental education, energy efficiency and water conservation programs, and renewable energy policies including the Climate Change Fund
- air quality, water quality and noise control programs
- regulation of chemicals, radiation and contaminated sites
- programs to reduce waste, litter and illegal dumping
- national parks and conservation reserves, including marine parks and aquatic reserves
- biodiversity, threatened species and native vegetation issues
- policy and science issues relating to natural resources and catchment management
- environmental water recovery and management issues
- water resource sustainability issues
- water and sewerage utilities planning and operational issues
- coastal and floodplain programs
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic sites
- botanic gardens at Sydney (the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain), Mount Annan and Mount Tomah.



Photo: B. Hlavica

DECCW manages more than 6.7 million hectares of parks and reserves.

## Our approach

1. We offer information, education and incentives to help the community's decision making, to protect and improve the environment, to use water wisely and to understand the linkages between economic, social and environmental decisions.
2. We regulate activities using a mix of tools according to the risk these activities pose to the environment, water resources, human health or Aboriginal cultural heritage.
3. We work in partnership with people in government, business and the community to develop and deliver sustainable environmental, conservation and water use solutions.
4. We respect Aboriginal culture, both traditional and contemporary, and the special relationship that Aboriginal people have with Country, and seek to incorporate their knowledge, insights, values and involvement into efforts to conserve and protect the environment.
5. We manage nearly 8.5% of NSW land for conservation, education and public enjoyment.
6. We provide facilities and services to encourage the use of parks and reserves for regional development, sustainable recreation, tourism, education and scientific purposes.
7. We contribute to public debate about solutions to environmental, conservation and water use problems.
8. We deliver the best available scientific information to support environmental and cultural heritage policy, regulation and conservation objectives.



Photo: DECCW

*DECCW uses scientific analysis to deal with environmental problems.*

## Our work with government

DECCW works collaboratively with a wide range of other government agencies to deliver services to the community. DECCW is part of the Environment, Climate Change and Water super-agency cluster, and is represented on the Directors General Executive Committee that drives the implementation of the NSW Government's service delivery priorities and public sector management, particularly in relation to the NSW State Plan.

DECCW is a member of a number of CEO groups that facilitate cross-agency coordination to deliver government priorities, including the:

- Natural Resources and Environment CEO Cluster
- CEO Business and Economic Development Cluster
- Climate Change CEOs
- Planning and Approvals Chief Executive Group
- Counter Terrorism Cluster
- Metropolitan Water CEOs
- Power Stations CEOs
- Senior Executive Network.

Nationally, DECCW contributes to the delivery of significant reforms in the areas of climate change, water, natural resource management, regulatory reform, chemicals, air quality and water management through the Council for the Australian Federation, the Council of Australian Governments and its working groups, and ministerial councils.

## Our clients and stakeholders

DECCW values its relationships with external stakeholders and recognises their valuable role in supporting environmental initiatives. External stakeholders include potential partners in environment protection and opinion makers inside and outside government. DECCW has involved the community in:

- the development of legislation, policies and guidelines
- the review of environment protection licences
- the development of conservation plans
- the development of water sharing plans
- the development of wilderness declarations
- the development of conservation agreements with a statutory authority or another minister
- practical strategies to promote sustainable living
- participation in environmental activities, including visiting national parks and volunteering to work in parks or on projects promoting sustainability.

## Our resources

- We manage over 800 national parks and reserves covering more than 6.7 million hectares of land (or nearly 8.5% of NSW) for conservation, education and public enjoyment
- We manage six marine parks covering more than 345,100 hectares of NSW waters, and 12 aquatic reserves.
- As at 30 June 2010 we employ 4,321 staff, more than 2,000 of whom are regionally based.
- Each year, about 4,000 volunteers contribute more than 170,000 volunteer hours to environmental activities in parks and reserves.
- We manage a total operating budget of around \$1.4 billion.

## State of the Environment

The three-yearly *New South Wales State of the Environment 2009* report was released in December 2009. It examines the main environmental issues for NSW, the challenges faced, the gains made and where more work needs to be done. The report provides credible, scientifically-based, statewide environmental information for governments, interest groups and the community.

Key findings of the 2009 report show:

- a continued improvement to air quality in NSW, with four out of six major air pollutants continuing to comply with national air quality standards
- a five-fold increase in the percentage of land protected for Aboriginal cultural values over the past three years to more than 2.3 million hectares
- improvement in the management of native vegetation, including marked reductions in approved clearing
- improvements to environmental water flows in some of NSW's most stressed inland rivers and wetlands following the purchase of water entitlements
- a 19% increase in kerbside waste recycling since 2000.

Among the environmental challenges facing NSW, the report records a loss of native species; poor river health; and increased greenhouse gas emissions, resource use and energy consumption.

The report highlights the need for continuing efforts to address:

- air quality issues, in the form of ground level ozone in Sydney and particles in rural areas
- pressures on biodiversity
- river and wetland health
- moving towards sustainable consumption of resources and commodities
- greenhouse gas emissions
- preparing NSW for unavoidable changes in our climate.

The report is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2009](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2009).

## Our priorities

DECCW's corporate plan sets out goals, outcomes, objectives and priorities. The corporate plan was updated during 2009–10 to reflect the newly expanded department, as well as the release of an updated NSW State Plan. This annual report for 2009–10 reports on performance according to the goals set out in the corporate plan and NSW State Plan.

## Our corporate plan

The following table summarises the goals, outcomes and objectives in the *DECCW corporate plan 2010 update*, and how they relate to the NSW Government's priorities contained in the *State Plan – Investing in a Better Future (2010)*.



Photo: L. Goggin, DECCW

Following the severe dust storms throughout NSW in 2009, DECCW released the new Dustwatch website and reporting program.

Goals	Outcomes	Objectives	NSW State Plan Priorities
Climate change and its impacts are minimised to protect the environment, the economy and community wellbeing	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced</p> <p>Communities are supported and active in adapting to climate change</p> <p>The increased risks to life, livelihoods, property and the environment from coastal erosion, flooding, bushfires and droughts are minimised and managed</p> <p>Individuals, families, communities, businesses and government all adopt sustainable practices, reducing adverse impacts and achieving cost savings</p>	<p>NSW greenhouse gas mitigation measures are in place to complement national climate change programs</p> <p>Government, businesses and the wider community are aware of potential climate change impacts, and use this information to inform their decisions</p> <p>More efficient use of energy, water and materials</p> <p>Improved understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, water resources, coastal environments and bushfire regimes</p>	<p><b>Tackle climate change</b></p> <p><b>Lead agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Develop a clean energy future</b></p> <p><b>Partner agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Reduce waste</b></p> <p><b>Lead agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Improve air quality</b></p> <p><b>Lead agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Protect our native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways</b></p> <p><b>Lead agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Secure sustainable supplies of water and use our water more wisely</b></p> <p><b>Lead agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Strengthen Aboriginal communities</b></p> <p><b>Partner agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Increase the number of people using parks</b></p> <p><b>Partner agency</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>DECCW makes significant contributions to various other State Plan priorities. For further details see the DECCW Corporate Plan at <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au">www.environment.nsw.gov.au</a>.</b></p>
A healthier and cleaner environment protecting both ecological and human health	<p>Pollution and other adverse environmental impacts are prevented, reduced or mitigated</p> <p>Degraded environments are remediated or restored</p> <p>Community wellbeing is improved</p> <p>Unnecessary regulation is eliminated</p>	<p>Harmful emissions to air, land and water are reduced</p> <p>The number of significantly contaminated sites is reduced</p> <p>Community and environmental exposure to chemicals, radiation, noise, dust, waste, odour and vibration is reduced</p> <p>Effective and more streamlined environmental regulatory and approval processes are in place to achieve environmental outcomes</p>	
Integrated landscape management for long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability	<p>The condition of natural resources is improved</p> <p>Biodiversity and native vegetation are protected and restored</p> <p>An integrated system of public and private lands is managed for the conservation of natural and cultural values</p> <p>Parks, reserves and gardens contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development</p> <p>Aboriginal culture and heritage is protected and revitalised</p> <p>Aboriginal people's participation in land, water and natural resource management and conservation is increased</p>	<p>The health of wetlands, waterways, rivers, floodplains and riparian ecosystems is managed</p> <p>The extent and condition of native vegetation is improved</p> <p>Native species of flora and fauna are protected and conserved in healthy populations</p> <p>More land is managed for conservation outcomes</p> <p>A sustainable range of opportunities is provided for visitors to enjoy national parks, marine parks, reserves and botanic gardens</p> <p>Fire, pest animals and weeds are managed in cooperation with neighbours and other agencies to protect parks and neighbouring lands</p> <p>Historic heritage in parks and gardens is managed for the conservation and presentation of cultural values</p> <p>Aboriginal people are supported in the practice, promotion and renewal of their cultures</p> <p>Aboriginal community capacity to manage Country is increased</p>	
Secure and sustainable supplies of water, and water is used more wisely	<p>Water use in NSW is sustainable in the long term</p> <p>Households and businesses continue to have access to safe, reliable, appropriately priced water and sewerage services</p>	<p>The water needs of the environment and other water users in regional and metropolitan NSW are balanced</p> <p>Water supplies are secure and sustainable under a changed climate</p> <p>Groundwater systems can better support dependent ecosystems and the range of designated beneficial uses</p> <p>Urban water and sewerage services are well managed, efficient and equitable</p>	
A credible, efficient and effective organisation	<p>A responsive and adaptable organisation that delivers</p> <p>An organisation where people want to work</p>	<p>DECCW leads in sustainability and environmental performance within the NSW Government</p> <p>DECCW is a safe and healthy workplace that values staff and encourages innovation</p> <p>Our systems, processes and relationships are aligned and working well together</p> <p>DECCW has skilled people and smart systems in place</p> <p>Good knowledge and information are available to make decisions</p> <p>Internal and external connections are developed and renewed</p> <p>Customers are satisfied with DECCW services</p> <p>Volunteer participation in, and community support for, the environment and conservation is increased</p>	

# Executive and organisational structure

## Our executive

At 30 June 2010, DECCW's executive management team comprised the Director General and 13 senior officers.



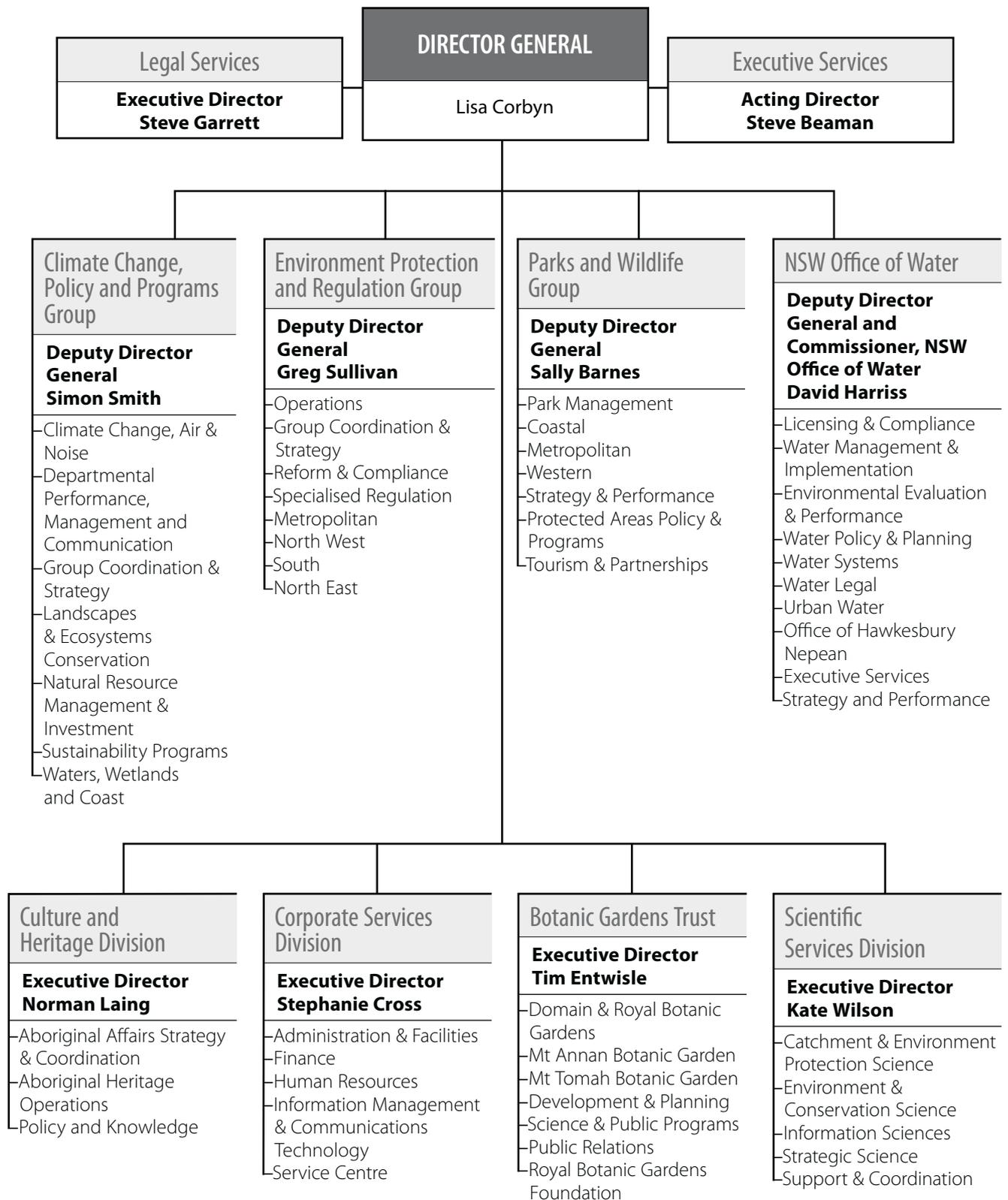
Photo: SC Photography

*Standing left to right: Stephen Beaman (Acting Director, Executive Services), Zoe de Saram (Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication (after April 2010)), Bob Conroy (Executive Director, Parks and Wildlife), Norman Laing (Executive Director, Country, Culture and Heritage), Sally Barnes (Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife), Tim Rogers (Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication (until April 2010)), Simon Smith (Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs), Kate Wilson (Executive Director, Scientific Services), Steve Garrett (Executive Director, Legal Services).*

*Sitting left to right: Stephanie Cross (Executive Director, Corporate Services), Lisa Corbyn (Director General), Tim Entwisle (Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust), Joe Woodward (Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation).*

*Absent: David Harriss (Deputy Director General and Commissioner, NSW Office of Water).*

## Organisational structure



# Performance summary 2009–10

This section contains a general summary of the overall performance of DECCW during 2009–10, as measured by the performance indicators which are presented in more detail in chapters 2–6. Where relevant, the various priorities and targets set by the NSW Government in its *State Plan – Investing in a Better Future (2010)* (see [www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan)) are also referred to.

## Goal: Climate change minimised

### Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

NSW remains committed to achieving a 60% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in line with the Australian Government's targets and the NSW State Plan. NSW greenhouse gas emissions have remained relatively steady since 1990, while NSW per capita emissions have decreased. To make significant cuts in emissions, the Government is encouraging the development and uptake of innovative technology, including renewable energy, and also reducing emissions at minimal cost by improving energy efficiency.

The State Plan contains a target to implement annual electricity savings of 4,000 gigawatt hours through NSW energy efficiency programs by 2014. The NSW Government has already made significant progress through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme, which has saved or offset more than 100 million tonnes of carbon pollution since 2003.

The NSW Green Business Program provided \$8.3 million in 2009–10 to support 22 projects that save water and energy in business operations, with combined annual savings of 192 million litres of water, 33,000 megawatt hours of electricity and 35,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

The NSW Home Saver Rebate Program is providing \$170 million in rebates for households that make their homes more water- and energy-efficient. The strong uptake of rebates continued in 2009–10. By June 2010, DECCW had approved 118,848 hot water system rebates totalling nearly \$87 million, which are helping NSW households to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 297,120 tonnes each year. The Fridge Buyback Program took 14,631 old fridges out of circulation by June 2010, and will save more than 10,200 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

The three-year \$15-million sustainability education and awareness program for the community (including the Save Power campaign featuring black balloons) entered its next major phase, providing the public with practical information on how to save power and reduce power bills at home and work.

To achieve the State Plan target of 20% of energy consumption in NSW coming from renewable sources by 2020, the Government encouraged the establishment of six renewable energy precincts in areas with the best known wind resources. NSW also pledged up to \$120 million to help NSW solar projects bid for a share of the Australian Government's \$1.5-billion Solar Flagships Program funds.



Photo: D. Wiecek, DECCW

Sea level rise is contributing to coastal erosion. The NSW Government's Sea Level Rise Policy Statement will help mitigate some of these impacts.

The \$40-million, five-year Renewable Energy Development Program has so far funded six projects to assist the commercialisation of new renewable energy technologies at a total cost of \$24.8 million. Use of these technologies will generate electricity or reduce grid electricity use by an estimated 96,000 megawatt hours, reduce summer peak demand by 11,400 kilowatts and save an estimated 103,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

### **Encourage the NSW community to adapt to climate change**

In November 2009, the NSW Government released its Sea Level Rise Policy Statement that sets out ways in which the Government will deal with sea level rise and the risks to property owners from coastal processes, and the assistance that will be provided to councils to reduce risks from coastal hazards. As part of this statement, DECCW developed sea level rise benchmarks that are to be used by planning authorities when making their coastal and flood hazard assessments, and future land-use plans. Draft coastal protection legislation was made available for public comment between March and April 2010. The proposed new legislation aims to improve management of erosion along the NSW coast, establishing processes that would allow landowners to protect their properties from erosion.

In June 2010, DECCW released the NSW Climate Impact Profile that includes regional impact profiles and describes the likely impacts of future climate change on the settlements, lands and ecosystems of NSW. The profiles will help state and regional decision-makers develop planning and response strategies.

### **Minimise and manage potential increased risks to life, property and the environment**

DECCW works with local councils, catchment management authorities and communities to ensure the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of coastal, estuarine and floodplain environments. The coastal and estuary management plans so far finalised by NSW councils indicate the high level of council and community support for developing and implementing plans. At 30 June 2010, there were 110 floodplain risk management plans completed for urban areas in NSW. These plans help councils to manage flood risks. During 2009–10, DECCW progressed a further six rural floodplain management plans for approximately 6,000 square kilometres of the Murray–Darling Basin. Once these plans are finalised, there will be 21 plans covering about 25,000 square kilometres of the basin.

In 2009–10, the Coastal Management Program provided \$1.48 million in grants for 20 projects. The Estuary Management Program provided \$2.24 million for 24 projects. Under the Floodplain Management Program, DECCW allocated \$10.3 million in grants to 80 NSW councils.

### **Support individuals, families, communities, businesses and government to adopt sustainable practices**

The Sustainability Advantage partnership program helps medium to large organisations and businesses improve environmental performance and save money. In 2009–10, 430 businesses were working with DECCW through Sustainability Advantage. As at June 2010, the program

has helped NSW businesses identify opportunities that could lead to over \$13 million in cost savings and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 57,000 tonnes. A further \$29.5 million of potential savings have been identified, and these will be the focus for 2010–11.

DECCW, in partnership with the Department of Housing, launched a \$63 million Home Power Savings Program to help low income households save power and money. Across NSW, 220,000 eligible households will be provided with expert advice to reduce their power consumption by 20%. This will also help keep bills down when power prices rise.

DECCW manages the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS), which measures the energy, water, waste and indoor environmental performance of buildings. In 2009–10, 802 NABERS energy and water ratings for offices were submitted to DECCW. By 30 June 2010, 11.5 million m<sup>2</sup> of office space in Australia (51% of the total available office space) and 5.3 million m<sup>2</sup> of NSW office space (62% of available NSW office space) had been rated for environmental performance using NABERS. There has been an 11% increase in rated space over 2009–10 in Australia, and a 3% increase in NSW. On average, managers of office buildings using NABERS have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 13% and increased water efficiency by 15%. Together, these buildings are achieving total annual savings of 228,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and 1,088 megalitres of potable water.

The five-year, \$20-million Energy Efficiency Training Program, jointly managed by DECCW and the NSW Department of Education and Training, commenced in July 2009 for key tradespeople and professionals such as engineers, electricians, facilities managers and manufacturing staff. The program is contributing to the State Plan target of increasing participation in green skills training by 5% by 2013.

## **Goal: Healthier and cleaner environment**

### **Prevent, reduce or mitigate pollution and other adverse environmental impacts**

DECCW continued its extensive daily monitoring of air quality in the Sydney greater metropolitan region, and worked towards the State Plan target of meeting national air quality goals. In 2009–10, air quality standards were exceeded on 30 days as a result of photochemical smog, dust storms and bushfires. The cause of the exceedence on 60% of these days was high particle levels, particularly in the latter half of 2009 when several dust events occurred. The statewide dust storm on 23 September 2009 caused the highest exceedences yet of the particle standard, not only in the Sydney region but across NSW.

In 2009–10, total air and noise pollution incident reports to DECCW's Environment Line accounted for 59% of the total pollution incidents reported. This is similar to the 61% reported the previous year. The consistently high percentage of reports reflects the public's ongoing concerns about lifestyle, amenity and the impacts of air and noise pollution.

The load-based licensing scheme provides economic incentives to major polluters for controlling, reducing and preventing air and water pollution in NSW. Preliminary results for 2009–10 showed that both air and water pollutant load indicators had resumed general long-term downward trends, following slight increases in the past two years. The lower pollution levels could be partly due to generally lower economic activity.

DECCW negotiated 114 pollution reduction programs (PRPs) with businesses during the year, and included these in environment protection licences to require licensees to improve air pollution controls, measures or monitoring equipment. The estimated value of the 114 PRPs was \$202 million.

DECCW maintained its consistently high success rate for prosecutions in 2009–10. A total of 134 prosecutions were completed, which is the highest number for the past five years, with a 94% success rate. The number of completed prosecutions for both environment protection and conservation matters increased noticeably compared to 2008–09. Overall, \$1.4 million in financial penalties were imposed in 2009–10, which were well above the five-year average. DECCW completed 12 prosecutions for native vegetation clearing offences. DECCW was successful in 11 of these prosecutions, resulting in the imposition of \$342,500 in fines.

In 2009–10, 1,546 penalty notices totalling \$548,900 in fines were issued for smoky and noisy vehicle offences, littering from vehicles and breaches of the environment protection legislation administered by DECCW.

### **Remediate or restore degraded environments**

In 2009–10, DECCW undertook 106 regulatory actions under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*. These included carrying out 49 formal assessments of contaminated land, issuing 37 regulatory notices and revoking 20 regulatory notices. Seventeen further sites were brought under the regulation of the Act during the year and the remediation or investigation of 10 sites was completed.

As at 30 June 2010, 124 sites were under formal assessment, 41 sites were yet to be regulated and 134 sites were under regulation. A further 117 sites notified under the new provisions of section 60 of the Act were under informal assessment, nine sites were being managed for serious contamination outside the Act and 484 sites were awaiting further information to be provided by the notifier. Ninety-three significantly contaminated sites have been remediated since the Act came into effect in 1998–99.

NSW is progressing towards the State Plan recycling targets set for 2014, although a greater effort is needed in the commercial and industrial sectors. The waste and environment levy that drives waste avoidance and resource recovery in NSW was extended in 2009–10 beyond the Wollongong–Sydney–Newcastle corridor to 21 new local government areas – the coastal councils north of Port Stephens, and the Blue Mountains and Wollondilly council areas.

Disposal of waste to landfill decreased overall in the greater Sydney region in 2009–10 for a second successive

year. General mainstream waste going to landfill in the greater Sydney region was around 5 million tonnes, which represented a decline of 6%. This followed a 10% fall from the previous year. In per capita terms, waste disposal was 937 kilograms, and has decreased by 22% since 2000. Lower waste disposal in 2009–10 could be due to more waste being recycled and re-used, less waste being generated and the continuing effects of the worldwide economic downturn.

### **Improve community wellbeing**

During the summer of 2009–10, monitoring results from DECCW's Beachwatch and Harbourwatch programs showed that water quality at ocean and harbour beaches throughout NSW was generally of a very high standard. With average rainfall conditions in the year, the water quality at monitored swimming locations along the NSW coast rated 86% of sites as 'very good' or 'good', and 90% of sites with microbial assessment categories of 'A' or 'B'. This was an improvement on results from 2007–08, when 84% of sites achieved microbial assessment categories of 'A' or 'B' due to stormwater and sewage overflows triggered by wet weather. Overall, ocean beaches in NSW were in excellent condition, although monitoring showed that many coastal lakes and estuaries were susceptible to microbial contamination for several days following rainfall.

In the Sydney region, the Regional Air Quality Index (RAQI) provides a health alert system that can advise asthmatics and other sensitive members of the community of daily pollution readings so they can take measures to minimise the impact on their health. Air pollution was 'poor', 'very poor' or 'hazardous' on 64 days during 2009–10, which was 17 days more than the previous year. These exceedences were driven by photochemical smog during the summer of 2009–10, dust storms and bushfires.

### **Eliminate unnecessary regulation**

For a number of years, consistent with a State Plan priority, DECCW has worked to progressively cut red tape and reduce regulatory burdens on business, government and the community, while maintaining necessary environmental controls and outcomes. In 2009, DECCW established a Regulatory Reform Committee to track the various reform initiatives, and to promote further opportunities for regulatory reform.

In regulating native vegetation, DECCW began implementing a new system that allows DECCW to better identify incidences of illegal clearing through satellite imaging. The system enables DECCW to respond to illegal clearing more efficiently and effectively, and improve community compliance with the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

DECCW prepared legislative amendments to streamline cultural heritage assessment and approvals as part of development assessment processes. These changes are part of the *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010*, which will commence on 1 October 2010.

Consistent with recommendations of the 2008 Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks, DECCW is working to reduce red tape for investment in tourism. The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* was amended in 2009–10 to

help sustainable, nature-based visitor opportunities to be developed in certain national parks. The reform streamlines provisions relating to leasing and licensing, clarifies what is permissible under the Act, eliminates duplication and reduces red tape.

## Goal: Integrated landscape management

### Improve the condition of natural resources

DECCW is coordinating the delivery of 13 State Plan targets to protect native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways.

Through the Living Murray, NSW RiverBank and the NSW Wetland Recovery programs, more than 40,000 megalitres of additional water entitlement were acquired in 2009–10, bringing the cumulative total acquired in recent years to 331,881 megalitres. Purchases under the Living Murray and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program have now been completed. These water entitlements allowed more than 160,000 megalitres of environmental water to be released in the priority Gwydir, Macquarie, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys in 2009–10.

The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* established the use of property vegetation plans, which are negotiated agreements between land holders and catchment management authorities, as a way of setting aside areas for clearing, using offsets and providing incentives. By 30 June 2010, 1,824 property vegetation plans had been approved, including 1,260 that included incentive payments to farmers to improve or protect native vegetation. This system has reduced clearing approvals from more than 12,000 hectares in 2005–06 to around 2,642 hectares in 2009–10.

### Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation

The BioBanking Scheme, which aims to protect land containing high quality habitat to offset the impacts of development, is now well established. In May 2010, DECCW entered into Australia's first biobanking agreement with a private landowner to protect 80 hectares of high conservation land in western Sydney.

DECCW is continuing to add land to the reserve system in line with its National Parks Establishment Plan. In 2009–10, eight new reserves were created, including Capertee National Park, and a number of additions of land to existing reserves were made, totalling 38,560 hectares. Much of this new land improved boundary configuration, linked protected areas and buffered reserves from adjoining land uses. As at 30 June 2010, more than 6.7 million hectares of land in NSW was reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, which represents nearly 8.5% of the state's total area.

Late in the year, the NSW Parliament passed legislation to protect more than 100,000 hectares of the river red gum forests, woodlands and wetlands along the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan river systems in conservation reserves, effective from 1 July 2010.

Since 2004, DECCW has developed fire management strategies in national parks and other conservation reserves. At 30 June 2010, fire management strategies covered over 6,704,861 hectares of the reserve system, which is effectively 100% of the parks and reserves where a fire management strategy is required. In accordance with these fire strategies, DECCW carried out a record amount of hazard reduction burning in 2009–10, with 269 prescribed burn operations completed to treat an area of 93,117 hectares.

NSW has six marine parks, approximately 345,100 hectares, encompassing about 34% of the state's coastal waters, including approximately 64,900 hectares (6.5%) in sanctuary zones. No new marine protected areas were established in NSW in 2009–10.



Photo: D. Harasti

DECCW manages the six marine parks in NSW which encompass about 34% of the state's coastal waters. This stingray was found in Batemans Marine Park.

### Contribute to sustainable visitation and tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves

The *Discovery – Walks, Talks and Tours* education programs recorded strong growth of 12% during the year, attracting 218,009 participants.

In June 2010, the *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Visitors and Tourists) Act 2010* was passed by the NSW Parliament. This signals DECCW's commitment to both protecting and promoting the state's network of outstanding national parks and reserves and, equally, to ensuring accessible, nature-based experiences for the community and visitors to our state. The Act implements several recommendations of the 2008 Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks, which was convened by the Government to report on opportunities for an enhanced level of sustainable nature tourism on NSW public lands.

Volunteers participate significantly in conservation and public appreciation of national parks. DECCW has around 4,000 volunteers across NSW who contribute a combined total of more than 177,000 hours each year to environmental projects ranging from bush regeneration to education. Consistent with a State Plan priority to increase community volunteering, DECCW introduced a new policy in 2009–10 that will support and encourage additional volunteering.

### Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands

During 2009–10, 22 plans of management were finalised and adopted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, covering 33 parks and reserves, and an area of 80,793 hectares. As at 30 June 2010, there were 292 adopted plans covering 414 parks and reserves. A further 17 draft plans covering 32 parks and reserves were placed on exhibition for public comment during the year. In total, more than five million hectares are now covered by an adopted plan of management, representing 75% of the reserve system.

Conservation agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* protect and conserve significant natural and cultural heritage on private and other non-reserved public lands in perpetuity. In 2009–10, 11 new conservation agreements were established over a total area of 74,772 hectares. These included the largest conservation

agreement to date, covering 64,000 hectares of mallee vegetation in far western NSW on the property Scotia, owned by Australian Wildlife Conservancy. As at 30 June 2010, there were 268 conservation agreements protecting 127,500 hectares of land managed solely for conservation. In 2009–10, 11 new wildlife refuges were established over a total area of 1,178 hectares. At 30 June 2010, landholders managed a total of 2,062,194 hectares of land for conservation outside the reserve system. This represents 2.57% of the land in NSW.

### Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage

Consistent with State Plan priorities to strengthen Aboriginal communities, DECCW protects objects and places of cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples. Four new Aboriginal Places were declared in 2009–10, bringing the total to 70 across NSW. In 2009–10, DECCW commenced development of a new Aboriginal Places Policy to guide staff, contractors and communities in the future identification, nomination and gazettal of Aboriginal Places. The policy will be finalised during 2010–11.

In 2009–10, DECCW returned 65 sets of remains or collections held under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and assisted with the return of an additional four remains and collections held by museums and universities, to Aboriginal communities. There have been more than 70 repatriations as part of the program in the past three years.

### Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management

DECCW works to involve Aboriginal people in natural resource management, including the management of national parks and reserves. During 2009–10, two new joint management agreements between DECCW and Aboriginal peoples were created: at Yarrabini National Park with the Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr peoples and at Gaagal Wanggan (South Beach) National Park with the Gumbaynggirr people.

There are now 18 formal joint management arrangements with Aboriginal communities in place covering 111 areas across more than 1.5 million hectares (or 23%) of the reserve system.

Under the Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Program, more than \$1 million has been provided to Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local councils to prevent waste from being illegally dumped on Aboriginal-owned lands and to safely clean up such waste. Eight completed projects in 2009–10 resulted in the re-use of around 2,500 tonnes of material; the recycling of around 170 tonnes of metal, concrete, brick, glass and white goods; and the disposal of 499 tonnes of mixed wastes.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW staff supervised the filming of the little penguin colony at Manly for the TV program *Catalyst*.



Photo: F. Campbell, DECCW

The NSW Office of Water conducts regular seminars for stakeholders such as this one with Law Society members at Bathurst, to update them on latest licensing and trading regulations.

## Goal: Secure and sustainable water supplies

### Balancing the water needs of farmers, towns, industries and the environment

The NSW Office of Water works to ensure that available surface water and groundwater resources are shared equitably between towns and cities, the environment, irrigation, stock, rural domestic needs and industry through the development and implementation of statutory water sharing plans. Five new water sharing plans formally commenced in 2009–10, bringing the total across NSW to 45, and representing 55% of the water sharing plans that are expected to be developed. Water sharing plans now cover around 90% of water use in NSW.

Where a water sharing plan has commenced, licences and approvals are managed under the *Water Management Act 2000*. In 2009–10, the percentage of total licences held under the Act increased by 6%, bringing the total to 45%.

### Ensuring urban water and sewerage services are well managed, efficient and equitable

Both the State Plan and the Metropolitan Water Plan set a target to increase water recycling in the greater Sydney metropolitan area from 15 billion litres per year in 2005 to 70 billion litres per year by 2015. In 2009–10, the volume of water recycled in Sydney increased by more than six billion litres. Recycling has increased from 15 billion litres in 2005–06 to more than 33 billion litres this year. With the expected commissioning of the Replacement Flows Project later in 2010, which will deliver highly treated recycled water to the Hawkesbury–Nepean River, this figure could increase by up to 18 billion litres.

Both the State Plan and the Metropolitan Water Plan also set a target to save 145 billion litres of water per year in the greater Sydney metropolitan area by 2015, which is equivalent to reducing Sydney's water needs by 24%. Through the Water for Life education program that informs Sydneysiders about the value of water, BASIX building guidelines, the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme and Sydney Water initiatives, more than

100 billion litres of water per year is being saved. Sydney's water use is now equivalent to its use in the early 1970s, despite an increase in population of around 1.4 million.

The NSW Office of Water guides and supports 106 local water utilities in NSW. The *Best practice management of water supply and sewerage guidelines 2007* assists these utilities to deliver effective, sustainable and safe water supply and sewerage services. In 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available), 82% of the guideline requirements were met, an increase of 2% since 2007–08.

## Goal: Credible and efficient organisation

### Be a leader in sustainability and environmental performance

As the leading environment, conservation and water management agency in NSW, DECCW is committed to sustainability actions that reach, and wherever possible exceed, the targets set out in the NSW Government Sustainability Policy. Total energy use for DECCW in 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available) was 179,723 gigajoules, with 25,641 tonnes of greenhouse gas emitted (net of GreenPower purchased). Compared to the previous year, this represented a 4% decrease in energy consumption and a 6% decrease in tonnes of greenhouse gas emitted. At the same time, staff numbers increased by 3% with the addition of the NSW Office of Water to DECCW.

DECCW purchases 10% GreenPower (the minimum standard set out in the NSW Government Sustainability Policy is 6%). During 2008–09, DECCW sites generated at least 62,700 kilowatt hours of green power using solar panels, which allowed more than 11,000 kilowatt hours to be fed back to the grid. DECCW is continuing to expand and improve video conferencing and other internal communication technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be produced by travelling for meetings, training and other activities. Since establishing five video conferencing rooms in August 2009, DECCW saved more than 300,000 travel kilometers in the first six months.

Under its Fleet Improvement Plan, DECCW is progressing towards the June 2011 targets of 13.5 (out of 20) for passenger vehicles and 9 for light commercial vehicles. In 2009–10, the number of hybrid vehicles operated by DECCW increased from 38 to 49. DECCW also trialled a Mitsubishi iMiEV, an innovative electric vehicle with zero-emissions technology. The iMiEV is expected to become available in the second half of 2010.

### External connections and customer satisfaction with DECCW services

The number of requests handled by the DECCW Information Centre in 2009–10 increased to 306,942, an increase of almost 7%. This included 7,475 pollution incidents and 9,507 motor vehicle reports.

Public use of the DECCW website continues to be very strong, with more than 3.2 million visits in 2009–10. The

site consistently features in the top 15 NSW Government websites as measured by number of visits. Enhancements to the site during the year included the development of a publicly accessible image library, to be available in 2010–11, improved information for park visitors and increasing use of social media.

DECCW continued to develop relationships with Aboriginal communities through participating in the *Two Ways Together* program and continuing to work on the Strengthening Community Wellbeing Framework and the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program.

In 2009–10, DECCW received 33 significant complaints. These included allegations of unethical conduct, corrupt conduct or other complaints received by the NSW Ombudsman's office. Twenty-nine of the complaints were finalised during the year, together with six additional complaints that had been received in 2008–09 and had not been finalised by the end of that year.

In 2009–10, DECCW received 188 new freedom of information (FOI) requests and processed 194 applications. This included 41 applications to the NSW Office of Water. In 2009–10, DECCW provided 80% or more of the requested information for 90% of FOI requests.

### Healthy staff and productive workplaces

In relation to DECCW's occupational health and safety obligations, the number of incidents reported in 2009–10, including near misses, increased to 762 from 620 the year before. Much of this is attributable to the increase in staff numbers during the year with the inclusion of the NSW Office of Water as part of DECCW. Better reporting and management of safety incidents, including the introduction of a more efficient online reporting system, may also have played a role. DECCW's improving total reported incidents to claims ratio generally indicates an improving safety culture.

The incidence of injuries suffered by staff remained unchanged this year at 7.1 per 100 employees. The number of compensation claims increased to 308 for 2009–10 compared with 263 for the previous year, which corresponds directly to increased staff numbers.

DECCW has a wide range of programs and strategies to promote equal employment opportunities. In particular, DECCW has an excellent record in employing Aboriginal people. The 2010 graduate program intake consisted of 18 graduates, including two Aboriginal graduates. In 2009–10, DECCW employed ten Aboriginal cadet rangers, one Aboriginal cadet project officer, and one Aboriginal cadet policy officer. Two cadets successfully completed their cadetships during 2009–10, and were appointed to permanent positions. Nine Aboriginal trainee field officers and one Aboriginal trainee interpretive assistant were employed by DECCW.

In October 2009, DECCW finalised a new Disability Action Plan 2009–2012, as required under section 9 of the *NSW Disability Services Act 1993*. The plan contains a number of strategies to increase employment opportunities at DECCW for people who have a disability.

### Good knowledge, information and systems to make decisions

During the year, DECCW continued improvements under its 2007–2010 Information Management and Communications Technology Strategic Plan. In particular, DECCW continued to consolidate the various data sets relating to natural resources and the environment from former agencies that are now part of DECCW, and improved the quality, consistency and accessibility of this information. This work included making spatial data sets more accessible to external agencies and researchers.

Financial policies and systems were also significantly enhanced across DECCW during 2009–10. DECCW financial staff implemented a range of government reforms, including the super-agency amalgamations and transition arrangements, plans to meet required efficiency and offset savings through the Better Services and Value Plan, and the Savings Implementation Plan.

DECCW's payment of accounts performance is an important measure of the way DECCW manages its business and treats its partners and clients. In 2009–10, DECCW paid most of its accounts within the due dates. DECCW achieved the government target of 90% during one quarter of 2009–10, and was close to reaching the target during the other three quarters. Payment delays were mainly due to invoices being approved for payment only after the satisfactory completion of works or the satisfactory receipt of purchased items. Most invoices were paid within 48 hours of their approval by the relevant business area.



Staff at the senior staff conference in February 2010.

Photo: DECCW

# Financial summary

This overview of the performance of DECCW's financial operations for 2009–10 should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements and related notes. These are provided on pages 157–236 of this report. There are separate financial statements for the Environment Protection Authority, the Marine Parks Authority and the Office of Hawkesbury–Nepean.

The net cost of services is the cost to the NSW Government of DECCW's services as follows:

	2009-10*	2008-09
	\$'000	\$'000
Total expenses	1,452,619	1,052,910
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	551	3,636
Less total retained revenue	(579,142)	(432,733)
Share of operating result of joint ventures and increase in share of jointly controlled assets	(43,800)	–
Net cost of services	830,228	623,813

\* Results for 2009–10 include the NSW Office of Water, which was established as a division within DECCW on 1 July 2009 as a result of the Public Sector Employment and Management (Departmental Amalgamations) Order 2009.

DECCW also collected Crown revenue on behalf of the NSW Government totalling \$347 million.

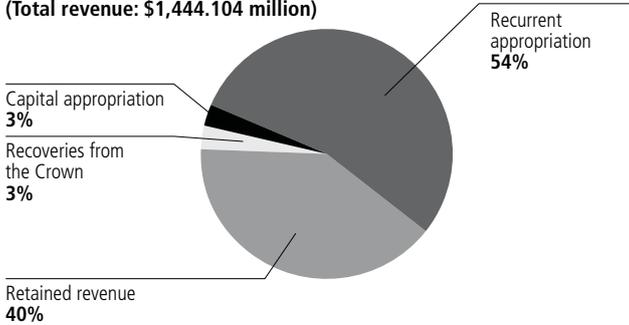
Major initiatives for 2009–10 included:

- developing a coastal adaptation reform package in response to climate change impacts, including a Sea Level Rise Policy Statement
- contributing to the development of the NSW Solar Bonus Scheme to support the generation of renewable energy
- promoting sustainability and resource recovery through improved waste management
- managing the expansion of national parks and reserves, and developing and upgrading visitor facilities and other important infrastructure in parks and reserves
- improving the science and information contained in the Natural Resource Management Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy
- delivering regulation and enforcement to protect the environment, native vegetation, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage; and responding to pollution and emergency incidents
- providing state-level leadership, in collaboration with catchment management authorities, on restoring the health of rural landscapes and ecosystems
- establishing new joint management arrangements with Aboriginal communities
- implementing the Metropolitan Water Plan
- establishing the Office of Hawkesbury–Nepean to improve the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean River system and to act as a single point of information
- continuing the establishment of water sharing plans.

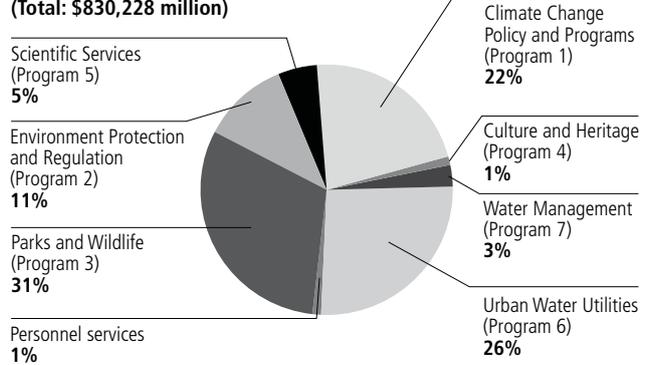
## How we use our financial resources

The following charts provide a summary of allocation of expenses and net cost of services for 2009–10.

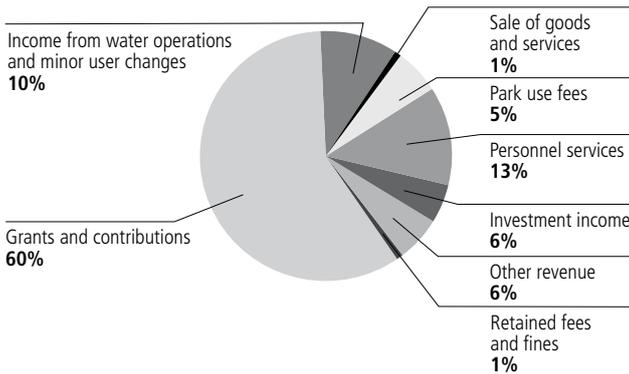
**Source of revenue 2009–10**  
(Total revenue: \$1,444.104 million)



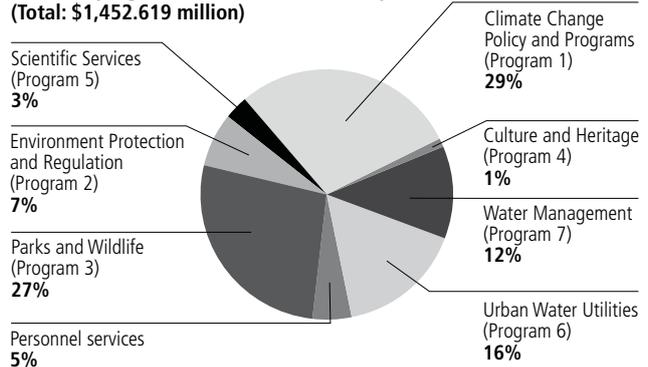
**2009–10 programs: net cost of services**  
(Total: \$830,228 million)



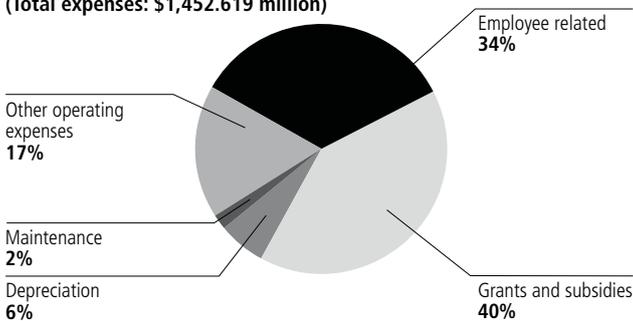
**Source of retained revenue 2009–10**  
(Total retained revenue: \$579.142 million)



**2009–10 programs: allocation of total expenses**  
(Total: \$1,452.619 million)



**Allocation of total expenses 2009–10**  
(Total expenses: \$1,452.619 million)



# Climate change and its impacts are minimised to protect the environment, the economy and community wellbeing

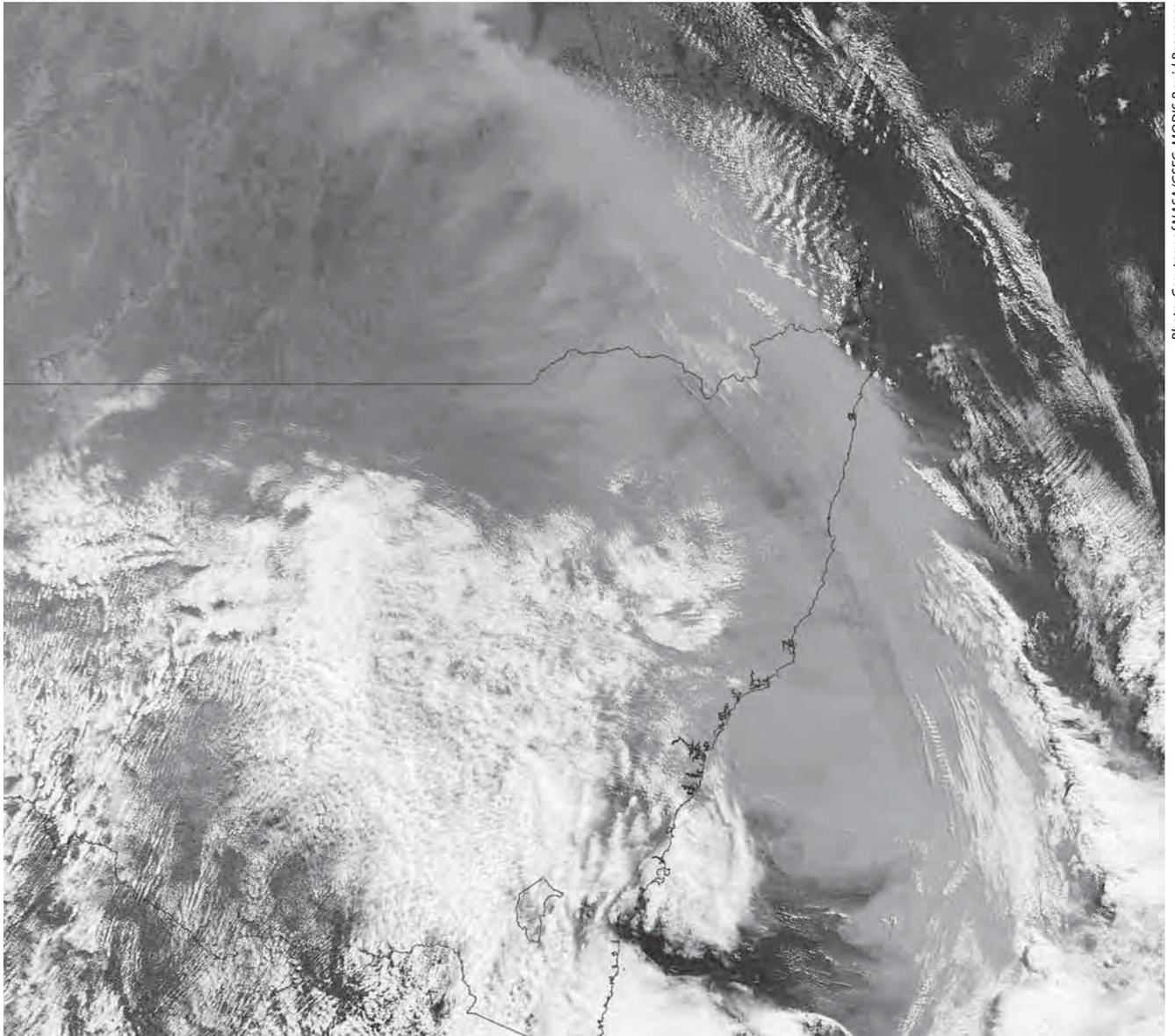


Photo: Courtesy of NASA/GSFC, MODIS Rapid Response

*DECCW leads strategies to minimise the impacts of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the people of NSW prosper in a low-carbon economy.*

## Context

NSW has a very variable climate, with many regions prone to extreme weather such as storms or heatwaves. Such conditions can create droughts, floods and bushfires. Changes to the NSW climate are expected to exaggerate this variability, making it more difficult to manage NSW's valuable landscapes and ecosystems, including the largest and highest alpine areas in Australia, extensive rangelands and productive agricultural areas, and a large part of the Murray–Darling Basin.

The population of NSW is concentrated in coastal areas, with some Sydney suburbs and coastal towns susceptible to sea-level rise and increased flooding. Reliable and up-to-date information will help the NSW Government and the community manage the impacts of climate change. DECCW supports ongoing research and modelling, and is developing innovative technology and guidelines to allow the community to access and use up-to-date information in decision-making.

NSW was the first Australian state or territory to introduce long-term emissions reduction targets. A cut of 60% in emissions by 2050 is the target set in the 2010 *State Plan – Investing in a Better Future*. The NSW Climate Change Fund and NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy, introduced in 2007–08, are helping households, business and government to save energy and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The NSW Government has announced it will develop a new Climate Change Action Plan to replace the existing NSW Greenhouse Plan. The new plan will set out the NSW Government's strategic priorities for tackling climate change over the medium-term, and will guide programs in research and development, clean energy and energy efficiency, sustainable transport, green jobs and skills, natural resources management and water security.

Further information will be made available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/actionplan.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/actionplan.htm).

## Outcomes

- Understanding the causes and impacts of climate change
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Realising a low-carbon economy
- Adapting to climate change to minimise harm and capture benefits.

## Key drivers

- State Plan – Investing in a Better Future ([www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/))
- NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/energy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/energy.htm))
- The NSW Climate Impact Profile ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climateChange/understanding.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climateChange/understanding.htm))
- NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm))
- NSW Climate Change Fund ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfund.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfund.htm))
- NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's Report on the Review of NSW's Climate Change Mitigation Measures ([www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au))
- Metropolitan Transport Plan: Connecting the City of Cities ([www.nsw.gov.au/metropolitantransportplan](http://www.nsw.gov.au/metropolitantransportplan))

## Performance indicators

- Home saver rebates paid under the NSW Climate Change Fund
- Management plans for coastal areas
- Adopted floodplain risk management plans
- Businesses participating with DECCW to improve resource recovery and sustainability
- National Australian Built Environment Rating System – commercial market penetration



Photo: M. Jarman, DECCW

# Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

## National context

Greenhouse gas emissions are produced by various sources, including electricity generation, transport, industrial processes, waste management, agriculture and forestry. Such emissions can be reduced by modifying behaviour or employing technological solutions.

Estimates of Australia's emissions are compiled annually in the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory by the federal Department of Climate Change. According to the latest inventory, the total NSW emissions for 2008 were 164.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2-e</sub>), or 28.6% of total Australian emissions. NSW emissions have been relatively steady since 1990, while per capita emissions have decreased.

In April 2010, the Australian Government announced that it would defer introducing a national emissions trading scheme until at least 2012, while remaining committed to achieving a 5% reduction on year 2000 emissions by 2020. NSW Government programs will continue to contribute to meeting this target, and NSW remains committed to its State Plan target to achieve a 60% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The absence of a national measure to cap, control or price carbon emissions affected DECCW's actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the reporting year, and is likely to increase uncertainty for investors in cleaner energy sources in NSW.

## State initiatives

NSW commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are set out in the NSW State Plan in the following targets to:

- achieve 20% renewable energy consumption by 2020 in light of the Australian Government's expanded Renewable Energy Target
- implement 4,000 gigawatt hours of annual electricity savings through NSW energy efficiency programs by 2014
- increase training for clean energy and other green jobs
- increase participation in green skills training (TAFE NSW and other publicly funded training) by 5% by 2013.

Notwithstanding delays to a national emissions trading scheme, the NSW Government continued to act on improving energy efficiency and investment in low emissions technologies, including renewable energy.

Actions included:

- investing over \$700 million in climate change programs through the Climate Change Fund (see below)
- establishing six renewable energy precincts to streamline the development of wind power (see 'NSW renewable energy precincts')
- committing up to \$120 million to NSW-based bids under the Australian Government's Solar Flagship program (see 'Solar Flagship program').

## NSW Climate Change Fund

The NSW Government's Climate Change Fund, established in 2007, supports a range of programs to help households, businesses, communities, schools and the government save energy and water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. DECCW administers the fund, manages grant applications and issues residential rebates.

These programs are reported on in more detail below.

## NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy

Under the NSW Climate Change Fund, DECCW oversees implementation of the NSW Government's \$150-million Energy Efficiency Strategy, which aims to lessen the impact of rising energy prices on businesses and the community by supporting them in lowering their energy consumption.

Measures funded under the strategy include the Energy Efficiency Community Awareness Program (see below), expansion of the Sustainability Advantage program, the \$15-million Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program, the \$63-million Home Power Savings Program and the \$20-million Energy Efficiency Training Program (see 'Support individuals, families, communities, businesses and government to adopt sustainable practices' section for information on these four programs).

### Energy Efficiency Community Awareness Program

The three-year \$15-million Energy Efficiency Community Awareness Program commenced in 2009. Through the program, tips and information are provided on ways of saving power and reducing power bills at home and work.

Resources include:

- the black balloons advertising campaign titled 'Save power – What can you do in your world?' which includes a website ([www.savepower.nsw.gov.au](http://www.savepower.nsw.gov.au)) and e-newsletter with updates on energy savings, and community education activities to help households, community organisations and their networks to save energy and water
- information about energy efficiency initiatives, such as rebates, to help homes become more water and energy efficient.

The campaign's tracking research is showing increased community knowledge of the links between power use and the environment, and awareness of actions that can be taken at home and work to reduce power. Following the campaign over the summer of 2009–10, almost two-thirds (63%) of respondents said they were 'motivated to act in ways that use less electricity, or would think about it', compared to 45% of respondents in previous surveys.

Research also shows that the summer 2009–10 television campaign reached 80–85% of 18–54 year olds in NSW at least once, and 60–65% three or more times.

The Save Power campaign has as its target a 1% reduction in household electricity use, supported by various other programs being delivered under the Energy Efficiency Strategy. If there is a 1% reduction in electricity consumption, NSW householders could save up to \$50 million on their annual power bills, the equivalent of more than 252,000 tonnes of carbon pollution, or 50 billion black balloons.

## Residential rebates

The NSW Home Saver Rebate Program has allocated \$170 million in rebates for households that make their homes more water- and energy-efficient. Rebates were available in 2009–10 for efficient hot water systems, washing machines, rainwater tanks, dual flush toilets and hot water recirculators, and for the removal of inefficient second fridges in selected NSW areas. Rebates for washing machines finished in June 2010.

DECCW approved 118,848 hot water system rebates from July 2007 to June 2010, totalling nearly \$87 million. These households will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 297,120 tonnes each year.

The rainwater tank rebate, introduced in July 2007, provides up to \$1,500 for installing a rainwater tank connected to toilets or a washing machine, or both. Through the Climate Change Fund, DECCW paid 40,154 rebates for rainwater tanks from July 2007 to June 2010, at a cost of \$24.1 million.

A \$150 washing machine rebate was introduced in August 2008 and finished on 30 June 2010. DECCW paid 76,223 rebates for water efficient appliances from August 2008 to June 2010, at a cost of \$11.4 million.

Rebates of \$200 for dual flush toilets and \$150 for hot water recirculators were introduced in January 2010. Rebates paid so far for toilets are saving more than 55 million litres of water every year across NSW. No rebates for hot water recirculators had been paid by 30 June 2010.

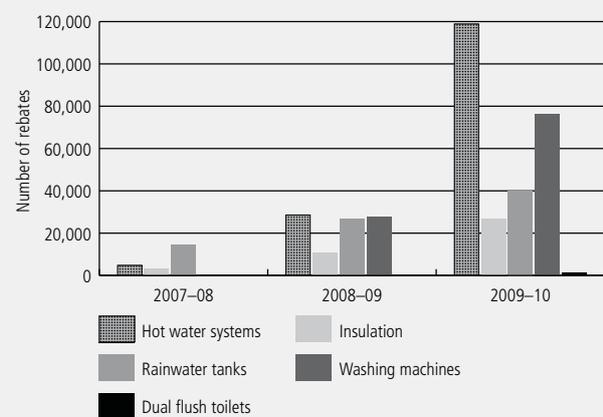
## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Home saver rebates paid under the NSW Climate Change Fund

**Definition:** The \$170 million NSW Home Saver Rebate Program (formerly known as the Residential Rebate Program), which was introduced in 2007, targets the devices and appliances that are the highest water and energy users in NSW homes. This indicator reports the cumulative number of rebates since the program began. Rebates were previously available for ceiling insulation until June 2009. Applications for fully purchased and installed insulation (by 30 June 2009) were accepted up until 30 September 2009 and paid during 2009–10.

A detailed breakdown of rebates issued by local government area is available at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rebates/index.htm)

#### Home Saver rebates paid under the Climate Change Fund (cumulative)



**Interpretation:** The strong uptake of rebates in 2008–09 continued in 2009–10. Water efficient washing machines are saving over 1.8 billion litres of potable water each year across the state. Funded rainwater tanks have made more than 1.8 billion litres of potable water savings since July 2007. An estimated 310,160 tonnes of greenhouse gas savings each year are being made through hot water systems and ceiling insulation funded in NSW homes since October 2007.



Photo: A. Weeraratne, DECCW

Rebates of \$200 for dual flush toilets were introduced in January 2010 under the NSW Home Saver Rebate Program.

In August 2008, the Fridge Buyback Program was introduced to provide householders with \$35 to have a second, old refrigerator taken away from their home. The program has provided regular collection runs to selected areas in metropolitan Sydney, the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Central Coast and Blue Mountains regions. The program has been allocated \$2.8 million over three years to take 19,000 old fridges out of circulation, and when complete will save an estimated 13,300 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year and up to \$210 a year from households' energy bills. By June 2010, 14,631 fridges had been collected, saving an estimated 10,240 tonnes of emissions each year.

### Green Business Program

The NSW Green Business Program funds projects that save water and energy in businesses in NSW. The current program has allocated \$8.3 million to support 22 projects, saving an estimated 192 million litres of water, 33,000 megawatt hours of electricity and 35,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year. To 30 June 2010, 11 of the projects had been completed. These projects included:

- a new lighting system for 16 Bunnings warehouse stores, which combined with a new store design is estimated to save 2,535 MWh of electricity and 2,713 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year
- a University of Technology, Sydney project that recycles waste water from its central plant cooling towers into the toilet flushing system throughout its 28-storey building complex, saving an estimated 2.5 million litres of water a year

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Hunter region rebate campaign

In the Hunter region, a promotional campaign was undertaken in November 2009 to raise awareness and uptake of the rebates that DECCW can provide for efficient hot water systems, washing machines, rainwater tanks, dual flush toilets and other water- and energy-efficient appliances.

The rebate campaign was rolled out through Together Today, a network of local companies, utilities, councils and media organisations of which DECCW is a major sponsor and supporter. In October 2009, before the campaign began, only 5.7% of households in the region had taken advantage of the program. By April 2010, 11.6% of households had applied for and received a rebate. The significant increases in rebate uptake across the Hunter region were achieved through a campaign of events, television, print and web media ([www.togethertoday.com.au](http://www.togethertoday.com.au)). The campaign focused on a series of case studies showing how individuals, families and homeowners had reduced their energy and water bills in their homes and gardens. The website linked to pages providing state and federal rebate information and application materials.

- a multi-faceted approach to water savings by Rous County Council, which develops partnerships with business water users and helps them put savings actions into practice, reducing drinking water use by almost 13 million litres a year.

More information can be found at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfgbp.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfgbp.htm)

### Renewable Energy Development Program

The Renewable Energy Development Program has allocated \$40 million over five years to support the commercialisation of new renewable technologies. The program has so far funded six large projects at a cost of \$24.8 million. These projects include geothermal, solar thermal and biogas projects, which together will either generate electricity or reduce grid electricity use by an estimated 96,000 megawatt hours, reduce summer peak demand by 11,400 kilowatts and save an estimated 103,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

### Central Coast Water Savings Fund

The Central Coast Water Savings Fund, established in partnership with the Gosford and Wyong councils' water authority in 2006, encourages investment in water savings projects on the Central Coast. A total of \$7.7 million has so far been allocated to 67 projects that will save an estimated 890 million litres of water each year. To 30 June 2010, 43 of the projects had been completed.

During 2009–10, the fund approved \$2,426,990 of funding. A million dollars was provided to Gosford City Council for the Stormwater Harnessing for Sustainable Water Management project and \$98,000 was provided to Wyong Shire Council to harvest stormwater from local residential areas to irrigate golf courses at Toukley Golf Club.

### Public Facilities Program

This program is providing \$30 million for water- and energy-saving projects in public facilities such as schools, community buildings, sporting facilities, museums and galleries. Through the first round of grants, the program allocated \$11.1 million to 54 projects, saving an estimated 200 million litres of water and 11,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

A second round of grants was initiated in 2009–10, offering:

- funding for projects that demonstrate water and energy savings in educational or other public facilities (demonstration projects)
- funding of up to \$40,000 for not-for-profit community organisations to undertake simple, low-cost water and energy saving upgrades in their facilities (community savers projects).

Funding of \$6.9 million was approved for 18 demonstration projects at local council buildings, schools, TAFEs, scout halls and hospitals. These projects are expected to save 162 million litres and 8,800 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

Funding of \$6.6 million was approved for 281 community savers projects at pre-schools, aged care group halls, sport and recreation clubs and disability and support service centres. These projects are estimated to save up to 132 million litres of water and 4,826 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

## NSW renewable energy precincts

DECCW has encouraged substantial new wind farm investment, including the creation of six renewable energy precincts. Precincts have been established in the New England Tablelands, Upper Hunter Valley, Central Tablelands, NSW/ACT border region, the South Coast and Cooma–Monaro. DECCW employs a dedicated officer for each precinct, as well as a statewide coordinator. These people are working with communities near the precincts to involve them in developing renewable energy in their regions.

The precincts complement NSW planning reforms for renewable energy, including:

- renewable energy projects with a peak generating capacity of 30 megawatts or more of power are now deemed 'critical infrastructure', and benefit from waived development application fees until 30 June 2011
- a commitment to manage planning approvals within four months of receipt of the environmental impact assessment.

## Solar Flagship program

In May 2010 the NSW Government announced it would provide up to \$120 million to assist NSW projects under the Australian Government's Solar Flagship program. The \$1.5 billion national program aims to build four significant

solar energy facilities that will provide the foundation for large-scale grid-connected solar power and operate within a competitive market.

The NSW Government has offered the largest amount of financial support of any state or territory for large-scale solar power. Of the eight projects shortlisted by the Australian Government under round one of the program, there are three NSW-based solar photovoltaic project proposals. Proponents will now undertake further feasibility studies and submit full applications to the Australian Government.

## NSW Electric Vehicles Taskforce

The level of interest in electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles is growing in Australia and internationally. DECCW is working to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles in NSW in the following three areas:

- trialling the vehicles in a range of uses
- addressing potential barriers to mass adoption, such as recharging issues
- integration with the electricity grid.

DECCW chairs the NSW Electric Vehicles Taskforce, which advises the NSW Government on developing a market for electric vehicles. The NSW Government announced in May 2009 that it would work to speed up the introduction of electric vehicles. Since then, StateFleet has participated in the trial of an electric vehicle in partnership with Mitsubishi Motors Australia. DECCW has also obtained a lease for one of the first Mitsubishi iMiEVs to be made commercially available. Delivery is expected later in 2010.



Photo: S. Barck

DECCW encourages substantial investment in new wind farms.



Photo: S. Watson, DECCW

Lisa Corbyn, Director General, in one of DECCW's electric cars.

## FleetWise

FleetWise is a voluntary partnership with private sector passenger fleet operators to help operators reduce greenhouse gas emissions and costs by choosing cleaner vehicles, minimising distances travelled, and operating fleets more efficiently.

The program commenced with a pilot in 2008–09 that engaged four participants and over 1,000 vehicles. The pilot achieved a 12% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the participating fleets. DECCW worked in 2009–10 to extend the program to other fleet operators in NSW.

Also during 2009–10, the program was identified by the Council of Australian Governments as part of the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency.

A formal launch is planned early in 2010–11, after which the program will be extended to cover heavy vehicles.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Measuring carbon stocks in soil for environmental and economic benefits

Scientific research is building a more comprehensive picture of the amount of carbon that can potentially be stored in different areas under different land uses – for example, under cropping uses in the higher rainfall parts of a catchment, and under grazing conditions in the low rainfall areas.

DECCW is working with Industry and Investment NSW on a project to improve the measurement of soil carbon. Large quantities of carbon can be stored in soils as the result of land rehabilitation, leading to increased vegetation cover. DECCW is seeking to quantify this storage capacity as a possible means of addressing future climate change.

This project is being trialled in the Lachlan catchment in central-west NSW. In 2009, DECCW purchased a section of 'Pillicawarrina', an irrigated and dry-land farm in the Macquarie Marshes, for addition to the reserve system (for information on the rehabilitation project, see Chapter 4, 'Infrastructure projects to support wetland restoration' under 'Improve the condition of natural resources').

At Pillicawarrina, satellite imagery has been used to generate a high-resolution data layer showing soil and biomass carbon on the property. This will allow a carbon inventory to be produced, and changes in soil and biomass carbon to be monitored.

In collaboration with the Spatial Information Cooperative Research Centre, DECCW scientists are also developing techniques to apply imagery to the assessments of biomass and soil carbon.

It is also proposed to develop a market-based initiative under the Australian Government's National Carbon Offset Standard, to enable land holders to earn money

## Cycling initiatives

DECCW has worked with Bicycle NSW on the *On Your Bike* program, which encourages better use of existing infrastructure, identifies infrastructure enhancements and better integrates cycling with other modes of transport.

*On Your Bike* complements the development of the NSW BikePlan, which was launched on 16 May 2010, and details a \$158-million, 10-year plan for funding bicycle infrastructure projects across NSW. The NSW BikePlan will be led by DECCW and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

DECCW also administered a cycling proficiency training program with AustCycle. The program provided 420 free training vouchers for adults from 2008 to June 2010.



High carbon storage inventory at Pillicawarrina.

Photo: DECCW

from trading in soil carbon. Economic research is identifying the market rules that could deliver the best trading arrangements. The market needs to effectively manage risks such as non-permanence of carbon storage, volatility and leakage.

As part of the first stage of the project, Sydney University's Resources, Energy and Environmental Markets Laboratory reviewed the performance of other soil carbon sequestration market-based instruments. The next stage is to test the effectiveness of these different models.

This project will help to overcome barriers to soil carbon trading that have tended to keep financial returns low, by improving the information base, streamlining trading rules and, in the final stage, building consumer confidence through certification under the National Carbon Offset Standard.



Photo: P. Foley

## Encourage the NSW community to adapt to climate change

### Climate impact profile

In June 2010, DECCW released the NSW Climate Impact Profile, supported by a series of regional impact profiles, that describe some of the likely impacts of future climate change on the settlements, lands and ecosystems of NSW.

Overall temperatures in NSW are expected to increase, with higher maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be experienced in all seasons. The greatest increases in maximum temperatures are projected to occur in the north and west of the state. North-eastern NSW is likely to experience a slight increase in rainfall during summer, while the south-western regions are likely to experience a significant decrease in winter rainfall. Many parts of the state will experience a shift from winter-dominated to summer-dominated rainfall.

#### ■ CASE STUDY

### Developing effective techniques to cope with climate change

DECCW, with other NSW agencies, is examining the south-eastern NSW community's level of exposure to specific climate change risks, and its ability to cope with and adapt to those risks. The assessment encompasses the south coast, alpine region and the Southern Tablelands, and is a pilot project for future similar assessments across the state.

Such assessments will lead to actions to reduce vulnerability or to build adaptive capacity and resilience in communities and industries. Assessments of different sectors and communities can be compared, providing a more holistic assessment of a region's vulnerability to climate change.

The project has gathered more than 200 experts from state and local government in south-east NSW to attend a series of workshops. The outcomes of the workshops will be collated in a report, due to be completed in December 2010, which will identify key vulnerabilities in the region to climate change impacts and present a framework from which a regional adaptation strategy can be developed. A similar assessment for the Riverina–Murray region will commence in 2010–11.

Higher temperatures are likely to result in significantly increased evaporation across much of the state by 2050. The projected increases in evaporation are likely to counteract the expected increases in summer rainfall across NSW, leading to drier soil conditions in the west. The projected changes to rainfall and evaporation in northern NSW appear to be within recorded levels of variability. However, the drying of the autumn, winter and spring seasons in the south, and particularly in the south-west, is expected to fall outside the natural variability observed in the historical climate record.

The regional climate projections were developed by the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of NSW. They will be used by DECCW scientists to assess the likely impacts of future climate change on biodiversity, soils, stream flow, run-off, the coast and flooding risk by 2050.

The profile will help state and regional decision-makers develop planning and response strategies. It is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/understanding.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/understanding.htm).

### Sea Level Rise Policy Statement

Coastal communities and environments are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to the potential for increased sea levels, flooding and coastal erosion.

In November 2009, the NSW Government released its Sea Level Rise Policy Statement, which outlines the support that the Government will provide to coastal communities and local councils to prepare for and adapt to rising sea levels, and to reduce risks from coastal hazards.

The policy statement sets out benchmarks that support consistency in land-use planning and coastal investment decision-making. These benchmarks anticipate rises, relative to 1990 mean sea levels, of 40 centimetres by 2050 and 90 centimetres by 2100. The benchmarks were established by considering the most credible national and international projections of sea level rise, and take into account the uncertainty associated with sea level rise projections. A technical note explains how these benchmarks were derived from reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the CSIRO.

DECCW has also released draft guidelines for consultation that explain ways in which these benchmarks should be

applied in coastal and flood hazard assessments. These are complemented by guidelines released by the NSW Department of Planning.

Final guidelines are due to be finalised early in 2010–11.

The policy statement and other documentation, as it becomes available, are accessible on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/sealevel.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/sealevel.htm).

## Working with NSW Health

DECCW has funded the 'Beat the Heat' project, which is a social marketing campaign and education strategy run by NSW Health to help people understand what actions they can take to decrease their sensitivity to the health impacts of heatwaves. It aims to ensure that vulnerable groups of people (including the elderly, very young and those with mental health or cardiovascular conditions) and the public health system are adequately prepared for heatwaves. DECCW has been working in 2009–10 to prepare a media campaign that will run over the summer of 2010–11.

## Working with local government

Since there is likely to be considerable regional variations in the type and magnitude of climate change impacts, local councils will play a key role in helping communities adapt to climate change. For some issues, responses developed and delivered locally will be more effective than those delivered statewide.

In 2009–10, DECCW consulted extensively with coastal councils and the Local Government and Shires Associations on the Sea Level Rise Policy Statement and associated guidelines, as well as on proposed legislative amendments to implement coastal erosion reforms.

Also in 2009–10, DECCW and the Local Government and Shires Associations progressed a range of responses to climate change under a memorandum of understanding. A survey undertaken in July 2009 found that local councils are seeking further assistance on managing climate change impacts, including guidance on risk assessment and insurance, and reducing risks. In May 2010, the Local Government and Shires Associations, funded and assisted by DECCW, held a workshop to identify key risks to local councils and the information and tools they needed.

## Sustainable urban transport

DECCW is encouraging people to adopt healthier, more sustainable transport solutions such as walking and cycling.

In 2008–09 DECCW used market research to better understand the motivations that influence the choices of different groups of transport users. A project known as SMILE (Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments) aims to assist local councils to promote specific initiatives tailored to the needs of particular geographic areas, and encourage a shift away from car-based travel to more sustainable forms of transport. In 2009–10 a demonstration site project began in partnership with Randwick City Council to test the results of the SMILE profiling tool. Four initiatives are being implemented at the

demonstration site – workplace travel plans, encouraging increased walking and cycling, a local rewards program and promoting car sharing. Results of the demonstration project and a SMILE tool for council planners will be released in 2011.



Photo: B. Hlavica

*Cycling is being encouraged under the Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments project.*

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### DECCW supports infrastructure's ability to withstand climate change impacts

DECCW is helping to mitigate climate change risks to roads, rail, bridges, ports and water supply equipment by supporting the Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC) to develop the infrastructure sustainability rating scheme.

DECCW provided funding for the climate change vulnerability component of the scheme, which applies to all phases of infrastructure's life, from concept and design to construction, maintenance and decommissioning. It gives infrastructure projects a rating, based on performance against a series of best-practice standards.

In early 2010, the scheme was tested on two projects managed by NSW Public Works – the Shannon Creek Dam and the Lithgow Sewage Treatment Plant Augmentation – to evaluate its performance.

The trial was successful and the software is expected to be launched early in 2010–11.



Photo: D. Wiecek, DECCW

# Minimise and manage potential increased risks to life, property and the environment

## Coastal, estuary and urban floodplain risk management

DECCW works with local councils, catchment management authorities and communities across the state to ensure the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of coastal, estuarine and floodplain environments, and to manage the risks posed by natural hazards such as coastal erosion, coastal inundation, flooding and sea level rise.

DECCW's Coastal Management Program and Estuary Management Program provide technical and financial assistance to local councils to:

- prepare coastal zone management plans and supporting studies
- carry out projects to reduce risks associated with coastal hazards, improve coastal environments and improve estuary health.

A review of these programs in 2009–10 has resulted in greater emphasis being placed on:

- updating coastal hazard studies to incorporate new sea level rise benchmarks (see 'Sea Level Rise Policy Statement' in 'Encouraging the NSW community to adapt to climate change')
- updating estuary plans to consider climate change impacts, including sea level rise
- monitoring and improving estuary health
- managing high-risk coastal areas and stressed estuaries.

In 2009–10, the Coastal Management Program provided \$1.48 million in grants for 20 projects. The Estuary Management Program provided \$2.24 million for 24 projects.

The Floodplain Management Program aims to reduce the impacts of flooding and flood liability on communities and to reduce private and public losses resulting from floods. The program provides technical and financial support to councils and eligible public land managers to:

- make informed decisions on managing flood risk by preparing floodplain risk management plans
- implement floodplain risk management plans and mitigation works to reduce risks and losses

- provide essential information to the State Emergency Service to enable effective planning of emergency responses to floods.

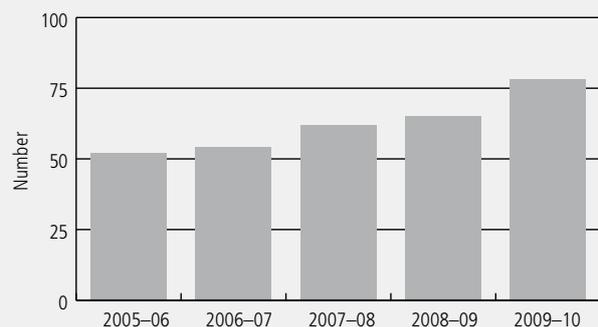
In 2009–10, the Floodplain Management Program provided \$10.3 million in grants to 80 councils across NSW.

### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Management plans for coastal areas

**Definition:** Councils have been preparing coastline management plans since the release of the 1990 Coastline Management Manual and preparing estuary management plans in accordance with the 1992 Estuary Management Manual. In 2002, the *Coastal Protection Act 1979* was amended to introduce new requirements for coastal zone management plans. These plans, which can now be prepared for the coastline and/or estuaries, are to include coastal erosion emergency management actions. Some councils are updating their old plans to comply with the new requirements and to include the NSW Government's sea level rise benchmarks. Other councils do not have pre-existing plans and are starting afresh. DECCW provides technical advice and financial assistance to help local councils prepare their plans.

#### Estuary management plans adopted by councils



**Interpretation:** The cumulative number of estuary management plans adopted by councils indicates the high level of council and community support for developing and implementing these plans.

The non-estuary management plans prepared to date do not conform with the current plan requirements.

New key performance indicators will need to be prepared following the introduction and subsequent passing of new legislation and guidelines for coastal zone management planning.

## Rural valley-wide floodplain management

DECCW prepares rural floodplain management plans under the *Water Act 1912*. These plans are used to manage the distribution of flood waters across rural floodplains in western NSW and, wherever possible, to provide for the unimpeded passage of flood waters to maintain valuable floodplain environments and habitats.

The plans also provide remedial solutions to control floodplain works that are likely to redistribute flood flows, block floodplain connectivity or increase flood risks to farmers. The NSW Office of Water, administered as part of DECCW, uses these plans for assessing floodplain work approvals.

DECCW exhibited three draft rural floodplain management plans for the Edward–Wakool Rivers system in March 2010. The draft plans (for stages 1, 2 and 3 – see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ruralfloodplains/fmp/edwardwakool.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ruralfloodplains/fmp/edwardwakool.htm)) cover some 4,000 square kilometres of the Central Murray floodplain extending from Deniliquin to the Edward River, north of Swan Hill. These floodplains support important cropping and grazing industries and many natural and cultural assets, including two wetlands listed under the international Ramsar convention. The draft plans aim to maintain and restore flood connectivity to flood-dependent ecosystems while helping to reduce the risk of farms flooding. The exhibited plans will be completed early in 2010–11.

During 2009–10, DECCW also worked on six rural floodplain management plans in key areas covering approximately 6,000 square kilometres of the Murray–Darling Basin. Once these plans are finalised, there will be 21 plans covering about 25,000 square kilometres of the basin.

Valley-wide floodplain plans were also progressed in 2009–10. Such plans will provide more consistency in planning, fast-track the planning process and manage areas not covered by existing plans. Valley-wide plans



Photo: D. Wiecek, DECCW

*Legislative changes will enable landowners to fund works to protect their homes from beach erosion impacts.*

will also strengthen the coordination of rural floodplain management planning with floodplain harvesting management.

## Coastal erosion reforms

Some 40 houses have been lost due to coastal erosion since the 1940s and around 200 houses are at risk from erosion should there be frequent major storms. Sea level rise and the possibility of more intense or frequent storms in the future could place more homes at risk.

In October 2009, the NSW Government announced proposed amendments to legislation (see case study below and [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalmgtdocs.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalmgtdocs.htm)), and additional support to better equip councils to deal with the challenges of coastal erosion.

The reforms included the Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (see 'Encouraging the NSW community to adapt to climate change'), and draft guidelines to assist councils with planning temporary coastal protection works, managing emergencies and constructing seawalls. The draft guidelines are due for release and public consultation in the second half of 2010. DECCW is preparing further guidelines to support the implementation of these planning improvements.

As part of the reforms, proposed amendments to the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*, the *Local Government Act 1993* and various regulations were introduced to the NSW Parliament in June 2010. Related amendments are also

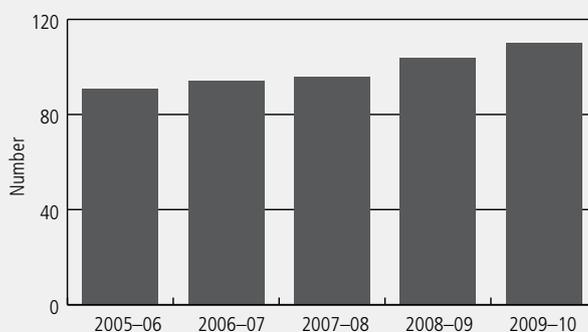
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Adopted floodplain risk management plans

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative number of urban floodplain risk management plans prepared by local councils. Councils are responsible for preparing these plans in urban or closely settled rural areas.

DECCW provides technical advice to, and funding assistance for, councils for the preparation and implementation of floodplain risk management plans. DECCW also administers a range of floodplain management programs.

#### Floodplain risk management plans



**Interpretation:** At 30 June 2010, there were 110 floodplain risk management plans completed for urban areas in NSW. These plans help councils to manage flood risks by reducing the impacts of flooding and flood liability in accordance with the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy and the Floodplain Development Manual.

planned for the Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy. The overall aims of the amendments are to:

- increase options for councils when dealing with coastal erosion and unauthorised coastal protection works
- clarify what landowners can do to protect their properties, particularly in emergencies, including applying for consent to build permanent walls provided they maintain the works and prevent any associated erosion
- strengthen requirements for the preparation of coastal management plans
- create an expert NSW Coastal Panel to advise on coastal management and approve development applications in some circumstances.

The amendments will enable beachfront landowners to fund works to protect their homes from erosion impacts, but there will be strict conditions to ensure that those works do not impact on adjacent areas of beach, other beachfront properties, or public enjoyment of the beach. Other provisions include allowances for emergency temporary coastal protection works in specific circumstances, managing the impacts of landowner-funded long-term coastal protection works, improving order powers, increasing penalties and improving exemptions from liability. The amendments are scheduled to be considered by Parliament in late 2010.

## Emergency management and climate change

Many NSW communities live with the risk of natural hazards, including floods, severe storms and bushfires. The NSW Government recognises the social, economic

and environmental consequences of emergencies and the need for a coordinated response by all agencies that have responsibilities in such emergencies.

In 2009–10, DECCW worked with the Climate Change Working Group established by the State Emergency Management Committee to develop a NSW Climate Change Emergency Management Program, that is designed to:

- identify new and changing risks to emergency services
- enhance community resilience and the capacity to respond to emergencies
- adjust planning processes and risk assessment guidelines to reflect new and changing risks
- identify critical assets at risk
- adapt emergency management institutional arrangements.

Key work DECCW undertook during 2009–10 included:

- establishing the Eastern Seaboard Climate Change Initiative, which is researching the impacts of climate change and climate variability on the Australian east coast and ranges, such as the destructive weather systems known as 'east coast lows'
- a project funded by the national Natural Disaster Mitigation Program to examine future sea level rises and coastal hazards in NSW
- the NSW Tsunami Risk Assessment project, in collaboration with the NSW State Emergency Services, and with funding from the national Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, to assess the level of tsunami risk to the most vulnerable communities in NSW and assist with emergency planning

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Impacts of climate change on natural hazards

A key project under the NSW Climate Change Emergency Management Program is to improve the understanding of eight key natural hazards faced by communities and emergency authorities – fire, wind, lightning, hail, flash flooding, riverine flooding, heatwaves, and coastal erosion and inundation. Profiles for each region have been compiled, which provide information on the current exposure to these hazards and projections of future changes which use the best available information to predict frequency, severity and altered characteristics due to climate change.

The profiles were developed by DECCW in collaboration with Emergency Management NSW, the Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Wollongong, and were distributed to emergency management agencies in June 2010.

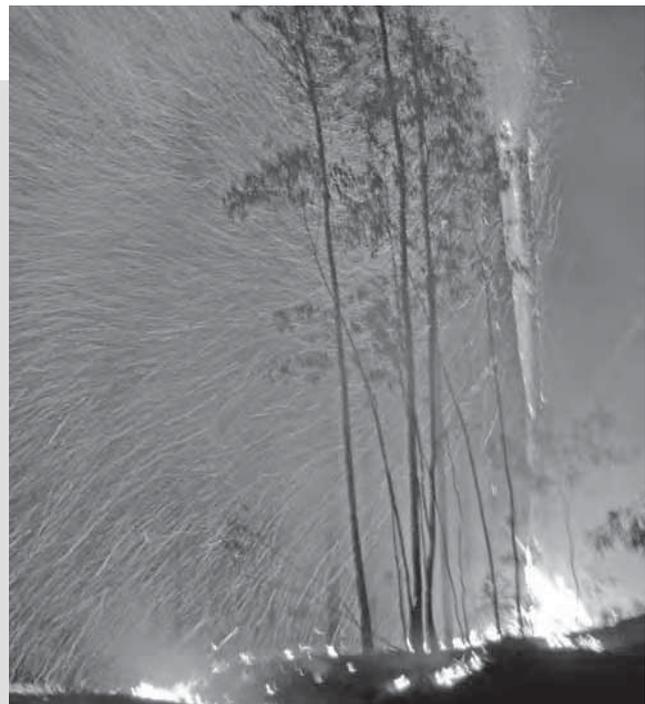


Photo: M. Jarman, DECCW

*A project to predict the altered frequency and severity of bushfires under climate change was initiated in 2009–10.*

- a study funded by the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Program to investigate the possible impacts of climate change on bushfire threats to biodiversity, ecosystems and the Sydney community.

## Climate change and biodiversity

Climate change is recognised as a major long-term threat to biodiversity, and is listed as a key threatening process under both the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth). Climate change will also affect the environment's ability to provide natural resources and healthy ecosystems on which communities and industries depend.

In 2009–10, DECCW developed *Priorities for biodiversity adaptation to climate change*, which outlined actions that DECCW will perform over the next five years in four key areas:

1. enhancing understanding of the likely responses of biodiversity to climate change and re-adjusting management programs in light of this information
2. protecting a diverse range of habitats through building a comprehensive, adequate and representative public reserve system in NSW, with a focus on under-represented bioregions
3. increasing opportunities for species to move across the landscape, by working with partners and the community to protect habitat and create landscape connections
4. assessing adaptation options for ecosystems that are most at risk from climate change in NSW.

## Future temperature projection across NSW

A project to spatially define regional temperature changes due to climate change was completed by DECCW in 2010. The project built on previous studies that provided methodologies for predicting future rainfall, evapo-transpiration and run-off for NSW and the ACT.

The project resulted in a new dataset providing high-resolution future temperature projections in a grid cell pattern across NSW and ACT up to the year 2030. The new dataset will be used by decision makers in all levels of government who determine how to guide natural resources planning and investment in the future.

## Effects of climate change on estuaries

DECCW worked in 2009–10 as a member of the National Estuaries Network to identify the potential impacts of climate change on estuary ecosystems, and possible adaptation strategies.

Projected impacts in estuaries include changes to salinity gradients, saltwater intrusion into aquifers and inundation of coastal wetlands as a result of sea level rise, changes to water quality and availability, changes in habitat distributions and species abundance, ocean acidification and impacts from intense coastal storms.

These impacts are likely to occur in tandem with other stresses on estuaries, such as coastal population growth and excessive nutrients, which will also present challenges for agencies managing estuaries. Estuary managers can help reduce risks and improve the resilience of estuaries by identifying the areas that are the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change, monitoring any changes, and developing and implementing adaptation strategies (see also 'Coastal, estuary and urban floodplain risk management' section).

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Mangroves, saltmarshes and sea level rise

Mangrove and saltmarsh occur where the land meets the sea, so they are very susceptible to impacts of sea level rise. As mangroves have already encroached into saltmarshes in south-eastern Australia, it seems that sea level rise threatens the long-term stability of saltmarsh. Saltmarsh is listed as an endangered ecological community in NSW.

The responses of mangrove and saltmarsh environments have been monitored by DECCW since 2000 in eight estuaries in NSW. DECCW uses a network of 92 'surface elevation tables', a technique developed by the United States Geological Survey, to monitor sedimentation and changes in wetland elevation.

In collaboration with Industry and Investment NSW, the results have been applied to high-resolution digital elevation models of the Hunter River estuary to make predictive maps of the distribution of saltmarsh under a range of sea level rise scenarios. The results indicate that, under high sea level rise scenarios (75 centimetres in the Hunter River by 2100), the capacity of saltmarsh to respond on-site or by migrating landwards is limited.



Measuring changes in wetland elevation and sedimentation in saltmarsh at Homebush Bay.

Photo: B. Alexander, DECCW

Funded by the Environmental Trust, this work will be extended in 2010–11 to estuaries of the Tweed River, Hawkesbury River, Homebush Bay, Minnamurra River, Jervis Bay and Westernport Bay, Victoria. Maps of the projected distribution of saltmarsh in 2100 are being prepared for these estuaries.

## Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

In 2007, the NSW Government announced a three-year program to establish a conservation corridor along the 1,200-kilometre NSW section of the Great Eastern Ranges corridor. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is improving the connectivity of the forests and woodlands that extend along the ranges in NSW through voluntary conservation programs on private and public lands. Connectivity is particularly critical in light of the projected impacts of climate change on many habitats.

More than 60 organisations are working with land holders on projects in five key regions – ‘Slopes to Summit’ (near Albury), ‘Kosciuszko to Coast’, ‘Southern Highlands’, ‘Hunter Valley’ and ‘Border Ranges’.

The leading partners – the NSW Nature Conservation Trust, Greening Australia, Bush Heritage Australia, OzGreen, and the National Parks Association (NSW) – signed a memorandum of understanding with DECCW in May 2010 to commit to long-term leadership and governance of the initiative.

Highlights in 2009–10 included:

- launching a new partnership website in November 2009 (see [www.greasterranges.org.au/](http://www.greasterranges.org.au/))
- researching adaptive conservation planning and management of climate change impacts
- creating conservation agreements, wildlife refuges, conservation covenants, paddock restoration incentives and property vegetation plans on private lands in targeted conservation areas
- holding the first National Linking Landscapes Summit, including a keynote address by Harvey Locke, founder of the North American Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative
- developing the ‘Connect Kids’ DVD on Aboriginal culture and connection to Country, for use in NSW schools
- achieving \$13.65 million of co-investment from partner organisations and land holders, from initial Environmental Trust seed funding of \$3.25 million
- delivering a multimedia interpretative display for use in national park visitor centres.

## Climate change and invasive species

Understanding the effects of climate change on the distribution, abundance and impacts of invasive species is identified as a priority research area in DECCW’s *Adaptation strategy for climate change impacts on biodiversity* (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/climatechange.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/climatechange.htm)). It is also a key part of addressing the listing of climate change as a key threatening process under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

DECCW, Macquarie University and the Australian Research Council are developing predicted distribution patterns for 103 weed species under four climate change models, and comparing these to distribution in the current climate, using data on the distribution of key weed species in Australia and data about their native habitats. Interim results for seven weed species are available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/modelling.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/modelling.htm).

Another project examining the potential effects of climate change on major pest animal species, involving DECCW, the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and the Australian Government’s Bureau of Rural Sciences, is nearing completion. Interim results for cane toads are available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/PestAnimalsClimateChange.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/PestAnimalsClimateChange.htm).



Photo: J. Pulsford, DECCW

DECCW staff member Maya Berretta promoting voluntary conservation agreements at the Slopes to Summit Open Day on 23 May 2010.



Photo: M. Van Ewijk, DECCW

## Support individuals, families, communities, businesses and government to adopt sustainable practices

### NSW Government Sustainability Policy

In 2009, the NSW Government announced a Sustainability Policy, including a commitment that the NSW Government itself will become carbon neutral by 2020. DECCW is the leading agency for implementing the policy, which requires government agencies to:

- consider sustainability in all relevant decision making
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- be more efficient in, and reduce wider environmental impacts associated with, their use of energy and water
- meet the challenge of expected rising prices for energy, fuel, water and waste management
- be more efficient in their vehicle use
- produce less waste and increase recycling
- use purchasing power to drive efficiency.

In March 2010, DECCW held a Sustainable Government Forum which was attended by more than 100 representatives from 64 agencies. The forum provided agencies with updates on new policy requirements, and practical technical advice and funding opportunities to help them meet sustainability targets.

DECCW also conducted workshops for agencies on topics including sustainability action planning, funding programs, energy performance contracts, sustainability for office tenants and sustainable procurement.

Implementation of the policy within DECCW is discussed in Chapter 6, 'Sustainability policy' under 'A leader in sustainability and environmental performance'.

### Sustainability Advantage

Sustainability Advantage helps organisations to identify, prioritise and implement environmental projects that will deliver cost savings and other benefits. As at June 2010, 430 medium to large organisations, who together employ over 310,000 people in NSW, are participating in the program. An extra \$20 million has been allocated to work with another 800 medium to large businesses on waste reduction, and energy and water saving measures. The aim is to cut energy use in these businesses by at least 10%.

The program provides training, technical support and networking opportunities to promote environmental improvement in seven key areas:

- sustainability planning
- managing environmental risks and responsibilities
- resource efficiency (with a focus on raw materials, water energy and waste)
- an environmentally efficient supply chain and fleet management
- staff engagement
- external stakeholder engagement
- preparing for climate change and managing climate change impacts.

Sustainability Advantage has helped participants to deliver significant financial and environmental improvements. These include saving more than 57,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year, by using 35,000 megawatt hours less electricity and 294,500 gigajoules less gas. More than 1,320 megalitres of water have been saved and waste to landfill has been reduced by 82,300 tonnes.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW is working with Flemington Markets to reduce the amount of polystyrene going to landfill.

Annual financial savings total at least \$13 million. A further \$29.5 million of potential savings have been identified.

During 2009–10 new organisations were recruited in the Hunter region, in partnership with Newcastle and Lake Macquarie City councils. There are now 58 participating organisations in the region.

In 2009–10, some participants undertook or planned projects to recover and use more than 2.5 million tonnes of industrial by-product wastes. The types of waste recovered included coal combustion products (coal wash fines, fly ash); drill mud; aluminium smelter dross; foundry sands and dust; glass fines from packaging; fibre-reinforced cement; mixed plastics packaging from the agricultural and food sectors; timber off-cuts from furniture, packaging and pallets; carpets and mattresses.

Bronze, silver, gold and platinum status is progressively awarded to member organisations as they achieve gains. This year, nine organisations achieved silver membership status: Converga, De Bortoli Wines, Focus Press, Marquis Bathroom Products, Offset Alpine Printing, Ontera Modular Carpets, Schindler Lifts Australia, TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute and the Austral Brick Company. A further 42 organisations achieved bronze membership.

For more information on Sustainability Advantage, see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/sustainabilityadvantage.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/sustainabilityadvantage.htm).

## Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver

The \$20-million Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver program assists NSW organisations to identify and implement energy and carbon pollution savings. DECCW subsidises energy audits, along with technical support,

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Sustainability Advantage building industry partners save money and help the environment

The building products industry members of Sustainability Advantage have achieved much in 2009–10. Highlights include:

- Dunlop Flooring investing almost \$500,000 in new equipment to process an additional 5,000 tonnes of recycled carpet each year (obtained from another Sustainability Advantage member, Ontera Carpets) and mattress off-cuts, saving more than \$1 million annually in raw materials costs.
- James Hardie Pty Ltd saving up to \$1 million annually in waste management costs by diverting 10,000 tonnes of fibre cement by-product waste from landfill (much of the work was under way before the company joined Sustainability Advantage). Another Sustainability Advantage partner, Blue Circle Southern, is using this waste as an alternative raw material in cement production. This process has been approved as a DECCW resource recovery exemption.

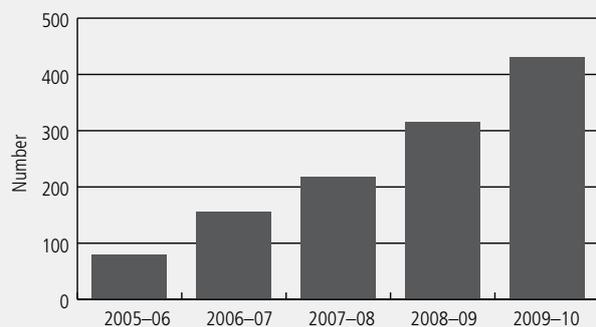
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Businesses participating with DECCW to improve resource recovery and sustainability

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative number of predominantly medium to large businesses that DECCW collaborates with, principally through the Sustainability Advantage partnership program, to enhance their environmental performance. All partnerships include DECCW support for resource recovery; energy, water and fuel efficiency; and corporate planning, staff education and supply chain management.

The indicator does not reflect the depth of the relationship, which may vary from broad information networking to close collaboration and full partnership.

#### Businesses participating with DECCW to improve resource recovery and sustainability



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, 430 businesses were participating with DECCW to improve their sustainability. Often, actions and commitments by businesses are implemented over the medium-to long-term.



Photo: Evolving Images

YHA Ltd became a Bronze Partner in Sustainability Advantage this year. Left: Simon Smith, DECCW's Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs. Right: Robert Henke, Operations Manager, YHA Ltd.

so participating organisations can prepare business cases for energy efficiency opportunities and help implement projects. As at 30 June 2010, energy audits and other initiatives had helped NSW businesses reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 132,000 tonnes each year.

Thales Australia Limited, a high-tech defence technology company, marginally increased the air conditioning set-point of its workplaces in summer and reduced the temperature set-point in winter. The estimated savings for the company are \$13,000, and 120 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, for zero capital outlay.

Rheem Australia Pty Ltd, a hot water systems manufacturer, found that air compressor electricity consumption was 43 kilowatts when the factory was not operating, due to air leaks. With a leak reduction program, the company's energy savings are \$11,900 per annum, with a net saving after labour and material costs of \$3,900. At the same time, the greenhouse emissions saving is 140 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Another manufacturer undertook lighting and refrigeration improvements, such as sealing doors and replacing fluorescent tubes. The company will accumulate \$70,350 in cost savings over 5 years (\$14,070 per annum), while saving 113 megawatt hours of energy and 120 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent each year. With maintenance savings, this investment has a payback period of 2.4 to 3.75 years.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### The Feel Amazing Wellness Centre

The Feel Amazing Wellness Centre, owned and managed by a husband and wife team, offers natural therapies such as massage, naturopathy and chiropractic treatments, and employs three full-time staff and eight part-time staff.

The centre viewed the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program as an opportunity to reduce carbon pollution and save money. Following an energy assessment, the business:

- replaced halogen down-lights in the reception area with compact fluorescent and high-efficiency halogen lights
- installed a timer on the hot water system
- installed zone dampers on air-conditioning ducts
- encouraged staff to turn off lights and equipment when they were not in use.

The result of these simple actions is a saving of \$413, or 3,916 kilowatt hours, of electricity each year, and an annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 4.19 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

## Waste and Sustainability Improvements Payments Program

The Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payments Program, which commenced this year, assists local councils to avoid waste, and improve resource recovery, the use of secondary resources and waste management. This new program is making available \$256 million to 72 eligible councils over seven years.

Around \$237 million is for 51 eligible councils in the Sydney metropolitan area, lower Hunter and Illawarra, and \$19 million is for 21 eligible councils in the the upper Hunter Valley, Blue Mountains, Wollondilly and coastal regions.

A total of 403 council projects were supported in 2009–10. These projects included:

- \$976,000 to 33 councils to introduce or enhance recycling in public places and at public events
- \$41,649 to Richmond Valley Council to introduce a household kerbside recycling collection service
- \$406,000 to 22 councils to deliver education and awareness programs to improve household recycling and reduce contamination.

DECCW has prepared information to support councils in improving waste services, including guidelines, handbooks and advice on best practice techniques (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/localauthorities.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/localauthorities.htm)).

## Sustainable Choice

Sustainable Choice is a partnership project between the Local Government and Shires Associations and DECCW that provides local councils with tools, resources and support to implement and enhance sustainable procurement in their organisations. As of June 2010, 56 local councils were taking part in the program. A sustainable procurement training course for NSW local councils, launched in 2008, has been delivered to 373 staff from 33 councils.

## Energy efficiency for small business

The Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program subsidises energy assessments and provides a tailored 'action plan' for small and medium businesses on saving energy and water, and reducing power and costs. More than 6,000 businesses have registered to be part of the \$15-million program, launched in February 2009. The program is limited to businesses that spend less than \$20,000 on electricity per year or employ up to 10 staff. Rebates of up to \$5,000 are available for improvements to lighting, heating, ventilation and cooling, refrigeration, hot water systems, insulation, boilers and compressed air use.

To date, more than 5,000 businesses have received an action plan. On average, these plans save businesses an average of \$1,400 in energy costs and reduce carbon pollution by 10 tonnes each year.

Industry associations are promoting the program across NSW. For example, a partnership with Dairy NSW will help more than 700 dairy farmers implement energy saving opportunities, such as installing variable speed drives on milk vacuum pumps.

The Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program is also working with Energy Australia across the hairdressing industry. DECCW aims to involve 400 hairdressers in a complete down-light replacement, from which they will benefit by an average annual saving of \$250 per year.

## Home Power Savings Program

The Home Power Savings Program is a \$63 million initiative to provide free home energy assessments, energy refits and tailored advice to help save power and money in 220,000 eligible households across NSW. Participating households can save up to 20% on their power use through a free home power assessment conducted by an energy expert, a power savings kit including simple retrofit items to help kick-start savings, and a personal action plan advising on low cost initiatives to save power. Householders can have energy-efficient light bulbs, water-saving showerheads and low-flow tap aerators installed in their homes, and receive tailored advice on other ways to save energy.

The program was successfully piloted in more than 600 homes in western Sydney during 2009–10, and was launched for homes across NSW in May 2010. For more information see [www.savepower.nsw.gov.au/households/home-power-savings-program/about-the-program.aspx](http://www.savepower.nsw.gov.au/households/home-power-savings-program/about-the-program.aspx).



Photo: DECCW

*Families are saving money, energy and water through the Home Power Savings Program.*

## Sustainable buildings

The National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) is a suite of environmental performance rating tools for Australian buildings. DECCW manages NABERS on behalf of a national steering committee that represents state and federal governments.

NABERS ratings for offices are made for energy, water, waste and the indoor environment, and will soon include transport. Ratings of energy and water are made for participating shopping centres, hotels and homes. New tools for schools, hospitals and data centres are being developed.

In 2009–10, 540 commercial buildings received accredited NABERS energy ratings. This brings the total proportion of buildings rated in NSW to 60%, and nationally to 50%. The NABERS energy and water ratings have been embraced by the hotel industry, with 18 NSW hotels now rated. In

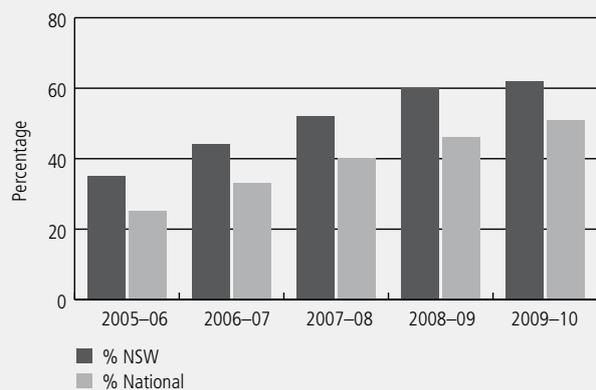
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### National Australian Built Environment Rating System – commercial market penetration

**Definition:** This indicator measures the proportion of the cumulative number of national office buildings which have been rated using the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS).

NABERS measures the energy, water, waste and indoor environmental performance of a building compared with its peers. Ratings are on a one- to five-star scale, with five stars representing best performance. Ratings are voluntary. NABERS is managed nationally by DECCW.

#### National Australian Built Environment Rating System – commercial market penetration



**Interpretation:** By 30 June 2010, 11.5 million m<sup>2</sup> of office space in Australia (51% of the total available office space) and 5.3 million m<sup>2</sup> of NSW office space (62% of available NSW office space) had been rated for its environmental performance using NABERS. There has been an 11% increase in rated space over 2009–10 in Australia, and a 3% increase in NSW. On average, office buildings using NABERS to measure, manage and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and water use have improved their greenhouse performance by 13% and water efficiency by 15%. Together, these buildings are achieving total annual savings of 228,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and 1,088,000 kL of potable water.

In 2009–10, 802 NABERS energy and water ratings for offices were submitted to DECCW.

addition, 12 agreements were signed committing new and refurbished buildings to achieving high NABERS energy ratings.

During the year, 195 buildings received water ratings. A further 16 waste ratings and 14 indoor environment ratings for offices were also completed.

NABERS training was provided to 2,625 people, with the number of accredited assessors to deliver NABERS ratings increasing by 22% to 647.

Regulation for mandatory disclosure of NABERS ratings as part of a building's sale or lease was introduced to the Australian Parliament in June 2010. This will ensure NABERS is used nationally as the means of disclosing the energy efficiency of commercial buildings.

## NSW Green Skills Strategy

The NSW Government is investing in a Green Skills Strategy to ensure the NSW workforce is well-placed to tackle climate change. The Energy Efficiency Training Program – a \$20-million, four-year program to 2013 being co-delivered by DECCW and the Department of Education and Training – is developing the knowledge and skills of key tradespeople and professionals, such as engineers, electricians, facilities managers and manufacturing staff. It funds vocational and higher education training, new courses in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and the development of trainers, to improve the design, installation and maintenance of energy-efficient products and services.

The following outcomes were achieved in 2009–10 under the program:

- 589 vocational students (mostly from the utilities and construction sectors) were funded to receive energy efficiency training
- six organisations were awarded funding to develop new courses and resources for vocational trainers
- 18 industry partnership projects commenced, focusing on company demonstration projects and course development (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/greenskills/eneftraining.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/greenskills/eneftraining.htm))
- the University of Wollongong and the University of NSW were funded to develop engineering courses and resources, both at under- and post-graduate levels, and as professional development for practising engineers.

## Resource recovery

In November 2009, the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, comprising federal, state and territory environment ministers, supported a new Australian Packaging Covenant that will replace the National Packaging Covenant following its expiry on 30 June 2010. The new covenant has a stronger focus on package design, workplace recycling, public place recycling and litter reduction (see [www.packagingcovenant.org.au](http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au)). The council has also been investigating options to increase the recovery of packaging materials, particularly beverage containers, and commissioning a survey to investigate how much communities are willing to pay to increase packaging recovery and reduce litter. DECCW co-led this project during the year, providing technical guidance and advice on environmental economics. The results of the survey will be presented to the council in 2010–11.

In NSW, 50% of packaging waste was recycled in 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available) across all waste streams. Of the 152 local councils in NSW, 124 were providing kerbside recycling collections, a 24% increase since 2000. These collection services contributed to the recovery of 385,000 tonnes of packaging that was recycled from households in 2008–09, an increase of 26,500 tonnes (7.4%) compared to 2007–08. Further improvements are expected as a result of council initiatives and research into packaging waste in the commercial and industrial waste sector.

DECCW has partnered with Planet Ark to launch a new national directory of recycling providers. The website (see [www.businessrecycling.com.au/](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au/)) and the hotline were launched in June 2010. The directory enables people to quickly locate local businesses that will recycle their items of interest and find the services they need to recycle their waste. At present, the directory includes information on more than 100 different materials. DECCW expects this will become the most extensive directory of recycling services in Australia.

During the year, DECCW helped form the Industrial Ecology Network in NSW. 'Industrial ecology' involves businesses finding uses for each others' waste. DECCW facilitated trials involving large volumes of packaging and other items used in the hospital system, which was coordinated by hospital staff and biomedical products manufacturers themselves. Since February 2010, DECCW has been involving international medical product suppliers and a specialist medical waste collection company in this project.

## Consumer information

To provide consumers and industry with more information about environmentally sustainable products, DECCW provides specifications for recycled materials that can be used in building and construction, such as recycled concrete, brick and asphalt for pavements, earthworks and drainage (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/greenspec.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/greenspec.htm)). In 2009–10, DECCW updated and expanded the specifications, assisted by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (NSW) and a panel of engineers and industry organisations.

## Love Food Hate Waste campaign

NSW households throw away more than 800,000 tonnes of food waste each year, with a further 300,000 tonnes from businesses in the Sydney region. Food waste is now the largest component by weight of the household garbage bin (38% by weight), and is the second largest component of commercial waste in Sydney (13% by weight).

A survey of 1,200 households by DECCW in December 2009 found that the average NSW household disposes of \$1,036 of edible food per year that could have been consumed had it been managed better. At a state level, this translates to more than \$2.5 billion worth of food being thrown away by households.

An education program titled Love Food Hate Waste was developed by DECCW and launched by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment in May 2010 to help boost awareness of the issue, and to encourage households and businesses to adopt simple behaviours to waste less food, save money and better protect the environment. A website (see [www.nsw.gov.au/articles/love-food-hate-waste](http://www.nsw.gov.au/articles/love-food-hate-waste)) has been set up to help households buy and cook the right amount of food and advise on ways of storing food to minimise spoilage.

The program is supported by a range of partners, including Woolworths, the Australian Food and Grocery Council, the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, NSW Health and the NSW Food Authority.

## CleanOut program for household chemicals

This partnership between DECCW and local councils in the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions deals with the safe disposal of hazardous household waste, including chemicals, poisons, gas bottles and batteries. The program helps to ensure that such waste is not placed in domestic waste bins, dumped in bushland or tipped into waterways.

CleanOut staff establish temporary collection sites for the community to safely dispose of their chemical waste. In 2009–10, there were 41 collections organised, with more than 25,000 community members helping to safely dispose of almost 900,000 kilograms of hazardous materials, mainly paints, oils, batteries and gas cylinders. These figures represent a 9% increase from the previous year.

Since the inception of the program in 2003, nearly 140,000 householders have safely disposed of almost five million kilograms of hazardous waste.

In regional areas, voluntary regional waste groups are supported by DECCW to facilitate collections. In 2009–10, more than 107,000 kilograms of household chemicals were collected from households for safe disposal.

## National TV/IT recycling scheme

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures reveal that in 2007–08, Australians disposed of almost 17 million televisions, computers, keyboards, scanners, printers and other devices. This implies that NSW residents could be responsible for as many as seven million of those obsolete or unwanted pieces of electronic equipment.

In November 2009, a national recycling scheme for televisions and computers was announced by Australian environment ministers. The NSW Government has a leading role in planning and designing the scheme, which is expected to commence in 2011. The national scheme requires manufacturers and importers of televisions and computer products to fund and coordinate a free drop-off recycling service. The scheme aims for 80% of all obsolete televisions and computers to be collected for recycling by 2021, compared with the current rate of 10%. See [www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/51](http://www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/51) for more details.

# A healthier and cleaner environment, protecting both ecological and human health



Photo: DECCW

*DECCW regulates air and water quality, noise and odour issues, chemical and pesticide use, waste disposal, contaminated sites, the use of radioactive substances, and the protection of native vegetation, threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.*

## Context

The NSW community is faced with many significant issues due to the size of the population and the demands placed on the environment. Maintaining and improving air and water quality are always statewide priorities, while the use of chemicals, pesticides and hazardous materials can create localised pollution, contaminate land, and harm human health. Excessive land clearing and degradation of native vegetation contribute to the loss of biodiversity. DECCW is responsible for administering most NSW legislation to protect the environment and people from these threats, and advising planning authorities on environmental issues.

DECCW engages with those in the community who want to help protect the environment, and manages a strategic, risk-based compliance and enforcement program to guide others. Activities cover industry operations, government practices and community activities. DECCW manages programs that provide more certainty for business, promote community awareness, and help business and government operate more efficiently.

DECCW's compliance and regulatory activities include:

- regulating air, water and noise issues; waste disposal and re-use; contaminated sites; the use of radioactive substances, chemicals and pesticides; and the transport of dangerous goods
- regulating unauthorised clearing of native vegetation and impacts on native species, particularly threatened species
- administering the Waste and Environment Levy and load-based licensing systems which drive environmental improvements and raise substantial revenue
- reforming the environment protection regulatory framework to strengthen its effectiveness while minimising red tape and compliance costs
- responding to reports of incidents or environmental harm received from the public
- regulating activities that may have an impact on Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places.

## Outcomes

- Preventing, reducing or mitigating air, water and noise pollution and other adverse environmental impacts
- Protecting or minimising impacts on outstanding biodiversity values
- Protecting or minimising impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Remediating or restoring degraded environments
- Improving community wellbeing
- Eliminating unnecessary regulation.

## Key drivers

- State Plan – Investing in a Better Future ([www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/))
- Metropolitan Transport Plan: Connecting the City of Cities ([www.nsw.gov.au/metropolitantransportplan](http://www.nsw.gov.au/metropolitantransportplan))
- Action for Air ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/actionforair/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/actionforair/index.htm))
- NSW Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels Strategy ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/actionforair/drftcvstrat.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/actionforair/drftcvstrat.htm))
- *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Pesticides Act 1999* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Radiation Control Act 1990* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))

## Performance indicators

- Air quality outcomes in the greater metropolitan region
- Estimated volatile organic compound emissions in the Sydney metropolitan region
- Aggregate pollutant load indicator for air and water pollutants from premises licensed under load-based licensing
- Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises
- New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees
- Prosecutions completed
- Penalty infringement notices issued by DECCW under EPA legislation
- Regulatory actions under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* and active sites under regulation
- Contaminated sites remediated
- Waste disposed of to landfill in the greater Sydney region
- Poor regional air quality index days in the greater Sydney metropolitan region
- Beachwatch programs



Photo: R. Newton

# Prevent, reduce or mitigate pollution and other adverse environmental impacts

## Air pollution

### Action for Air

*Action for Air* is the NSW Government's 25-year air quality management plan, launched in 1998. It contains strategies relating to public transport, motor vehicles and fuels, industry, businesses and homes. An *Action for Air* update developed in consultation with other state government agencies was released in November 2009. It provides a summary of actions being performed to maintain and improve air quality in NSW, particularly those dealing with ozone and particle pollution.

### Clean air, healthy communities

In 2006, the Environmental Trust established the Clean Air, Healthy Communities Fund to progress initiatives that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport. The Trust allocated \$5 million over three years from 2007, and in 2009–10 has funded:

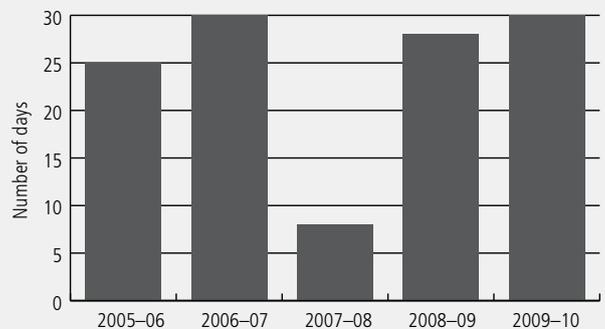
- Air education projects, including a website launched in November 2009 ([www.cleartheair.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cleartheair.nsw.gov.au)); an air education resource kit and workshops for local councils; and six local air quality education projects including Lake Macquarie City Council's project to reduce car usage, and Maitland City Council's project to promote the environmental benefits of cycling.
- The Local Emissions Air Project, which collects information on emissions of volatile organic compounds from aerosols and solvents, and estimates the costs and potential emission reductions achievable through various policy options. Stage 1 of the project, completed in 2009–10, involved preparing a preliminary national emissions inventory. The project will be completed in late 2010.
- *On Your Bike* (see Chapter 2, 'Cycling initiatives' under 'Reduce greenhouse gas emissions').
- FleetWise (see Chapter 2, 'FleetWise' under 'Reduce greenhouse gas emissions').
- The Sustainable Mobility Initiative for Local Environments (see Chapter 2, 'Sustainable urban transport' under 'Encourage the NSW community to adapt to climate change').

### PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Air quality outcomes in the greater metropolitan region

**Definition:** The National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (Air NEPM) specifies national air quality standards for six pollutants: photochemical smog (ozone), nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, fine particles less than 10 micrometres (PM<sub>10</sub>) and lead. This indicator details the number of days in the greater metropolitan region (Sydney, Illawarra and the lower Hunter) when one or more of these standards were exceeded at any site. If more than one standard was exceeded on a given day, that day is only counted once.

#### Number of days air quality standards exceeded in the Greater Metropolitan Region



**Interpretation:** Sydney experiences good air quality by world standards. Sydney's PM<sub>10</sub> and photochemical smog (ozone) levels compare favourably with other large cities in the world. However, air quality standards were exceeded on 30 days in 2009–10. These exceedences were caused by photochemical smog, dust storms and bushfires. Over 60% of the time, exceedences were due to high levels of PM<sub>10</sub> from dust storms. A statewide dust storm on 23 September 2009 caused the highest exceedences yet of the Air NEPM for PM<sub>10</sub>, not only in the greater metropolitan region but across NSW.

- The Diesel Retrofit Program – see separate section below.
- Activities to reduce wood smoke – see separate section below.

## Diesel Retrofit Program

This partnership between the Environmental Trust, DECCW and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) subsidises the modification of older heavy diesel vehicles to reduce emissions. Diesel vehicles are responsible for around 60% of the particle matter emitted by road transport in Sydney. By June 2010, more than 450 vehicles from 70 fleets had been retrofitted under the program. In 2009–2010, DECCW and the RTA began assessing fuel efficiency devices to further reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from heavy vehicles, and save on fuel costs.

## Wood smoke reduction

When not operated properly, wood heaters can become a key source of particles that harm health. In the Sydney region, domestic wood heating is estimated to contribute 38% of winter weekday fine particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) and almost 52% of winter weekday very fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). In regional areas, wood heaters emit over 85% of winter particles.

In May 2010, as part of the ongoing wood smoke reduction program, DECCW commenced an audit of wood heaters at their point of sale to assess their compliance with the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002. Wood heaters sold in NSW must have compliance plates that state that the model has been tested in accordance with the relevant Australian standard, and that a certificate of compliance is in force.

## Wagga Wagga rural particles project

DECCW's monitoring shows occasional high levels of particles in the air in metropolitan areas, but more frequently in rural areas of NSW. Wagga Wagga for example intermittently exceeds the national air quality standard for particles, and not just after bushfires and dust storms. As a result, DECCW commenced a pilot project in Wagga Wagga in August 2009 to find out why high levels of air pollution have been recorded there. The pilot project will run until 2011.

## Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network

DECCW has been working with industry and the communities in the upper Hunter region to provide air quality information on an easily accessible website. Once established, the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network will be the largest regional online network measuring air quality in Australia. It will monitor for dust particles, wind speed and wind direction at up to 14 sites. DECCW is working with power generation industries to include sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring at two of the sites.

In September 2009, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the 11 power generation and mining companies in the upper Hunter and the NSW Government, whereby the industries will fund the construction and ongoing operation of the network and DECCW will construct, operate and manage it as part of its successful air quality monitoring network.

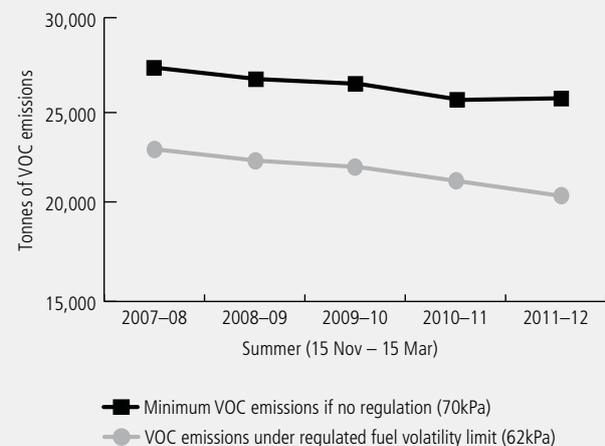
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Estimated volatile organic compound emissions in the Sydney metropolitan region

**Definition:** Petrol vapour containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is a main cause of smog in the Sydney metropolitan region during summer. Lowering fuel volatility reduces evaporation and emissions from petrol vehicles and machines. The summer period is targeted because the warmer temperatures contribute to greater evaporation of petrol.

This indicator estimates the reduction in VOC emissions that will be achieved as a result of amendments made in 2004 to the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation. The amendments require the fuel industry to comply with volatility limits set on petrol supplied in the Sydney region between 15 November and 15 March each year.

#### Estimated VOC emissions from petrol in the Sydney metropolitan region during four-month summer periods



**Interpretation:** The limits set by the Regulation, which are the tightest in Australia, commenced in November 2004. The estimate of VOC emissions from petrol complying with the limits is compared with an estimate of the emissions if no regulation of petrol volatility had been introduced. The estimates for VOC emissions without the regulation are shown to be decreasing due to improved emission control technology in vehicles.

Figures for the years before 2007–08 are not included as they are not directly comparable. Previous data was compiled for on-road vehicles only, but since 2007–08 it also includes non-road engines and fugitive emissions. Emissions are expected to reduce due to vapour recovery technology at petrol service stations, which is required under new legislation.

Following community information and consultation meetings at Singleton and Muswellbrook in November 2009, DECCW has set up a community committee to advise DECCW on the construction and operation of the network.

DECCW intends to set up monitors in the two largest townships of Muswellbrook and Singleton by the end of 2010. The remaining sites will be established in stages, in consultation with scientific experts, the community, government bodies and industry. The full network is planned to be operating by the end of 2011. For more information, see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/upperhunterqna.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/upperhunterqna.htm).

## Vapour recovery at service stations – Stage 2

In November 2009, NSW became the first state in Australia to make Stage 2 vapour recovery technology mandatory. The technology captures more than 85% of smog-forming volatile organic compound emissions from vehicle petrol tanks while they are refuelled at petrol pumps. The technology will improve community health by reducing local exposure to toxic compounds and reducing summertime ozone levels.

Equipment is being installed on a staged basis at petrol stations in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the Central Coast, and is required at new and modified service stations from July 2010. The largest service stations must install the equipment by 2014, and it must be installed at all but the smallest service stations in Sydney by 2017. By June 2010, five petrol stations had already installed the technology.

Once widely adopted, the combined Stage 1 and 2 vapour recovery changes are expected to reduce volatile organic compound emissions across the greater metropolitan area by 5,000 tonnes a year.

## Reducing volatile organic compounds from the printing industry

DECCW has continued work in 2009–10 to reduce volatile organic compound emissions from the printing industry. These compounds and oxides of nitrogen ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) form ozone or photochemical smog, particularly on hot days.

This project identified that several printers were not employing adequate means to minimise their emissions. Last year, DECCW successfully negotiated commitments from each emitter to substantially reduce emissions by buying and installing new pollution control equipment, and in 2009–10 DECCW has ensured the equipment upgrades are on track. Once completed, a reduction in volatile organic compound emissions of 1,500 tonnes a year is expected.

## Oxides of nitrogen emissions from cogeneration activities

Cogeneration involves using otherwise wasted energy from the production of electricity to provide heating and cooling. Gas-fired cogeneration can be one of the most greenhouse-friendly forms of fossil fuel-generated electricity. However, cogeneration also emits nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) into the air which react with volatile organic compounds on hot days to produce elevated levels of ozone.

In November 2009, after consulting with stakeholders, DECCW published the  $\text{NO}_x$  emission standard that constitutes best available techniques (BATs) for new cogeneration plants in Sydney and the Illawarra (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/cogentrigen.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/cogentrigen.htm)). The BAT emission standard is for a natural gas-fired reciprocating internal combustion engine, the most common technology used in cogeneration applications.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Monitoring the September 2009 dust storm

DECCW's sophisticated air quality monitoring technology enables accurate measurements to be made of extreme weather phenomena. On 23 September 2009, NSW experienced a severe dust storm, followed by a smaller but significant second dust storm on 26 September.

Extraordinarily high dust levels were recorded in the Sydney, Illawarra and lower Hunter regions, as well as rural cities such as Bathurst and Tamworth. For some centres, including Sydney, dust concentrations were the highest on record since monitoring began in the early 1950s.

Reduced ground cover, exacerbated by an extended drought and high winds, caused the storms. The 23 September dust plume was more than 500 kilometres wide and 2,000 kilometres long, and came from the lower Lake Eyre basin in South Australia and north-west NSW.

During the peak of the storm in Sydney, the Australian continent was estimated to be losing 75,000 tonnes per hour of dust less than 10 micrometers in size ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) off the NSW coast between Wollongong and Newcastle. Normal days register up to 20 micrograms of dust less than 10 micrometers in size ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) in each cubic metre of air, while bushfires generate 500 micrograms per cubic metre. Peak concentrations of around 15,400 micrograms per cubic metre, around 1,500 times



Dust particle pollution in Sydney on 23 September 2009.

normal levels, were recorded at Bathurst and in south-west Sydney during the dust storm.

Following the dust storm, DECCW worked on and released the new Dustwatch website and reporting program, further details of which are provided in 'Dustwatch' in the 'Improving community wellbeing' section.

Some parts of NSW are expected to have less rainfall, longer drier periods and higher temperatures under climate change, making the drought conditions contributing to these recent dust storms more common (see Chapter 2, 'Climate impact profile' under 'Encourage the NSW community to adapt to climate change').

## National initiatives

Since 2008, NSW has chaired the Air Quality Working Group which includes representatives from the Australian, state, territory and New Zealand governments. The working group advises governments on strategic and emerging air quality issues, and facilitates collaborative air quality projects and research.

Through the working group, the NSW Government is developing national actions to reduce air emissions from sources including wood heaters, small petrol powered garden equipment, outboard marine engines, non-road diesel engines and surface coatings such as paints. These national actions will help DECCW to improve air quality to meet national air quality goals and NSW State Plan targets.

## Non-road diesel engines

Exhaust emissions from non-road diesel engines, such as cranes, excavators, bulldozers and forklifts, can be a significant source of air pollution. In 2009–10, DECCW led a national study, funded by the NSW and Australian governments, to suggest actions to reduce such emissions.

The study found that the emissions from new engines sold in Australia are significantly higher than those from engines sold in the USA or Europe and, in the absence of national emissions standards, there is a risk that the voluntary uptake of cleaner engines could decline. The study also found that reducing emissions would result in significant health benefits. The report is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/nonroaddiesel.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/nonroaddiesel.htm).

## Water quality

### NSW Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy

Excessive sediments, nutrients and pathogens can reach waterways from many sources, including from agricultural practices, unsealed roads and urban stormwater. These diffuse pollutants can impact on river ecosystems and the economy (aquaculture, tourism and water supplies) and present risks to public health and amenity.

The Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy, released in June 2009 (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/dswp.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/dswp.htm)), provides a framework for reducing diffuse source water pollution. The strategy builds on existing actions to deal with such pollution, and encourages information sharing and partnerships to maximise pollution management. The strategy contains actions that various governments and organisations are undertaking, including targeted education programs, on-ground works and developing best practice guidelines.

A range of new projects in 2010–11 will further the achievements to date.

### The Lower Hawkesbury–Nepean River Nutrient Management Strategy

This draft strategy, to manage nutrients from stormwater, wastewater and agricultural run-off that enter the lower Hawkesbury–Nepean River, was released for consultation in August 2009.

The final strategy is expected early in 2010–11 (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/hawknepnutmgmtstrat.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/hawknepnutmgmtstrat.htm)).

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Protecting water quality by maintaining unsealed roads

DECCW maintains more than 33,000 kilometres of unsealed roads that provide essential access to national parks and reserves. Effective management of these roads can reduce erosion. Erosion reduction means less sedimentation and fewer impacts on water quality.

Under the NSW Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy, DECCW has developed a field guide that advises park managers, operators and contractors on achieving best-practice soil and water erosion standards for unsealed roads. The guide helps minimise the amount of sediment entering waterways and reduces costs of road maintenance.

DECCW is exploring ways of adapting the field guide for other organisations, such as catchment management authorities and local councils, to further reduce sedimentation in NSW waterways.



Photo: D. Albury, DECCW

DECCW has developed guidelines to minimise soil and water erosion from unsealed roads.



A. McSorley, DECCW

Automated water stations log runoff amounts and collect samples from farms as part of the Lower Hawkesbury–Nepean River Nutrient Management Strategy.

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Aggregate pollutant load indicator for air and water pollutants from premises licensed under load-based licensing

**Definition:** Load-based licensing sets limits on the total pollution emitted by holders of environment protection licences, and links their licence fees to emissions. The lower the emissions, the lower the fee. The scheme provides a powerful mechanism for controlling, reducing and preventing air and water pollution in NSW.

Fourteen types of air pollutants and 17 categories of water pollutants are subject to load-based licensing, and these are reported by licensees and assessed by DECCW.

Air pollutants assessed include nitrogen oxides, benzene, benzo(a) pyrene (equivalent), coarse and fine particles, fluorides, hydrogen sulphide, mercury, sulphur oxides and volatile organic compounds.

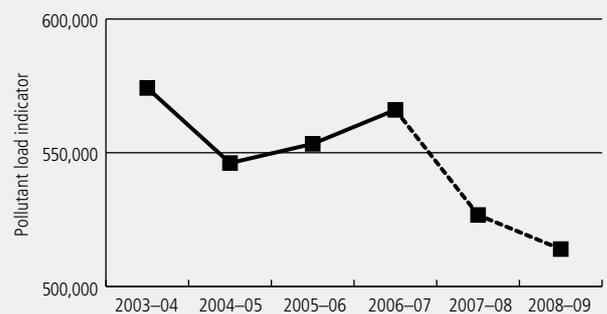
Water pollutants assessed comprise total suspended solids, arsenic, biochemical oxygen demand, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, total phenolics, selenium, nitrogen, oil and grease, pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls, phosphorus, salt, total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and zinc.

The pollutant load indicator (PLI) represents the pollutant load emitted by activities subject to load-based licensing for the reporting year, adjusted to reflect the relative harm of the pollutants and the sensitivity of the environment into which they are emitted.

A pollutant emitted in very large quantities, for example, can have a lower impact than another pollutant with relatively small emissions because of differing levels of toxicity and the sensitivity of the environment into which it is emitted. Fluorides, for example, have a higher pollutant impact than volatile organic compounds, even though their actual pollutant load is lower. The higher the PLI, the greater the overall environmental harm.

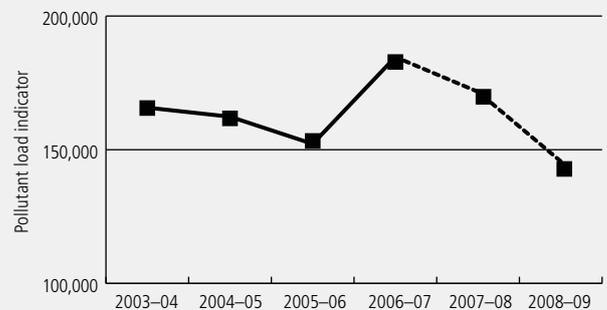
For both the air and water pollutant indicators, data for 2007–08 and 2008–09 is considered provisional (shown by the dotted line), as quality assurance systems can lead to some recalculation up to two years following reporting. Data from all licensees for 2009–10 will be updated in 2011.

### Air pollutant indicator



**Interpretation for air pollution emissions:** Since 2003–04 there has been a long term trend to lower PLI values. Variations observed in PLI values may be related to increased industrial production in 2006–07 and lower production activity during 2007–2009.

### Water pollutant indicator



**Interpretation for water pollution emissions:** The elevated PLI values observed during 2006–2008 were related to wet weather and increased emissions from Sydney ocean sewage plants. A trend to lower PLI values may be observed in the future when more data becomes available.

## Waste management

### Online waste tracking system

The transport of certain wastes that may be hazardous or harm the environment if managed inappropriately is tracked in NSW through transport owners obtaining prior approval and completing further documentation each time the waste is received or transported. More than 90% of the trackable waste movements in the state are now being monitored through an online waste tracking system. As at 30 June, over 8,500 waste producers, around 930 transporters and 180 receiving facilities were being monitored. The system also provides valuable information about waste flows in NSW, which is assisting other compliance measures such as the collection of the liquid waste levy.

### Waste and Environment Levy

The waste and environment levy is the Government's key market-based instrument that drives waste avoidance and resource recovery in NSW. In July 2009, the levy was extended to 21 new local government areas – the coastal council areas north of Port Stephens, and the Blue Mountains and Wollondilly council areas. The levy in these new areas started at the rate of \$10 per tonne of waste disposed of.

## Noise pollution

### Interim construction noise guideline

In July 2009, DECCW released an interim construction noise guideline which sets out ways of dealing with the impacts of construction noise on homes, hospitals, schools and other parts of the community. It recommends work practices that minimise noise impacts, presents a streamlined and less costly assessment process for low-impact and short-duration construction works, and contains effective processes for community notification and complaint handling.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Reducing wheel squeal from trains

In response to increasing community concerns about rail noise, DECCW negotiated pollution reduction programs with RailCorp and the Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd during 2007 and 2008. Results of these programs realised during 2009 and 2010 have included:

- Noise monitoring equipment has identified individual train wagons that produce 'wheel squeal'. Rail corporations have repaired over 400 bogies (wheeled sections) as a result. This noise monitoring will continue after the pollution reduction programs have expired, and the results will continue to be used to identify and repair poorly maintained rail bogies.
- Rail Corp installed devices that reduce wheel squeal by applying lubricant to the railway track, at noise hot spots throughout the rail network.

During the year, DECCW held 14 information sessions for construction industry personnel, local councils, and acoustical consultants to explain how the new guideline would operate. The guideline will be reviewed in 2012.

### Rail noise

In December 2009, DECCW convened an interagency committee to work on measures to mitigate rail noise. In January 2010, the rail agencies began implementing a trial noise abatement program, which will run until September 2010.

DECCW has also commenced a review of the *Interim guideline for the assessment of noise from rail infrastructure projects*, with a view to finalising it in the second half of 2010.

### New road noise policy

A draft Road Noise Policy was released in June 2010 for six weeks of targeted consultation. The policy will replace the current *Environmental criteria for road traffic noise*. In preparing the draft policy, DECCW worked with other state agencies and the Local Government and Shires Associations to determine ways to deal with:

- excessive increases in road traffic noise in quiet areas
- inconsistent application of the current policy
- difficulties experienced by some residents in understanding the likely impact of road proposals.

### Vehicle noise testing

In 2007, DECCW launched its Noise Testing and Anti-tampering Inspection Scheme for vehicles, with the aim of significantly reducing the number of noisy vehicles on NSW roads.

A network of seven approved inspection stations is now established across NSW to provide a more accessible service for vehicle owners. Stations are established at Granville, Campbelltown, East Roseville, Albion Park Rail,



DECCW monitors rail noise.

- On 30 June 2010, RailCorp removed from its safety practices the requirement for a driver to automatically sound the train horn before moving from a platform.

Redhead (near Newcastle), Wagga Wagga and Dubbo. DECCW will establish a further station on the north coast by August 2010.

### Community advice on noise

DECCW has five neighbourhood noise brochures that explain noise control laws and inform the community of ways in which excessively noisy activities can be dealt with. Types of noise covered include vehicles, barking dogs and alarms. Four brochures were updated in 2010 (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/noise\\_brochures.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/noise_brochures.htm)).

DECCW prepared an article to improve magistrates' understanding of using noise abatement orders to deal with noise complaints. The article was published in the *Local Courts Bulletin* in January 2010.

DECCW is progressively updating the *Noise guide for local government*, which assists council officers in managing local noise problems and interpreting policy and legislation. Sections of the guide covering noise assessment and regulating noise impacts were updated in August 2009 (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/nglg.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/nglg.htm)). Other parts of the guide will be updated later in 2010.

### Noise labelling

Federal, state, territory and New Zealand governments established a Noise Labelling Working Group in 2008 to investigate a consistent noise labelling scheme for noisy domestic items.

The working group, led by DECCW, recommended that labelling and testing requirements for portable garden equipment such as leaf blowers be the same as those in the European Union (EU) Noise Directive. The group is now preparing a regulatory impact statement for portable garden equipment.

As air conditioners, another significant source of noise, are not covered by the EU Noise Directive, DECCW engaged an acoustical consultant in 2009 to investigate noise labelling and testing options for domestic air conditioners. The working group is consulting further with the air conditioner industry and expects to finalise proposals for the inclusion of air conditioners in the noise labelling scheme in August 2010.

### Industry regulation

DECCW regulates the activities of NSW businesses and industry sectors that could pollute air or water through their production activities and disposal of waste, or whose activities may impact on native vegetation, threatened species or Aboriginal cultural heritage.

### Underground petroleum storage systems

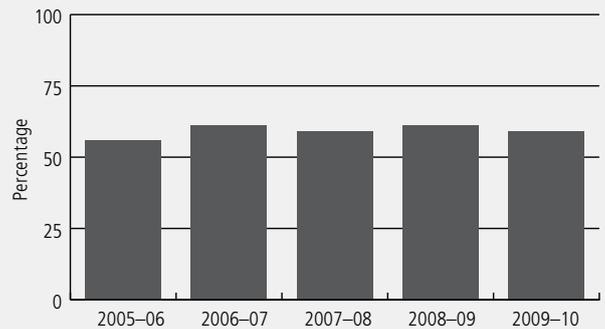
Leaking underground fuel tanks are the cause of much site contamination in NSW. Where leaks have been occurring for a long time, the environmental impact on the nearby community, as well as the financial impacts for owners, can be considerable.

#### PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises

**Definition:** DECCW's Environment Line receives reports from the public and industry on pollution incidents (see Appendix 12). This indicator measures the proportion of reports about dust, smoke or other airborne particulate emissions, odour and noise from premises which DECCW regulates.

#### Percentage of total incident reports to Environment Line relating to air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises



**Interpretation:** When viewed over the past five years, combined air and noise pollution incident reports have remained relatively steady as a proportion of total incidents reported, consisting of 59% of incidents reported in 2009–10. This consistently high percentage reflects the public's ongoing concerns about lifestyle, amenity and the impacts of air and noise pollution. There was approximately an 11% increase in the number of air and odour related reports from 2008–09, which can be attributed largely to the impacts of waste facilities, although the reports of noise from regulated premises fell by 10%. Approximately 61% of noise complaints were related to noise from mines and rail activities.

In July 2009, a new provision in the Protection of the Environment Operations (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulation 2008 commenced that requires owners to have an environment protection plan. Each plan includes site management procedures and requirements to keep careful records, which can help to detect leaks early.

## Pollution reduction programs

DECCW negotiates pollution reduction programs (PRPs) with businesses and organisations to reduce their air emissions and address specific air and water pollution issues. The performance indicator 'New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees' explains how PRPs work.

PRPs negotiated during the year included:

- reducing toxic chemicals and volatile organic compound emissions from the foam manufacturing industry. DECCW identified four licensed operations and one previously unlicensed operation that used and emitted the toxic chemicals toluene di-isocyanate (TDI) and methylene chloride (MC), and which had inadequate or no environmental controls. Each operator has now purchased and installed new pollution control equipment.
- a load reduction agreement over a three-year period with the largest polyurethane manufacturer in Australia. The strict PRP has given the company an economic incentive to reduce its annual pollution fees. The company has installed technology that eliminates the use and emission of around 200 tonnes of MC from its operations, and minimises the use and emission of TDI through efficiency gains. This PRP also has air quality benefits for south-west Sydney.
- managers of Shoalhaven Starches upgrading the odour control and wastewater treatment equipment at their factory and farm in Bomaderry, in conjunction with a proposed expansion in ethanol production from their currently approved level of 126 megalitres each year to 300 megalitres. The upgrade is costing the company around \$25 million and will be completed in late 2010.

It will reduce the long-standing odour impacts from the factory by an estimated 90% and cut the amount of wastewater requiring disposal through irrigation by 50%. It will also generate an additional 25 jobs at the factory, boost supplies of ethanol for the fuel industry, and help to meet the NSW Government's biofuels targets.

- Delta Electricity installing a treatment facility at its Wallerawang power station, near Lithgow, to reduce the turbidity of the cooling tower discharge into the upper Cocks River. The work was completed by September 2009, and in October DECCW's testing indicated the cooling tower discharge was only 3 nephelometric turbidity units (it had formerly been 10), which confirmed the new system was working well.
- CSR Pty Ltd at Rose Hill reducing its emission of volatile organic compound vapours by 80%. The company produces 14.8 million concrete tiles each year, and was ranked as one of the top 20 industrial photochemical smog emitters in NSW. Tiles were sprayed with a polymer coating, comprising a heavy solvent-based paint. In 2009, the company replaced polymer with water-based coatings and installed a \$2.3 million rotary drier. Volatile organic compound emissions from other concrete products are being reduced, and it is expected that emissions can be reduced by another 10% by 2011.



Photo: L. Wythes, DECCW

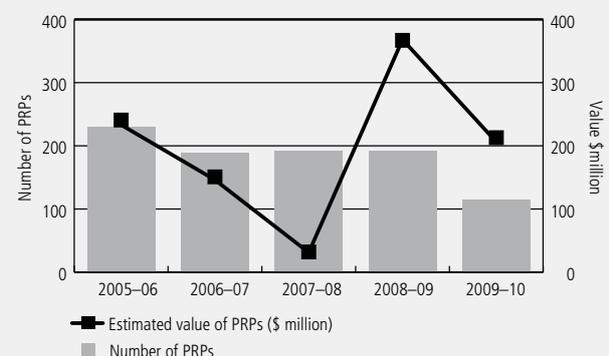
DECCW staff members Stuart Clark and David Gathercole discuss the Paint Pollution Reduction Program at CSR's tile plant at Rosehill.

### PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees

**Definition:** This indicator measures the number and estimated value of new pollution reduction programs (PRPs) negotiated during the year. PRPs are programs that are negotiated with licensees and attached to environment protection licences. PRPs require changes to works or management practices to bring about environmental improvements within a specified timeframe. PRPs may be implemented over a number of years, with specific conditions attached to each stage. The dollar values are approximate only.

#### New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees



**Interpretation:** The estimated value of the 114 PRPs negotiated by DECCW in 2009–10 was \$202 million. One PRP for the construction of the Brunswick Valley Sewage Treatment Plant and related works, due for completion by December 2010, was valued at \$50 million. The significant peak in the value of PRPs in 2008–09 was due to one PRP for a \$348 million upgrade at the Thales Australia Limited plant at Mulwala, due for completion in January 2012.



Photo: D. Clift, DECCW

DECCW negotiated a pollution reduction program with Delta Electricity to reduce the turbidity of liquids being discharged into Coffs River. The bottle on the left shows samples before treatment, the bottle on the right shows samples after treatment.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW staff member Dr Brian Murphy takes a soil sample from an effluent reuse area.

## Compliance and enforcement activities

Each year, DECCW undertakes strategic environmental compliance and performance reviews of selected industries. These reviews involve compliance audits and identifying examples of best environmental management practices which are then shared with other operators. Findings also guide reviews of environment protection licences.

### Licence reviews

In 2009–10, 576 licences were due for review. Of these, DECCW completed 569 by the due date, with seven completed late. None were left incomplete. The reviews not completed on time were delayed for administrative reasons. In accordance with section 78(3) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, DECCW advised the EPA Board of this result.

### Industry monitoring practices

A report on a review of industry monitoring their emissions was released in October 2009. It found that inadequate monitoring methods were used in some industries, some monitoring equipment was not being properly maintained, and industries could make better use of monitoring results to plan their site operations and improve their environmental performance.

The report's findings are helping DECCW to carry out its compliance activities more effectively and consistently (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licensing/complianceaudit.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licensing/complianceaudit.htm))

### Effluent re-use in irrigation

In February 2010, DECCW completed a review that assessed licensees' compliance with effluent re-use requirements and practices for irrigation, and reviewed the long-term sustainability of irrigation areas. The report summarising the review findings will be released later in 2010, with guidelines being developed on ways in which licensees can implement best environmental management practices.

## Management of chlorinated solvents

In May 2010, DECCW commenced a review to assess compliance with requirements attached to environment protection licences for managing chlorinated solvents and conducted research into industry best practice. The review findings are expected to be released in 2011.

### Waste compliance

DECCW's waste-related compliance and enforcement program uses targeted inspections, sector compliance programs, education and 'cleaner industry' programs. In 2009–10, DECCW conducted 15 waste compliance campaigns.

### Blitz on landfills receiving the wrong types of waste

A one-day inspection blitz was carried out in February 2010 targeting 14 licensed general solid waste (non-putrescible) landfills in Sydney. DECCW officers checked compliance with licence conditions that limit the types of waste that can be received. Receiving the wrong types of waste at these landfills can lead to odour, pest infestations and groundwater impacts. This campaign has been repeated several times by DECCW in recent years, and has raised awareness of the consequences of non-compliant behaviour. As a result of this campaign, two penalty notices and two warning letters were issued.

### Targeting dust from waste facilities

A compliance campaign was carried out between September and December 2009 targeting dust and fire management practices at licensed landfills, waste transfer stations and composting facilities.

Letters were sent to 84 facilities about the environmental impacts of dust and fire, and to remind operators of their licence obligations. Following this, DECCW carried out compliance inspections at 21 selected facilities. Most (81%) of the facilities inspected were implementing sufficient dust suppression practices. However, DECCW issued two penalty notices, and three warning letters to licensees.

## Groundwater assessment of licensed landfills

DECCW carried out technical reviews of groundwater monitoring networks and data at seven licensed landfills in the Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Illawarra and Hunter regions. The reviews assessed the adequacy of the groundwater monitoring networks and the leachate and groundwater data, to determine whether the monitoring networks could detect polluted groundwater before it could migrate off-site and, where appropriate, provided recommendations to improve groundwater monitoring networks. Improvements to systems will be implemented by DECCW using pollution reduction programs imposed on the licensees.

## Roadside litter and waste campaign targeting uncovered loads of waste

Uncovered waste loads greatly increase the risk of spillage of waste and litter from vehicles during transport. DECCW and the Western Sydney Regional Illegal Dumping Squad carried out compliance campaigns during November and December 2009 and March 2010, targeting uncovered loads of waste transported on major roads in the Sydney, Illawarra, Coffs Harbour and Hunter regions.

As a result of the campaigns, DECCW issued five penalty notices and 68 warning letters.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Protecting health by increasing regulation of solaria

In recent years there has been heightened community awareness of the dangers of ultraviolet tanning units, prompted by high profile cases of melanoma linked to solarium use.

In two surveys of the cosmetic tanning industry in 2003 and 2006, NSW Health and the Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology found that voluntary compliance with the relevant Australian Standard was low, implying that industry self-regulation was not working.

As a result, the Radiation Control Amendment (Tanning Units) Regulation 2009 came into force in May 2009 under the *Radiation Control Act 1990*. The Regulation is similar to laws recently introduced in other Australian states and reflects an agreed national approach to regulating tanning units.

The Regulation bans the use of tanning units by people under 18 or with fair skin, and limits the amount of ultraviolet radiation a person can be exposed to from a tanning unit. The Regulation also requires operators to assess a person's skin before exposing them and to obtain the person's informed consent once they have been told about the risks of using tanning units.

DECCW promoted the new Regulation by writing to all known solarium businesses in NSW and advertising in newspapers and industry publications. A survey and education campaign in the Sydney metropolitan area followed in September and October 2009. Initially, the level of compliance with the new Regulation was poor

## Landfill gas project

In September 2009, DECCW commenced a review and assessment of the way landfill gas is monitored, extracted and stored in NSW. Landfill gas enables on-site generation of electricity. However, it contains large quantities of methane and carbon dioxide. Effective management of landfill gas is a health and safety necessity, and assists with pollution and odour reduction.

The information gathered from this project is helping DECCW to estimate the amount and composition of landfill gas emissions, review the efficacy of current gas management infrastructure, assess the suitability of current practices and recommend potential improvements.

## Radiation

DECCW maintains a 24-hour radiation emergency response service linked to the Environment Line. DECCW officers attend radiation incidents to advise on and investigate potential breaches of environmental legislation. DECCW radiation officers also conduct inspections of regulated premises.

In November 2009, DECCW radiation and emergency management officers took part in a multi-agency emergency exercise to test their capacity to respond to a significant radiological incident.



Photo: C. Lamberton, DECCW

*Regulation of tanning units has been improved under the Radiation Control Amendment (Tanning Units) Regulation 2009.*

– nearly all operators demonstrated some degree of non-compliance. However, a follow-up campaign in the first half of 2010 across metropolitan and regional NSW found a marked improvement.

Where businesses still failed to comply, regulatory action was taken. Seventeen penalty notices of between \$500 and \$1000 were issued and a further 43 operators received formal warnings requiring them to improve their monitoring of solarium use. Operators were put on notice that future shortcomings could result in a penalty notice or prosecution.

DECCW's inquiries reveal that demand for solarium tanning is decreasing and that many businesses who offered tanning services in the past (often as a sideline to fitness, or hairdressing or beauty services) have ceased to do so since the Regulation was introduced.

During May and June 2010, DECCW officers conducted regional spot-inspections along the north and south coast to identify any unregistered radiation apparatus or unlicensed operators of apparatus. Twenty-nine diagnostic imaging premises were inspected in the mid-north and north coast regions, and 31 premises were inspected on the south coast. DECCW issued appropriate warning letters and letters stating operator licensing requirements must be complied with.

## Threatened species

DECCW protects and manages threatened species, populations and ecological communities and their habitats through advice, education, research, landscape planning, consultation, recovery planning, and regulation including issue of fines and prosecution. Work to protect threatened species in 2009–10 included:

- conserving land containing three endangered ecological communities that are endemic to the Illawarra, including *Melaleuca armillaris* tall shrubland. DECCW worked with other government agencies, local councils, quarry operators and local landholders on the Strategy for the Conservation and Management of Biodiversity in the Shellharbour–Dunmore Hills Area that will be finalised in 2010. The strategy will recommend various actions that can be taken to conserve biodiversity while minimising impacts on agricultural, mining and other industries.
- issuing a land holder with a penalty notice for a breach of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and working with Baulkham Hills Shire Council that is taking the land holder to court, after the land holder illegally cleared bushland in north-western Sydney, destroying many shrubs of the threatened species *Darwinia biflora* and damaging its habitat.



Photo: DECCW

*Melaleuca armillaris* tall shrubland and other endangered ecological communities will be protected under the Strategy for the Conservation and Management of Biodiversity in the Shellharbour–Dunmore Hills Area.

## Native vegetation

DECCW is responsible for compliance with and enforcement of native vegetation legislation in NSW. These activities are guided by DECCW's Native Vegetation Compliance and Enforcement Strategy. Engagement with land holders and various industries, strategic investigations, appropriate enforcement actions and targeted compliance campaigns are all components of the strategy.

During 2009–2010, investigations into reports of clearing led to 38 remedial directions being issued to landowners, requiring them to remediate land that had been illegally cleared. A further 57 legal directions and 195 formal

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Boosting a local green and golden bell frog population

The once common green and golden bell frog has declined markedly in distribution and abundance since the mid-1990s and is in danger of extinction.

DECCW carried out a project that identified opportunities to manage and enhance the frog's habitat in the Port Kembla industrial precinct in the Illawarra region. The Port Kembla frog population uses several key breeding sites, including some on industrial premises licensed by DECCW under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

The project report recommended works in the Port Kembla rail corridor that would assist frogs travelling between breeding sites, enhance old habitat and create new breeding habitat. The project has also identified critical breeding habitat, and established links and corridors between habitats on different properties.

BlueScope Steel will develop a green and golden bell frog management plan under a pollution reduction program attached to its environment protection licence.



Photo: S. Maccagnan

*Green and golden bell frog juveniles.*

DECCW has formed a working group to continue to progress the recommendations from the report and raise awareness of this frog species by engaging with local industry and the community. Many Port Kembla residents have created their own 'frog-friendly' ponds. Recent surveys of the Port Kembla area are showing the local population of these frogs is increasing.

warning and advisory letters were issued following DECCW investigations.

In 2009–10, DECCW commenced seven prosecutions under native vegetation legislation (see 'Prosecutions' section) and issued 21 penalty notices. A particular focus was to inform those involved in land subdivision and development of legislative requirements when selling rural land of their legal responsibilities under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

## Transport of dangerous goods

Following the commencement of the Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Regulation 2009 on 1 May 2009 and an updated Australian Dangerous Goods Code, the focus for DECCW's dangerous goods officers in 2009–10 has been:

- transport industry education, including training officers and conducting courses
- updating information resources, including web pages and brochures.

DECCW is a member of the national Competent Authorities Panel, which is responsible for:

- considering applications and referrals for determinations, approvals and exemptions relating to the operation of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code
- making decisions to ensure consistent national application of the code and its implementing legislation
- advising the Australian delegation to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the transport of dangerous goods.

Regulatory and compliance activities conducted by DECCW in 2009–10 included following up complaints from dangerous goods officers, who also investigated Hazmat incidents involving dangerous goods. For example, a spill of a corrosive substance from batteries removed from a ship at Circular Quay in March 2010 was investigated, resulting in penalty notices being issued.

## Prosecutions

DECCW can commence prosecutions for environment protection offences under the authority of the Environment Protection Authority. DECCW can also commence prosecutions for offences under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation. The following sections provide details of some significant prosecutions undertaken in 2009–10. A list of all prosecutions is provided in Appendix 8.

## Prosecutions under Environment Protection Authority legislation

### **Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd – emit excessive exhaust smoke**

In October 2009, Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd was convicted in the Land and Environment Court of emitting excessive exhaust smoke from several of its vehicles. The offences were detected in the M5 East Tunnel in early 2007 by cameras installed by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority to detect smoky vehicles. The company had been previously prosecuted and issued with penalty notices for similar offences. The company pleaded not guilty; however, it was convicted of all charges. It was fined \$80,000 and ordered to engage an expert to audit all its vehicles registered earlier than 31 December 2002, to require its drivers to attend the TAFE-run Diesel Emissions Awareness Course, to publicise details of the offences in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, and to pay the prosecutor's legal costs of \$48,000.

### **Causmag Ore Company Pty Ltd – breach of environment protection licence**

In September 2009, Causmag Ore Company Pty Ltd was convicted in the Land and Environment Court of one offence of breaching a condition of its environment protection licence. Causmag operates a factory at Young, manufacturing magnesium oxide. Causmag breached its licence by failing to maintain a baghouse filter at its premises in a proper and efficient condition, resulting in dust emissions that settled on nearby residences and parked cars. Causmag was fined \$20,000, ordered to pay a penalty of \$45,000 to Young Shire Council for an environmental project, ordered to publicise details of the offence in *The Young Witness* and pay the prosecutor's legal and investigation costs of \$26,500.

### **Dib Hanna – transport waste to a place that cannot lawfully receive it**

In June 2010, Mr Hanna was convicted in the Land and Environment Court of four offences of transporting waste to a place that could not lawfully receive it. The offences were committed when Mr Hanna disposed of a truckload of mainly building and demolition waste at four separate locations in the Sydney metropolitan area. He disposed of waste near a cul-de-sac in Minchinbury, beside a road near Bankstown Airport, on a vacant building site and on a public reserve. Mr Hanna was ordered to pay penalties totalling \$104,000 to the Environmental Trust for its emergency pollution and orphan waste clean-up program. He was also ordered to publicise details of the offences in the *Liverpool Leader* and *Blacktown Advocate*, to pay about \$8,000 in clean up costs and to pay the prosecutor's legal costs of \$21,000.

### **George Ghossayn – deal with materials so as to cause air pollution; unlawful use of land as waste facility**

In October 2009, Mr George Ghossayn was convicted in the Land and Environment Court of two offences relating to a waste facility in western Sydney that was run by his company, Kari and Ghossayn Pty Ltd. For both

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

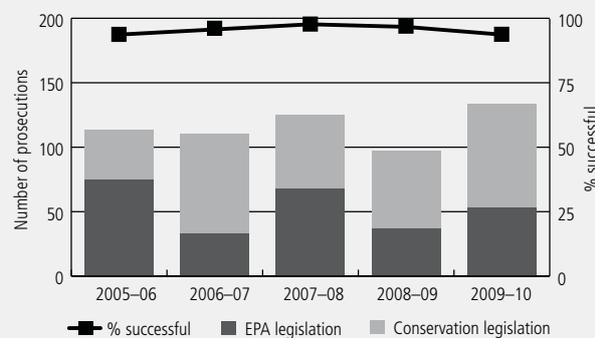
### Prosecutions completed

**Definition:** This indicator measures the number of prosecutions completed under legislation administered by DECCW, the proportion that were successful and the resulting value of penalties imposed by the Land and Environment Court or local courts.

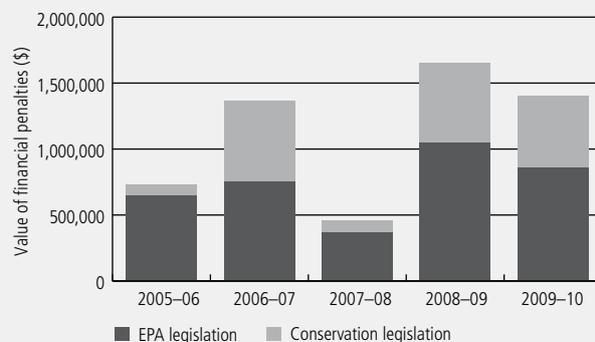
'Successful' refers to prosecution cases that DECCW won or where the offence was dealt with under section 32 of the *Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990*. These include cases where the defendant was convicted and a penalty was imposed and cases where DECCW's case was proved but no conviction or penalty was imposed.

The prosecutions are reported under two categories of legislation: Environment Protection Authority (EPA) legislation and conservation legislation (which includes legislation relating to native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage). Data for native vegetation prosecutions is not included for 2005–06.

#### DECCW Prosecutions completed



#### Value of financial penalties



**Interpretation:** A total of 134 prosecutions were completed in 2009–10 which is the highest number for the past five years. The number of completed prosecutions for both EPA and conservation matters increased noticeably compared to 2008–09, with 53 EPA prosecutions completed in 2009–10 (compared to 37 in the previous year) and 81 conservation prosecutions completed in 2009–10 (compared with 60 in 2008–09).

DECCW maintained its consistently high success rate for prosecutions in 2009–10, with 94% of its prosecutions being successful.

Overall, \$1.4 million in financial penalties was imposed in 2009–10, which is well above the five-year average. In addition, in a record 14 prosecutions the courts ordered the offender to undertake community service, and in 24 prosecutions the courts ordered the offender to publicise details of the offence in a newspaper or similar publication. This reflects DECCW's continuing focus on more serious offences.

Considerable attention continues to be given to progressing native vegetation matters. In 2009–10, DECCW completed 12 prosecutions for native vegetation clearing offences. DECCW was successful in 11 of these prosecutions, resulting in the imposition of \$342,500 in fines.

offences, Mr Ghossayn was prosecuted in his capacity as a company director. The first offence related to odours from smouldering fires in waste stockpiled at the facility. The second offence related to receiving waste at the facility while the company's environment protection licence was suspended. Mr Ghossayn was fined \$51,000 and ordered to pay the prosecutor's legal costs of \$40,000.

### Ramsay Food Processing Pty Ltd – pollute waters; failing to notify the EPA of a pollution incident that caused or threatened material harm to the environment

In February 2010, the Land and Environment Court convicted Ramsay Food Processing Pty Ltd of failing to notify the EPA of a pollution incident that caused or threatened material harm to the environment, and two charges of polluting waters at South Grafton. Untreated effluent escaped from the company's abattoir into Musk Valley Creek and Musk Valley Western Tributary, following the fracture of an underground pipe. Complaints received from the public led to an investigation that discovered the spill. The spill killed aquatic fauna in the creek. The company did not notify the EPA of the incident for four days. It was fined \$130,000 and ordered to publicise details of the offences in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Grafton Daily Examiner*. The company was also ordered to pay the prosecutor's investigation costs of \$13,477.82 and legal costs.

### Martin Wattke and Rene Geerdink – negligently dispose of waste in a manner that harms the environment; pollute waters

In June 2010, the Land and Environment Court convicted Mr Wattke of being a director, and Mr Geerdink of being a manager, of Hook-It-Waste Pty Limited, a company that negligently disposed of waste in a manner which harmed the environment and polluted waters. Both Mr Geerdink and Mr Wattke were personally involved in the illegal activities of the company. Over approximately six months in 2007 the company transported 4.8 megalitres of liquid waste to a property at Ilford, which had been specially purchased for the disposal of waste. The company did not hold an environment protection licence or a development consent to dispose of waste on the property. The waste was dumped in creeks and on other areas of the property and caused significant environmental harm. The Court fined each defendant \$60,000 and ordered each to perform 460 hours of community service. Each defendant was also ordered to pay \$15,000 in investigation costs and the prosecutor's legal costs.

### Prosecutions under threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation

#### Lance Rawson – pick threatened species plants

In October 2009, Mr Rawson was convicted in the Land and Environment Court of seven offences of harming 1,279 threatened species trees on a property at Pacific Highlands Estate, Terranora, near Murwillumbah. The trees included three endangered species and four vulnerable species. Mr Rawson was fined \$135,000, and ordered to perform 270 hours of community service and pay the prosecutor's legal costs.

### Wellington Council – disturb Aboriginal object

In September 2009, Wellington Council was convicted in the Wellington Local Court of damaging a scarred tree that was an object of Aboriginal cultural heritage value. The offence arose out of works undertaken by council employees to widen a road. The council was fined \$1,500 and ordered to pay the prosecutor's legal costs. The council also agreed to preserve the remains of the scarred tree and to place it on public exhibition at a cost of \$20,000.

### Prosecutions under native vegetation legislation

#### Calman Australia Pty Ltd, Iroch Pty Ltd and GD & JA Williams Pty Ltd – clearing native vegetation

In November 2009, the Land and Environment Court convicted the above three companies of unlawfully clearing native vegetation, consisting of river red gums near Tocumwal on the Murray River. The companies were fined \$22,000 each and also ordered to pay the prosecutor's legal costs of \$24,333 each.

#### John Rae – clearing native vegetation

In August 2009, Mr Rae was convicted in the Land and Environment Court of unlawfully clearing vegetation at a property in the NSW central west. Mr Rae and an employee used heavy machinery to substantially clear 215 hectares of woodland. Members of the public reported the clearing to DECCW. Mr Rae was fined \$160,000 and ordered to pay the prosecutor's legal costs.

### Enforceable undertakings

Enforceable undertakings are an adjunct to prosecutions and are available to DECCW in dealing with environmental incidents. DECCW negotiated one enforceable undertaking in 2009–10.

Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd agreed to pay \$100,000 for environmental rehabilitation work along the banks of the Thredbo River after admitting its role in an overflow of between 800 and 1,200 litres of diesel from a tank at the Thredbo ski resort, some of which entered the Thredbo River. The \$100,000 is being used on a three-year project that includes developing a rehabilitation plan for the river banks to address stream bank erosion control, weed management, revegetation and habitat restoration.

## New and revised regulations

### Marine parks

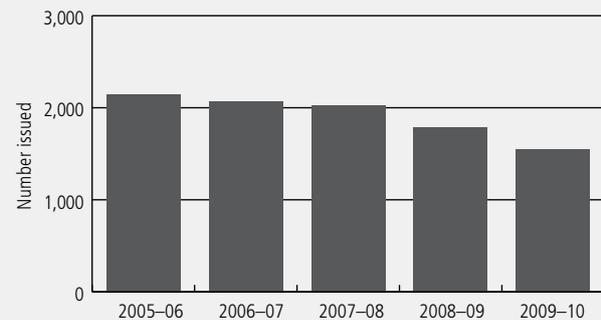
The Marine Parks Regulation 2009 commenced on 1 September 2009. It deals with a range of general matters, such as consents and powers of the Marine Parks Authority. The Regulation also amended and renamed the previous Marine Parks Regulation 1999 as the Marine Parks (Zoning Plan) Regulation 1999, which contains zoning plans for marine parks and the various provisions relating to zoning plans, including the objects of zones and offences.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

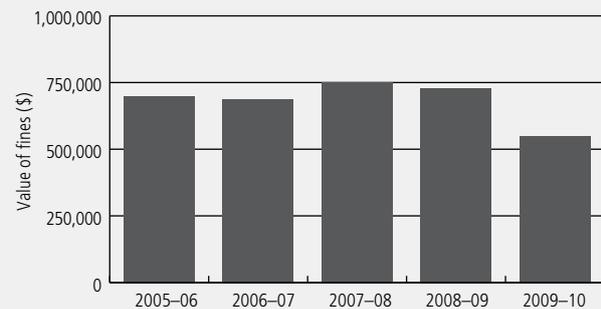
### Penalty infringement notices issued by DECCW under EPA legislation

**Definition:** Penalty notices impose a fine for minor breaches of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) legislation administered by DECCW, as well as for smoky and noisy vehicles and littering from vehicles. This indicator includes only the number of penalty notices issued and processed by DECCW, and not those issued by local councils or other authorities.

#### Number of penalty notices issued



#### Value of fines from penalty notices issued



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, 1,546 penalty notices totalling \$548,900 in fines, were issued for smoky and noisy vehicle offences, littering from vehicles and breaches of the EPA legislation administered by DECCW. In recent years, the number of penalty notices for motor vehicles, especially for smoky vehicles and littering from vehicles, has decreased. DECCW's surveys confirm a decrease in the number of smoky vehicles in Sydney. The decrease is partly due to improvements in motor vehicle fuel standards and emission controls, and also reflects the success of DECCW's enforcement and education activities.

See Appendix 7 for details of the legislation under which these penalty notices are issued by DECCW and local councils.

### Pesticides

The Pesticides Regulation 2009 commenced on 1 September 2009, and repeals and remakes the previous Pesticides Regulation 1995 with some minor amendments. It raises penalty notice fines for certain record keeping offences, changes certain training provisions and updates references and terminology used to reflect the current provisions relating to aerial applications and air operators' certificates.

## National parks

The National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009 commenced on 1 September 2009, replacing the previous National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002 with minor amendments. It contains provisions relating to the regulation and use of reserved land.

## Environment protection

The Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment (Vapour Recovery) Regulation 2009 commenced on 13 November 2009. It amends the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002 to expand provisions requiring vapour recovery (stage 1) equipment to be installed at petrol stations and to add new provisions requiring vapour recovery (stage 2) equipment to be installed at certain petrol stations. The requirement to comply with the new equipment obligations will be phased in over the next seven years.

The Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008 was amended in February 2010 to delay the phase-in of Australian Design Rule (ADR) 83/00 so there is transparency and certainty about required vehicle exhaust noise levels. The federal Department of Infrastructure, which publishes noise signature levels for vehicles certified to ADR83/00, has not been able to complete the list, so clause 4 of the regulation was amended to provide a further 18 months (until September 2011) before the ADR83/00 signature level limits take effect in NSW.

## Native vegetation

The Native Vegetation (Application of Act) Regulation 2009 commenced on 4 December 2009. It amends Schedule 1 of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, which describes land to which the Act does not apply, by adding some seniors housing developments.

## Water management

The *Water Management Amendment Act 2009* commenced on 26 February 2010. It amends the *Water Management Act 2000* and the *State Water Corporation Act 2004*. The two main aspects of the amendments relate to metering and water trade rules.

The Water Management (General) Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2009 commenced in part on 30 June 2009, in part on 1 July 2009 and in part on 1 July 2004. The key aspect of the Regulation provides for the modification of Schedule 10 of the *Water Management Act 2000* to replace entitlements held under the *Water Act 1912* with access licences for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source.

The Water Management (General) Amendment (Controlled Activity Approval Exemption) Regulation 2009 commenced on 17 July 2009. The Regulation creates an exemption from the requirement to hold a controlled activity approval for a controlled activity carried out in, on, or under waterfront land if a person carries out the development in accordance with the Oran Park and Turner Road Waterfront Land Strategy 2009.

The Water Management (General) Further Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2009 commenced on 1 August 2009. The Regulation provides for access licences that authorise the taking of tidal pool water from tidal pool water sources covered by the Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009 and the Water Sharing Plan for the Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009.

The Water Management (General) Amendment (Transitional) Regulation 2009 commenced on 18 December 2009. The object of the Regulation is to confirm the rights of current members of the Eagle Creek Pumping Syndicate Incorporated in relation to certain access licences for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling regulated river water source.

The Water (Part 2 – General) Amendment (Entitlements Transfer Process) Regulation 2009 commenced on 18 December 2009. The object of the Regulation is to enable the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation to acquire and dispose of water rights in water sources that are not the subject of a volumetric water allocation scheme under the *Water Act 1912*.

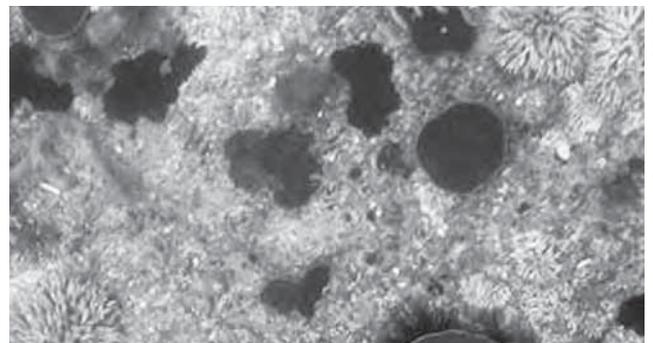


Photo: J. Neilson, DECCW

*The Marine Parks Regulation 2009 will ensure the continued protection of marine parks through appropriate zoning plans.*



Photo: R. Sherack

## Remediate or restore degraded environments

### Contaminated sites

Contaminated sites are a legacy of poor chemical or waste management practices in the past. Such contamination often significantly impacts on the adjacent community and the environment, and can limit the future productive use of the land.

In 2009, some amendments to the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* were commenced, including a requirement to report contaminated land under section 60 of the Act. Since commencement of these provisions, more than 750 notifications have been received, more than 90% of which are associated with petrol stations (see 'Underground petroleum storage systems' in previous section).

All notified sites are being assessed by DECCW to determine what follow-up actions are required under the Act, the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* or other land-use planning processes.

### NSW Site Auditor Scheme

The site auditor scheme established under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* provides greater certainty to planning authorities and the community through independent reviews of consultant reports. DECCW initiated a new round of applications for site auditors in early 2010. The accreditation process attracted 21 applications, and after a written exam and interview, four successful candidates were accredited under the scheme. This brings the number of site auditors to 37.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Transforming contaminated sites into a valuable asset – Rhodes Peninsula and Barangaroo

DECCW has regulated the remediation of 45 hectares of former foreshore industrial land on Rhodes Peninsula which was once one of the most contaminated sites in Australia, largely due to dioxin contamination. The whole area has been remediated using various technologies, including thermal treatment of contaminated soils and sediments. The full cost of remediation is approaching \$180 million, and is scheduled for completion in early 2011. Construction of substantial residential and commercial buildings is already under way. The development value of this rejuvenated land is estimated to exceed \$2.5 billion.

The new Barangaroo development at Darling Harbour will require the clean-up of a former gasworks facility, which lies underneath the old port area and part of Hickson Road. DECCW's regulation ensures that the land will be made suitable for residential and commercial uses. Remediation activities will be carried out under environment protection licences issued by DECCW, which will incorporate stringent environmental and emissions standards to protect the local community and the adjacent marine ecology.



Photo: R. Sherack

Recent developments on the Rhodes Peninsula.

The Barangaroo area is subject to major future residential and commercial development, with the value of development projects already awarded by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority exceeding \$6 billion.

DECCW has worked with government agencies, community groups and industry to remediate these lands, enable the public to use these sites, and reduce environmental harm.

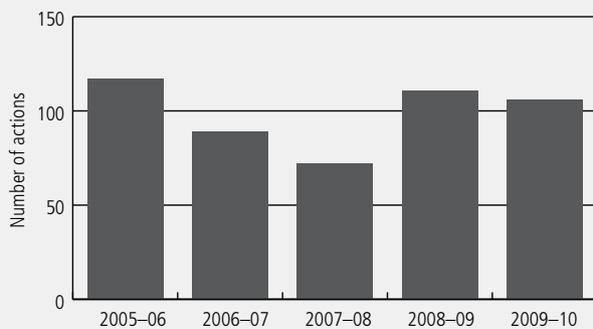
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Regulatory actions under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* and active sites under regulation

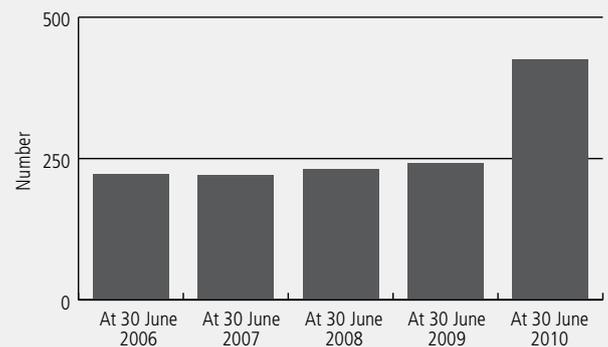
**Definition:** This indicator outlines the number of regulatory actions DECCW has taken under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act). When significant contamination occurs, DECCW may take one or more regulatory actions to clean up the site. These actions include assessing contamination, declaring significantly contaminated land, and developing orders and agreements for voluntary proposals relating to investigation or clean-up tasks.

The total number of sites under active assessment and regulation includes sites under assessment for significant contamination, significantly contaminated sites requiring regulation, and sites under regulation. It does not include sites that have already been remediated and sites that have been assessed as being not significantly contaminated. Figures for 2009–10 include only the proportion of notifications under new provisions of the CLM Act that are being actively assessed or managed.

#### Regulatory actions under the *Contaminated Land Management Act*



#### Number of total active sites



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, DECCW undertook 106 regulatory actions compared with 111 in 2008–09.

A change of reporting requirements in December 2009 led to 802 new site notifications. The 425 active sites for 30 June 2010 comprise 299 active sites being managed under traditional formal CLM regulation, and 126 new section 60 notifications that are being 'risk managed' but have not yet been allocated for formal CLM Act assessment.

DECCW also carried out 49 formal assessments of contaminated land, issued 37 regulatory notices and revoked 20 regulatory notices in 2009–10. Seventeen more sites were brought under the regulation of the CLM Act, bringing the number of sites under current regulation to 134. The remediation or investigation of 10 sites was completed, bringing the total number of remediated sites to 93.

As at 30 June 2010, 124 sites were under formal assessment, 41 sites were to be regulated and 134 sites were under regulation. A further 117 sites notified under the new provisions of section 60 of the CLM Act were under informal assessment, 9 sites were being managed for serious contamination outside the CLM Act and 484 sites were awaiting further information to be provided by the notifier.

As several actions are normally taken to regulate a site, completing a clean-up can take several years. As equilibrium has not been reached between the number of new contaminated sites notified and the number of sites successfully cleaned up each year, the number of sites being regulated is still increasing.

## Improving regulation through education

Six short courses on contaminated sites assessment, remediation and management have been developed by DECCW, the University of Technology Sydney and industry. These courses enable industry consultants and local and state government employees to gain greater expertise and communicate more effectively regarding contaminated site management.

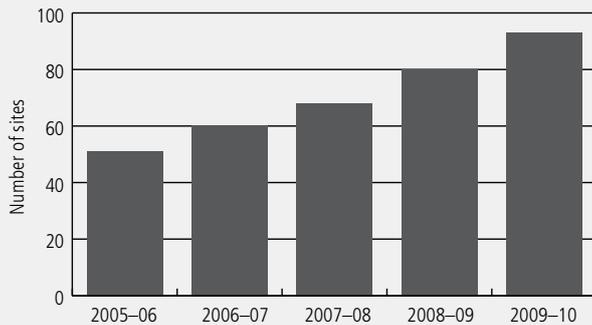
DECCW and the Local Government and Shires Associations held a contaminated land workshop for local councils in May 2010, to improve staff knowledge and understanding of contaminated land issues and management.

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Contaminated sites remediated

**Definition:** The total number of sites remediated is the cumulative number of sites which were considered under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act) to be significantly contaminated, and were reassessed in 2009–10 as being no longer significantly contaminated. Remediation can occur through regulation under the CLM Act, through regulation under the *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*, or through planning processes.

#### Contaminated sites remediated (cumulative)



**Interpretation:** At 30 June 2010, 93 significantly contaminated sites have been remediated since the CLM Act came into effect in 1998–99. Sixty-five of these sites were remediated through regulation under this Act, and 28 were remediated under other processes.

## Collaborative pesticides and soil contamination research

Research this year included:

- developing passive samplers for use Australia-wide – these devices resemble ‘artificial fish’ that can help measure exposure to certain chemicals. DECCW scientists worked with the National Research Centre for Environment Toxicology at the University of Queensland and industry partners, to develop and test passive sampler technologies to measure exposure to emerging pollutants in water: perfluorinated compounds, chemicals in pharmaceuticals and personal care products, and brominated flame retardants.
- producing a draft new risk-based methodology for investigating soil contamination, which has involved collaborating with scientists from CSIRO, funded by the Environmental Trust. The methodology allows assessment of contamination levels of arsenic, zinc, naphthalene and DDT in soils in urban areas to be assessed.

## Crackdown on illegal dumping

Illegal dumping degrades the environment by polluting waterways, destroying vegetation and contaminating land. Illegally dumped waste can also pose a health risk and leave landowners with substantial clean-up costs.

Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads are established with DECCW support by local councils in western Sydney and in the greater southern area to ensure illegal dumping is addressed in a cooperative regional way.

Campaigns in 2009–10 to reduce illegal dumping included checking whether tyre retailers in the Sydney region were taking proper measures to avoid illegal dumping. DECCW published a brochure titled *Waste tyres – Know your responsibilities* in May 2010 which contains simple steps for businesses to follow to avoid fines and clean-up costs.

Information sessions were held during May and June 2010 in Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle for waste tyre generators, such as retail businesses.

Facilities that stockpile waste illegally generally do not have adequate controls to prevent polluted water from running into creeks or dust from polluting the air. Unlawful facilities can also inhibit resource recovery and cause inequity in the waste market.

DECCW inspected potentially illegal facilities in the Hunter area during 2010. Each site was checked to see if it had appropriate approvals to store waste. Regulatory action included providing licence application information and issuing clean-up notices.

At one facility alone, 35,000 tonnes of concrete waste were illegally stored. As a result of regulatory action by DECCW, the facility now has appropriate pollution controls in place and is operating in accordance with an environment protection licence. The facility is reprocessing waste into a resource for re-use, diverting up to 35,000 tonnes annually from landfill.



Photo: L. Kearney, DECCW

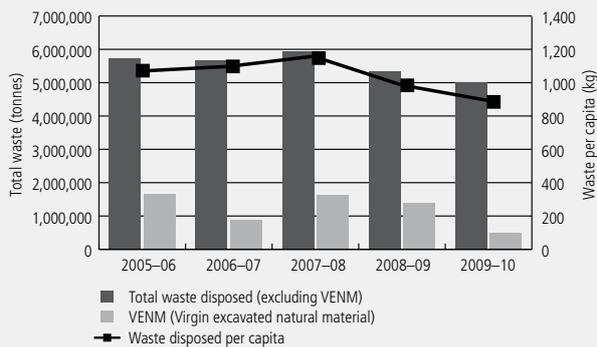
*DECCW is cleaning up old tyre dumps in the Hunter Region. They can be a fire risk and can cause air and water pollution once set alight.*

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Waste disposed of to landfill in the greater Sydney region

**Definition:** This indicator measures the tonnes of waste disposed of to landfill in the greater Sydney region, which extends from Port Stephens to the Shoalhaven. Separate figures are provided for virgin excavated natural material (VENM) and for other mainstream waste. VENM waste is generated by a range of industries and is used for approved practices at landfills such as final capping, landfill lining and pond filling. Per capita disposal of waste (excluding VENM) is also shown.

#### Waste disposed of to landfill in the greater Sydney region



**Interpretation:** Disposal of waste decreased overall in the greater Sydney region in 2009–10 for a second successive year.

Waste other than VENM going to landfill was around 5 million tonnes, which represented a decline of 6%. This followed a 10% fall from the previous year. Lower waste disposal may be attributable to a range of factors, including more waste recycling, less waste generated and the continuing effects of the worldwide economic downturn.

Per capita waste disposal (excluding VENM) for 2009–10 was 937 kilograms in the greater Sydney region. This has decreased by 22% since 2000.

VENM disposal declined by 64% in 2009–10 to around 0.5 million tonnes. Quantities of VENM disposal may fluctuate considerably in any given year due to the number and size of major excavation works occurring, which influences both the generation of VENM and the landfill management needs for VENM.



Photo: B. Hlavica

# Improve community wellbeing

## Regional Air Quality Index website

In the Sydney region, the Regional Air Quality Index (RAQI) provides a health alert system that informs asthmatics and other sensitive members of the community about the level of pollution each day so they can take measures to minimise the impact on their health. This system is complemented by automatic alerts issued by email and SMS built into the RAQI website. Members of the community can subscribe to these services by visiting [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMS/aboutaqi.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMS/aboutaqi.htm).

## DustWatch

In March 2010, DECCW launched the new DustWatch website (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/dustwatch](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/dustwatch)), which provides accessible satellite data of dust storm movements. NSW is the first state to provide dust monitoring access online to help scientists, farmers, land managers and the broader community with regular reports about dust conditions.

The impacts of dust storms include erosion, loss of income for farmers, cancelled flights, health issues and a significant clean-up effort. During dust storms, most dust will settle within 100 kilometres of the erosion site, although finer particles can be carried long distances, even as far as New Zealand.

The DustWatch program aims to:

- report on the extent and severity of wind erosion by measuring dust concentration and visibility
- raise awareness of the effects of wind erosion on the landscape and the impacts of dust on the community and the environment.

The website also reports observations that will assist scientists gathering data. Current 'dust watchers' include a group of dedicated individuals as well as catchment management authorities. Participating dust watchers receive weekly reports and can upload their observations of dust activity online.

The program has proven to be highly effective in determining when and where dust events are occurring, particularly in western NSW.

## Beachwatch and Harbourwatch

The Beachwatch and Harbourwatch partnership programs inform the public about beach water quality (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beachapp/default.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beachapp/default.aspx)).

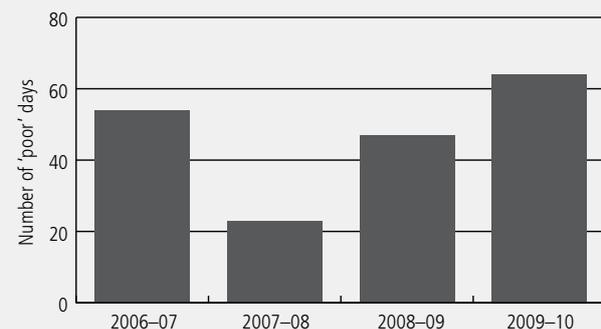
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Poor regional air quality index days in the greater Sydney metropolitan region

**Definition:** The regional pollution index was superseded in June 2008 by the regional air quality index (RAQI). The RAQI measures hourly concentrations of photochemical smog (ozone), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, fine particles (as PM<sub>10</sub>) and visibility, and has three high pollution categories – 'poor', 'very poor' and 'hazardous'. Regional pollution index data from 2006–07 and 2007–08 has been recalculated to allow comparison with the RAQI.

The RAQI is reported for three regions in Sydney (central east, north-west and south-west), the Illawarra and the lower Hunter. The RAQI is now reported hourly. RAQI values in the 'poor', 'very poor' or 'hazardous' categories indicate that one or more measured parameters have exceeded the national standards or that visibility is less than the NSW goal of 10 kilometres. A day is counted as having high pollution if the RAQI in one or more regions reached 'poor', 'very poor' or 'hazardous' during the day.

#### 'Poor' regional air quality (RAQI) days in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region



**Interpretation:** The RAQI rated air quality as 'poor', 'very poor' or 'hazardous' on 64 days during 2009–10, 17 days more than in the previous year. These exceedences were driven by photochemical smog during the summer of 2009–10, dust storms and bushfires. A statewide dust storm on 23 September 2009 triggered the hazardous category for PM<sub>10</sub> in all regions of NSW for most of that day and the following day. This event produced the highest levels of PM<sub>10</sub> recorded.

The calculation of the hourly index for PM<sub>10</sub> is based on a rolling 24-hour average, which will lead to more exceedences than are found in calculating a midnight-to-midnight 24-hour average, which is the protocol for assessing compliance with the national ambient air quality standard for PM<sub>10</sub>.

This data also provides a broad measure of the effectiveness of stormwater and wastewater management practices, and highlights areas where improvements are required.

During the summer of 2009–10, 86% of swimming sites monitored along the NSW coast were given beach suitability grades of 'good' or 'very good' under the National Health and Medical Research Council's recreational water quality guidelines.

Overall, ocean beaches in NSW are in excellent condition, although monitoring shows that many coastal lakes and estuaries are susceptible to microbial contamination for several days following rainfall.

## Emergency management

DECCW is the coordinating agency for protecting the environment during disasters and major emergencies. DECCW is represented on state and district emergency management committees, where it advises other agencies on ways of preventing or minimising environmental impacts. Key emergency management initiatives in 2009–10 included:

- contributing to NSW's Disaster Recovery Plan
- working with the NSW Fire Brigades and NSW Police to improve plans for responding to incidents involving radioactive materials
- involvement in a multi-agency training exercise and a national workshop to test counter-terrorism preparedness and procedures
- ongoing training for a range of emergency response activities, and training of other agencies' staff to better enable them to minimise the environmental impacts of disasters
- DECCW laboratory staff continuing their rapid response to testing chemicals and ecotoxicological substances during emergency incidents.

Significant emergency management cases during the year included:

- responding to reports of a tsunami generated by an earthquake off the coast of Chile – on advice from the State Emergency Service, DECCW staff monitored the situation and took action to keep visitors to its coastal national parks safe

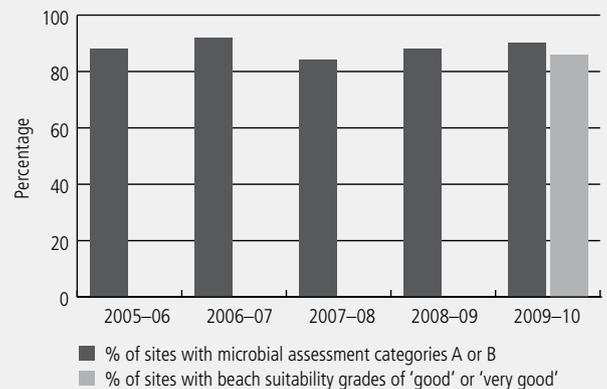
## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Beachwatch programs

**Definition:** DECCW's Beachwatch and Harbourwatch programs monitor water quality at 126 swimming sites in Sydney, the lower Hunter and the Illawarra. A further 139 swimming sites are monitored in partnership with 14 coastal councils from Byron Bay to Bega under the Beachwatch Partnership Program. Samples are tested for the bacterial indicator enterococci. Daily water quality reports are issued in the Sydney region, with all areas covered by weekly star ratings and an annual *State of the beaches* report, which is released in October.

In May 2009, the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines for assessing risks in recreational waters were adopted for use in NSW, meaning results are no longer being reported as a percentage of compliance. Instead, beaches are classified from 'very poor' to 'very good', based on a risk assessment of pollution sources and water quality data. An interim indicator, which measures the percentage of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites with microbial assessment categories of A or B (measured levels of faecal contamination), is reported here, with the categories back-calculated for previous years.

### Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites with low faecal contamination or graded 'good' or 'very good'



**Interpretation:** Trends for the new microbial assessment reflect those of the previous indicator, with long-term improvements shown in water quality but lower results shown during years of higher rainfall.

With average rainfall conditions recorded in 2009–10, the water quality along the NSW coast continued to be of a very high standard, with 86% of sites graded as 'very good' or 'good', and 90% of sites with microbial assessment categories of 'A' or 'B'. This is an improvement on results from 2007–08, when only 84% of sites achieved these categories due to stormwater pollution and sewage overflows triggered by wet weather.



The water quality at Bondi Beach is regularly monitored through Beachwatch to ensure the ocean is safe for swimming.

- responding to the Lennox Head tornado – DECCW worked with other agencies to facilitate the cleaning up of hazardous waste generated by the tornado.

DECCW provides real-time data from the NSW Coastal Data Network to the Bureau of Meteorology and the State Emergency Service, as part of its responsibilities under the State Flood Sub Plan. The data network is managed by DECCW and operated by Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, and includes 230 river and estuary water level recorders, 17 ocean tide gauges, 72 rainfall stations and seven deep water 'waverider' buoys. The data is used to generate emergency warnings and maintain services during extreme events and natural disasters. Real-time data is available by visiting the laboratory's website ([http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/www/real\\_quick.html](http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/www/real_quick.html)).

## Hazmat incident response

DECCW maintains a 24-hour emergency response and hazardous materials advice service, which is linked to DECCW's Environment Line and its regional after-hours services. DECCW staff attend significant incidents involving hazardous materials, usually to oversee clean-up or to investigate potential breaches of environmental legislation.

In 2009–10, DECCW was notified of 146 hazardous materials incidents and attended 41 incidents. Advice was provided via the telephone for other incidents. Significant incidents in 2009–10 included:

- a multi-boat fire in Pittwater, where 8,000 litres of fuel was spilled into the waterway – DECCW advised on the clean-up
- a major fire at an importing company's premises at Silverwater – DECCW advised on the materials involved and worked with other agencies and the local council on managing potential asbestos contamination
- an incident on a 16,000 tonne ship carrying a variety of chemicals, where a nitric acid leak was corroding the hull – DECCW worked with agencies to minimise risks to the environment.

## Hazmat technology assessments

DECCW assesses and regulates technologies that can be used to treat hazardous materials in NSW. In 2009–10, DECCW began assessing the treatment of contamination at the Orica site at Botany using a method of 'directly heated thermal desorption'.

DECCW also continued to regulate the storage of Orica's hexachlorobenzene waste, pending its final destruction. In June 2010, Danish authorities accepted a 'duly reasoned request' to export the waste to Denmark for safe and environmentally sound destruction.

## Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter to create new materials, structures and devices, sometimes with novel properties. Products containing nanomaterials can enter the environment through waste disposal, sewage systems and run-off.

In response to the report of the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development inquiry into nanotechnology conducted in 2008 (see [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/PARLMENT/committee.nsf/0/35D2E3E37498A908CA2574F1000301BB](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/PARLMENT/committee.nsf/0/35D2E3E37498A908CA2574F1000301BB)), the NSW Government has committed to supporting national initiatives for labelling, reporting and risk assessment of nanomaterials.

On a state level, actions under way include working through the NSW Nanotechnology Policy Coordination Committee, of which DECCW is a member, to review and make recommendations about the NSW Government's regulatory environment for dealing with nanotechnology.

## Pesticide use

### New requirements for licensed pest controllers

New notification requirements commenced on 1 September 2009 that now require licensed and certain other pest management technicians to provide prior notice of their intention to use pesticides near certain 'sensitive places', which include schools, childcare centres and nursing homes. New print and web-based guidance materials were produced and seminars conducted for the pest control industry to explain the new requirements.

### 1080 and pindone pesticide control orders

1080 is used as a pesticide in NSW to control wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and rabbits, while pindone is used to control rabbits. As these baits can harm the environment, wildlife and domestic animals, all 1080 and restricted pindone products are regulated by DECCW using pesticide control orders (PCOs). These orders state who can use 1080 and pindone and the ways in which they can be used in NSW.

In 2009–10, the Pesticides Amendment (Qualifications) Regulation 2010, which commenced in May 2010, amended clause 9 of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 to enable PCOs to set out qualifications for users of particular pesticides, and enable pesticide-specific training to be permitted as an alternative to the standard pesticide training course. The State Management Council of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and DECCW developed a specific 1080 and pindone training course for land holders who use these pesticides in June 2010.



Photo: S. Cohen

*A new training course will benefit land holders who use 1080 as a bait for foxes and other feral animals.*



Photo: DECCW

# Eliminate unnecessary regulation

## National and state regulatory reform

For many years, DECCW has held as a priority the need to cut red tape and reduce regulatory burdens on business, government and the community, while maintaining necessary environmental controls and outcomes. In 2009, DECCW established a Regulatory Reform Committee to keep track of the various reform initiatives, and to promote opportunities for future reform. In 2009–10, DECCW engaged in over 30 major reform initiatives including, for example:

- rationalising the requirements for managing contaminated land, which involved combining the previous two stages of 'investigation' and 'remediation' into a more efficient single management stage
- implementing a new standardised licence for road construction projects that reduces compliance costs
- updating the requirements for consultation with Aboriginal people as part of cultural heritage assessments, to improve clarity and certainty for proponents of development activities.

## Heritage assessments

A *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010* was passed by the NSW Parliament in June 2010 to streamline heritage assessment and approvals as part of development assessment processes. Provisions include:

- limiting the need to obtain an Aboriginal heritage impact permit for archaeological investigations
- providing a clear process to determine who to consult as part of the permit process
- providing clarity for DECCW officers, development proponents and Aboriginal people on what factors must be considered when determining a permit application
- introducing powers to vary, transfer, suspend and revoke permits
- introducing provisions to allow using remediation actions as an alternative to prosecution.

## Tourism in parks

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* was amended in 2010 to assist the development of sustainable, nature-based visitor opportunities in national parks, consistent with recommendations of the 2008 Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks. The reform streamlines provisions relating to leasing and licensing, as well as clarifying what is permissible under the Act.

## Native vegetation

DECCW is implementing a compliance system that identifies illegal vegetation clearing that is detected by satellite imaging. The system will enable officers to respond to any illegal clearing more efficiently and effectively, and improve overall compliance with the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

## Chemical use

During the year, DECCW participated in initiatives to standardise legislation relating to chemical use, including:

- working as a member of the National Framework for Chemicals Environmental Management Working Group to progress uniform national environmental controls for industrial chemicals
- providing input to the Council of Australian Government's initiative to develop a new nationally uniform system for regulating pesticides and veterinary chemicals.



Photo: Courtesy Tourism NSW

There will be new opportunities for visitors to national parks as a result of amendments to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

## Planning reform – review of concurrences and referrals

DECCW has concurrence and referrals roles regarding certain development applications in NSW, particularly where there are identified impacts relating to threatened species, water, cultural heritage and pollution. In 2009–10, DECCW commenced reporting on concurrences and referrals to and from the NSW Department of Planning. DECCW's processing of concurrences and referrals was well within statutory timeframes with an average of 21 days.

## Aligning waste management with resource recovery regulation

While DECCW encourages the recovery and re-use of waste where it is beneficial and does not harm the environment or human health, many waste-derived materials cannot be applied to land due to potential contamination or used in thermal applications because of potential air emissions.

In 2008, DECCW introduced 'resource recovery exemptions' under the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005 to enable waste or waste-derived materials to be used as fill or fertiliser (land applications) or as a fuel or alternative raw material in thermal applications.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Resource recovery exemption for alternative waste treatment facilities

NSW has more alternative waste treatment facilities in Australia that process household organic waste than any other state. The main output from these facilities is an organic material that can be suitable for land filling or agricultural applications.

In March 2010, DECCW issued a resource recovery exemption for 'organic outputs derived from mixed waste'. This enables the output from alternative waste treatment facilities to be applied to uses such as mine site rehabilitation and some specified agricultural applications. This exemption is the first of its kind in Australia that puts chemical and physical contaminant limits on this type of material, to protect the environment and human health.

In May and June 2010, DECCW carried out a two-part enforcement and education campaign to support the implementation of the exemption. The campaign involved inspecting all alternative waste processors and selected consumers' sites. Samples of organic outputs were taken for analysis by DECCW's laboratories to assess compliance with the standards set in the exemption.

DECCW consulted the alternative waste treatment industry about the exemption, and has provided transitional arrangements to give the industry a chance to progressively reduce levels of physical contaminants.

During 2009–10, DECCW granted nine general resource recovery exemptions for commonly recovered wastes, making 27 general exemptions in total. In addition, DECCW formalised agreements with over 60 companies for specific waste or waste-derived materials to be used in industrial processes or in construction and landscaping projects.

More information is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/RRRecoveryExemptions.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/RRRecoveryExemptions.htm).

## Radiation control

During 2009–10, DECCW continued its participation in the program to establish national uniformity of radiation protection across Australia through implementing the National Directory for Radiation Protection. The directory is being developed through the national Radiation Health Committee, which is supported by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. DECCW contributed to the development of national codes of practice and radiation standards, advising on:

- the classification of radioactive waste
- Radiation Health Committee national radiation protection qualifications and accreditation and training standards
- risks from handling deceased persons recently treated with radioactive materials.

In April 2010, in line with national uniformity agreements, DECCW gazetted nine national codes and standards for adoption under the *NSW Radiation Control Act 1990*, including:

- *Code of practice for the security of radioactive sources*
- *Code of practice for radiation protection and radioactive waste management in mining and mineral processing*
- *Code of practice for radiation protection in the medical applications of ionising radiation.*

The Radiation Advisory Council and DECCW established a working group to develop guidelines for the management of naturally occurring radioactive materials and technologically enhanced radioactive materials emitted by specific industries. DECCW invited an expert from the USA, Mr Charles Simmons, to talk to DECCW staff and the council about naturally occurring radioactive materials. Participants received valuable insights on ways in which to approach such materials and implement legislation that addresses radiation risks to human health and the environment.

# Integrated landscape management for long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability



Photo: S. Cohen, DECCW

*National parks and reserves protect more than six-and-three-quarter million hectares of NSW, or nearly 8.5% of the state. Many other valuable landscapes and habitats exist on land that is privately owned or managed by other organisations and individuals. A rich Aboriginal cultural heritage is also protected under legislation. DECCW works with government agencies, community groups and land holders to protect native plants and animals, and Aboriginal Places and objects, and minimise the impacts of development and industry on water quality, biodiversity, threatened species, riverbanks and ecosystems.*

## Context

People depend on the sustained health and diversity of native plants, animals and ecosystems that contribute to fresh water, healthy soils, productive forests and oceans, and allow people to connect with and enjoy the natural environment. Habitat loss due to clearing, thinning and disturbance of the state's soil and vegetation over decades, and extreme conditions associated with ongoing drought across much of NSW continue to threaten native plants and animals. These extreme conditions have especially affected riverine and groundwater-dependent ecosystems in NSW.

DECCW is the lead agency for achieving the 13 statewide natural resource targets in the NSW State Plan, which aim to improve the state's environmental health and the community's socioeconomic wellbeing by 2015. The *2009 State of the Environment* report describes the condition of natural resources measured against the 13 targets, helping land managers and the community to assess the pressures on those resources and act to reduce them.

In 2009–10, DECCW continued to manage protected areas, introduce new and more effective park management strategies, and improve threatened species conservation and land clearing controls. DECCW worked with state and local government agencies, private organisations and Aboriginal communities on statewide programs such as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy for natural resources, Aboriginal heritage conservation projects, the implementation of catchment action plans, the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement, and the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative.

NSW national parks and reserves attract more than 38 million visits each year. DECCW aims to continually improve visitors' experiences and increase visits in line with NSW State Plan objectives, while continuing to focus on conservation. DECCW also co-manages protected areas with Aboriginal communities, enhancing community knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal culture.

## Outcomes

- Improving the condition of natural resources
- Protecting and restoring biodiversity and native vegetation
- Contributing to increased tourism and community wellbeing through parks and reserves, and investing in environmental projects for regional development
- Conserving natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands
- Protecting and revitalising Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Increasing Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management.

## Key drivers

- State Plan – Investing in a Better Future ([www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/))
- NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm))
- National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan ([www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/nbccap/](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/nbccap/))
- NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement ([www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/home\\_PAS\\_new.aspx](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/home_PAS_new.aspx))
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm))
- work undertaken with catchment management authorities.

## Performance indicators

- Water entitlement purchased under the NSW RiverBank, Living Murray and Wetland Recovery programs
- Land maintained or improved by property vegetation plans
- Land managed by DECCW for conservation
- Reserves covered by an adopted fire management strategy
- The *National Parks Discovery – Walks, Talks and Tours* education program
- Adopted plans of management for the reserve system
- Private and unreserved land in NSW managed for conservation
- Aboriginal Place declarations for sites of Aboriginal cultural significance
- Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities
- Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for joint management of protected areas.



Photo: J. Maguire, DECCW

# Improve the condition of natural resources

## Water for the environment

The NSW and Australian governments work under a memorandum of understanding regarding water for the environment. The memorandum was originally signed in February 2009 and updated and re-signed in June 2010. The agreement recognises the importance of purchasing water entitlements to sustain the Murray–Darling Basin. It also sets the framework for the cooperative use of environmental water held by both parties, to gain maximum benefit for the environment.

Through NSW RiverBank, the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program and The Living Murray, DECCW and the Australian Government have purchased and recovered water entitlements totalling 331,881 megalitres. In 2009–10, 40,122 megalitres of water entitlement was purchased under these programs in NSW. This water, together with water allocated through water sharing plans under the *Water Management Act 2000*, is starting to redress the imbalance between the extractive and environmental uses of water.

In 2009–10, more than 160,000 megalitres of environmental water was released to support wetlands in the Gwydir, Macquarie, Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys. In addition, natural flooding in the Narran, Culgoa, Barwon–Darling, Warrego and Paroo rivers produced extensive wetland inundation and provided the best conditions for native biodiversity for many years.

Actions by DECCW to redirect water to the environment included:

- between August and November 2009, DECCW and the Australian Government directed more than 20,000 megalitres of water to the Macquarie Marshes, ensuring the core wetland areas retained healthy wetland plant communities – combined with above average local rainfall, this allowed a colony of 2,000 egrets to successfully fledge
- more than 30,000 megalitres of environmental water were delivered to the lower Murrumbidgee (Lowbidgee) wetlands, particularly wetlands in Yanga National Park, during the spring and early summer of 2009, supporting continued restoration of southern bell frog populations and the breeding of several species of waterbirds
- an additional 77,000 megalitres of environmental water were directed to the Lowbidgee wetlands



Photo: P. Childs, DECCW

*Environmental water delivered to the Lowbidgee wetlands contributed to a good breeding season for several species of waterbird, including egrets.*

in late autumn 2010, which are inundating parts of Yanga National Park for the first time in 10 years – this release includes the single largest volume of water (40,000 megalitres) provided to any site by the Australian Government, and is expected to deliver a broad range of ecological benefits.

## Infrastructure projects to support wetland restoration

Through the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program, DECCW has invested \$10 million since 2007 in infrastructure projects to improve the ecological health of important rivers and wetlands. Projects completed in 2009–10 included:

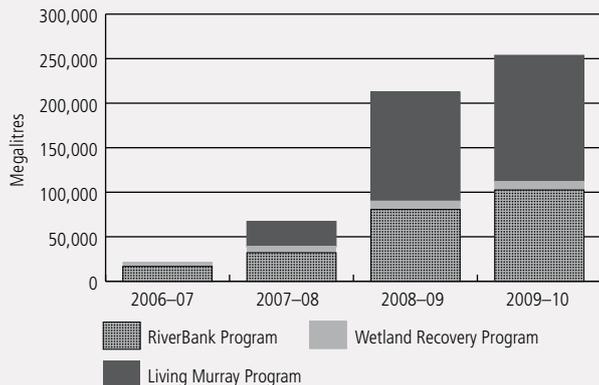
- constructing regulators adjacent to the Lachlan River near Booligal to prevent unseasonal flows from entering the Muggabah and Merrimajeel wetlands and affecting waterbird habitat
- installing 29 gauging stations to improve monitoring and management of environmental flows to, and within, priority wetlands
- works along the Gingham Channel, in the Gwydir Wetlands, to reduce bank erosion and sedimentation and increase the extent and duration of the flooding of adjacent wetland habitats
- completing the 'Two Bridges' regulators in July 2009, to enable around 95% of great egret and little pied cormorant hatchlings to reach fledgling stage.

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Water entitlement purchased under the NSW RiverBank, Living Murray and Wetland Recovery programs

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative amount of water entitlement, measured in megalitres, purchased by NSW RiverBank, the Living Murray program and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program in targeted river valleys of NSW. (One megalitre equals one million litres. As a comparison, an Olympic-sized swimming pool holds about two-and-a-half megalitres.)

#### Cumulative total of water entitlement purchased



**Interpretation:** Water entitlements represent a share of the water available in a water management area, the volume of which varies with seasonal rainfall and river catchment run-off. General security (GS) is the most common type of entitlement. As an example, GS availability might be announced with a 50% allocation. That would mean a holder with a 100-megalitre licence entitlement could use 50 megalitres of water. Allocations can increase throughout a year if water availability improves.

Through NSW RiverBank and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program, GS water entitlement and small volumes of high security and supplementary access entitlement are acquired. NSW RiverBank (including the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program) acquired 21,875 megalitres of water entitlement in the year to 30 June 2010. Water entitlement purchases under the Wetland Recovery Program were completed in 2008–09.

The Living Murray program acquires GS and high security licences and had purchases totalling 141,853 megalitres by 30 June 2010. Combined with water efficiency infrastructure projects, a total of 220,970 megalitres of entitlement has been recovered under this program.

DECCW manages water acquired by NSW RiverBank and the Wetland Recovery Program, and for environmental purposes in water sharing plans made under the *Water Management Act 2000*. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority manages water recovered under the Living Murray program under an intergovernmental agreement.

Pillicawarrina, a property adjoining the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve, was purchased in January 2009 and floodplain restoration works for the property were commenced during 2009–10. The property was previously an irrigation and dry land cropping enterprise and has a long history of disturbance to the floodplain, including the construction of extensive banks and channels that interfered with the movement of water, as well as land clearing. DECCW has been selectively removing some banks to restore natural floodplain flows, and is planning to restore native vegetation.

For more information on Pillicawarrina, see the case study ‘Developing soil carbon trading for certification under the National Carbon Offset Standard’ in Chapter 2 under ‘Reduce greenhouse gas emissions’.

The NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program has invested over \$1.6 million in Yanga National Park to improve DECCW’s ability to deliver environmental flows to priority wetlands. Ten regulating structures, ten rock-armoured floodways and an extensive network of flow gauges to better measure environmental flows and flow distribution have been installed, and 40 existing embankments have been breached.

## Wetlands

The NSW Government released a new NSW Wetlands Policy in May 2010 that provides for the protection, sustainable use and management of NSW wetlands. It contains guiding principles that all government agencies will adopt, and that all land managers can refer to when making decisions on wetland management and conservation.

Also in 2009–10, DECCW released draft adaptive environmental management plans for the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands for public comment. These plans bring together scientific, social and cultural research into the ecological assets of the wetlands, identify water needs, and define future management objectives and restoration activities. Further information is available at [www.wetlandrecovery.nsw.gov.au/Management\\_Framework.htm](http://www.wetlandrecovery.nsw.gov.au/Management_Framework.htm)

DECCW works with land holders to protect key wetlands on private land through the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program and Wetlands Recovery Program. In 2009–10, DECCW:

- signed 15 ten-year management agreements with land holders in key Murray–Darling wetland areas, which will help them to protect more than 2,200 hectares of high-conservation wetlands
- worked with Industry and Investment NSW to develop guidelines for grazing and plant conservation in the Gwydir Wetlands and Macquarie Marshes (see [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/field/pastures-and-rangelands/management/grazing-management/guidelines-gwydir-macquarie](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/field/pastures-and-rangelands/management/grazing-management/guidelines-gwydir-macquarie))
- held events for land holders and Aboriginal communities in the Macquarie Marshes, Gwydir Wetlands, Lower Lachlan and Lowbidgee Floodplain, including ‘Macquarie@Macquarie’ at Quambone in August 2009 and ‘Biodiversity in the Bush’ in the Lowbidgee wetlands in late 2009.

## Ramsar wetlands

DECCW is continuing to prepare ecological character descriptions for the 12 NSW wetlands that are listed as internationally significant under the Ramsar Convention. The descriptions will provide a scientific baseline for the sites at the time of their listing and enable changes in the sites to be assessed over time. In 2009–10, ecological character descriptions were completed for Paroo River Wetlands and Towra Point Nature Reserve.

Extensive rainfall in south-west Queensland caused the Ramsar-listed wetland in Narran Lake Nature Reserve to fill in January and February 2010, leading to major bird breeding. The straw-necked ibis, royal spoonbill, swans and numerous duck species bred on the wetland, with around 20,000 nest sites being established.

### Scientific research to support environmental water

Under the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program, DECCW is undertaking research to improve the management of environmental flows to key NSW wetlands including the Gwydir and Lachlan wetlands, the lower Murrumbidgee (Lowbidgee) floodplain, Macquarie Marshes and Narran Lakes.

DECCW conducted ecological and hydrological investigations to improve understanding of the ecological character of the wetlands and the relationships between ecology and flow regimes. Software was developed to help managers of environmental water to predict ways in which the volume and timing of water delivery will improve ecosystem health and functions, and determine the optimal timing, quantity and duration of required flows.

DECCW and the CSIRO hosted the 'Ecosystem Response Modelling in the Murray–Darling Basin: Better Use of Environmental Water' conference in May 2010. Much of the work showcased at the conference is being used by DECCW to better manage environmental water.

### Mapping wetlands: inundation, vegetation extent and condition

Using Landsat data, DECCW researchers mapped wetland inundation during floods from 1988–2008 in the Lower Murrumbidgee floodplain and Great Cumbung Swamp (Lachlan River) to determine the distribution of, and inundation frequency and flood durations in, these floodplain wetlands.



Photo: I. Baird

Work being undertaken by DECCW in 2009–10 to restore environmental flows to wetlands will help protect endangered species such as the *Petalura gigantea* dragonfly.

These mapping studies are providing critical information on wetlands, allowing for better modelling of flood patterns and flow paths, and enabling the response of wetland vegetation to targeted environmental flows to be assessed. Final products will include:

- a methodology for detecting the extent of inundation from optical satellite imagery and monitoring the extent of environmental flows
- digital maps showing the extent of wetland systems, historical inundation zones and their flood frequencies – this information has already provided a basis for adaptive environmental management plans for the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands
- a database of detailed floristic data and vegetation health and condition
- contribution to the setting of the ecological water requirements for vegetation communities in the Murray–Darling Basin Plan, to be released later in 2010.

During the year DECCW also created vegetation maps for the Lower Murrumbidgee floodplain and Great Cumbung Swamp.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Habitat for threatened species and Aboriginal heritage protected through restoring Lowbidgee lakes and swamps

The property 'Talpee' on the lower Murrumbidgee floodplain borders Yanga National Park. It is home to many bird and animal species including waterbird species and threatened species such as the southern bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*) and fishing bat (*Myotis macropus*). The property also contains Aboriginal heritage sites and objects, such as mounds, scarred trees, canoe trees, burial sites and artefacts.

With changes in hydrology and recent drought, however, key wetlands on the property no longer receive the water they once did and the ecology has suffered.

DECCW and the NSW Land and Property Management Authority have provided financial assistance to the land holders to restore the wetlands. This investment, which will be subject to ongoing monitoring, is enabling on-ground works to be undertaken to



Photo: P. Childs, DECCW

Lake Tala, a wetland on the 'Talpee' property on the Lower Murrumbidgee floodplain, is being protected through the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program.

improve water delivery channels to Tiger Swamp, and stock management to be improved in wetland areas. When natural flooding occurs, or environmental water becomes available for these swamps, grazing will be managed during inundation and drying.

## Healthy rivers and estuaries

As part of the NSW Estuary Management Program, DECCW released an Estuary Health Assessment Tools package in 2009–10, which brings together the latest information on assessing, improving and protecting rivers and estuaries in NSW. The package consists of:

- software defining the current disturbances and pressures facing NSW estuaries
- guidelines providing advice on ways in which seawalls can be designed to reduce erosion and improve amenity for plant and animal life
- software to help predict the relationship between land use in catchments and impacts on rivers and estuaries
- monitoring protocols to provide comparable data for assessing the health of rivers and estuaries.

The package was released at the NSW Coastal Conference in 2009, and subsequently at 11 statewide training workshops attended by over 100 natural resource managers. The tools are now being used in estuary management planning.

## Support for catchment management authorities

Thirteen catchment management authorities (CMAs) are established in NSW to deliver programs that remediate or improve natural resources such as native vegetation and soils, deal with environmental hazards such as salinity, and help build the capacity of landowners to manage

their land more sustainably. DECCW provides the CMAs with state-level administration, technical tools, scientific support, grant funding, administration of boards and key appointments, financial and corporate governance frameworks, and project support for management of native vegetation, floodplains, wetlands and soils.

In 2009–10, DECCW provided software to six CMAs in eight project areas to enable them to plan and prioritise their investment in actions to address salinity. The software was trialled and well received by local councils and CMAs in rural and urban environments.

## Ecological models to support the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

Increasing the resilience of ecosystems in the face of rapid climate change is the primary goal of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (see Chapter 2). The initiative is forming partnerships between government and non-government organisations involved in conservation and natural resource management to improve conservation across the landscape.

The Hunter River Catchment has been impacted on by activities associated with agriculture, mining, power generation and infrastructure development. Using GIS modelling techniques and Landsat measures of vegetation, DECCW, Hunter River CMA and the CSIRO developed models of fauna habitat quality for three broad habitat types: moist forest, dry forest and woodlands. Connectivity values were calculated at regional and inter-regional scales.

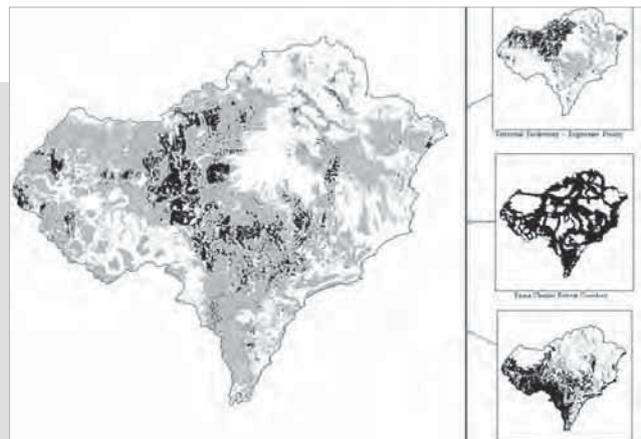
### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Software and guidelines for natural resource management

In 2009–10, DECCW implemented Sight & Catchment Resource Planning and Assessment (known as SCArPA), a combination of guidelines and software that can analyse the costs and benefits of investments in natural resource management planning and assessment activities. SCArPA, which has been provided to CMAs, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and other agencies, provides a robust planning framework based on the best up-to-date science, and incorporates sound economic principles.

The project uses biophysical models to predict the environmental impacts of land use and land management changes on properties, and integrates these into a software system that allows data to be used by CMAs to create and implement incentive schemes.

The project also provides a means of developing priorities for natural resource management actions, including actions to improve terrestrial and aquatic



SCArPA Software

biodiversity and salinity. The final product is being trialled by nine of the 13 CMAs in NSW.

Murrumbidgee CMA, for example, has successfully used SCArPA to conduct competitive open tender projects which jointly invested almost \$5 million in native vegetation conservation activities between 2008 and 2010.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy

The NSW Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy (MER Strategy) provides practical protocols for monitoring, assessing and reporting on the condition of, and pressures threatening, natural resources such as soils and rivers. The strategy's resource condition indicators are incorporated into the state of the catchment reports, which will be made available to natural resource managers in 2010–11.

All data collected by the MER Strategy feeds into a user-friendly model that coastal councils use to help them manage estuaries and coastal lakes. This model, known as the Coastal Eutrophication Risk Assessment Tool, predicts what changes will occur in estuaries and coastal lakes as a result of changes in land use. Land and estuary managers and planners in coastal councils need such information to plan development in their areas that allows for growth while minimising the negative effects on estuarine health, or even enhancing such health.

DECCW is developing a new strategy in collaboration with state agencies, CMAs and the Natural Resources Commission, which will cover 2010–2015.

## Native vegetation

### Native Vegetation Act review

A statutory review of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* was completed in December 2009. The review was carried out to determine whether the objectives of the Act remain valid, and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for meeting these objectives. On release of the review report for public comment, 49 submissions were received from a wide range of organisations.

The review found that the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and no fundamental change in the Act's framework is needed. The review report was tabled in Parliament in January 2010.

### Native vegetation reporting

The NSW Annual Report on Native Vegetation is DECCW's comprehensive summary of actions undertaken by private and public land managers to conserve and manage native vegetation. The annual report, which is produced at the end of each calendar year, comprises the Native Vegetation Report Card, the Woody Vegetation Change Report and the Compliance and Enforcement Report Card.

By the end of 2009, more than 456,000 hectares of native vegetation had been conserved or improved across NSW. Around 1,900 hectares were approved to be cleared where environmental values were maintained or improved through mechanisms such as the use of offsets.

Changes in woody vegetation across NSW are identified by comparing satellite imagery. There was a total reduction in the area of woody vegetation in NSW from 2008 to 2009 of 64,000 hectares (or 0.08% of the area of the state). Changes occurred as a result of fire, cropping, and thinning or clearing for pasture, forestry, and rural and major infrastructure.

DECCW received 534 reports of clearing in 2009, all of which were assessed to determine an appropriate regulatory response. Many were identified as being lawful activities, such as routine agricultural management or clearing of regrowth. During 2009, DECCW commenced seven prosecutions and secured 11 convictions regarding breaches of native vegetation legislation. See Chapter 3, 'Prosecutions' under 'Prevent, reduce or mitigate pollution and other adverse environmental impacts'.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Improving the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems

Through the MER Strategy, DECCW is collecting data systematically across almost 200 NSW estuaries, to help meet a State Plan target – that by 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems

The data will show ways in which the condition of estuaries and coastal lakes changes over time, which is crucial information for managers of the land surrounding the estuaries and the estuaries themselves, and will allow a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the estuaries and coastal lakes to be made every three years.

The data will also enable the impact of the main pressures on estuary health to be assessed systematically, and identify what needs to be done to maintain good estuary health or to rehabilitate estuaries that are in poor health.



Canoeing on a coastal estuary in Jervis Bay.

## Native vegetation mapping

In 2009, DECCW developed a Native Vegetation Type Strategy to address gaps and limitations in the available mapping of native vegetation across NSW. The ultimate objective was to complete a native vegetation map for all NSW, using consistent classifications, which could then be stored in a comprehensive and accessible native vegetation database.

In the long term, comprehensive native vegetation mapping will reduce costs for business and for government, and create certainty in environmental assessment, land use planning, monitoring and reporting.

A seamless map will also assist in the delivery of the NSW State Plan's natural resource management targets, support priority setting in natural resource investment, and improve reporting on vegetation change, type, extent and condition.

An Interim Native Vegetation Type Standard was released in January 2010. The standard sets out the scientific processes involved in the gathering, processing and presentation of native vegetation information. The interim standard will be refined in consultation with stakeholders during 2010–11.

Also in 2009–10, DECCW completed a range of mapping projects, including:

- a classification for heathland and associated vegetation in the north coast region
- a vegetation type map for the Wagga Wagga area (1:100,000 scale)
- a major upgrade of the vegetation survey database.

## Statewide high resolution vegetation monitoring

During 2009–10, vegetation change analysis techniques using high-resolution satellite imagery were developed. The SPOT 5 satellite provides considerably higher resolution than the Landsat imagery that has previously been used for detecting vegetation change. SPOT 5 enhances DECCW's ability to detect woody vegetation change in landscapes such as open woodlands, grasslands, and highly modified areas.

Statewide vegetation monitoring has required extensive research and the development of new methods for analysis. This research is being done with the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management and the University of Queensland. The first sets of high-resolution imagery to be analysed were taken during 2007–08 and 2008–09. DECCW is acquiring imagery for 2008–09 and 2009–10 for the next analysis.

## NSW vegetation information system

While some high-quality vegetation information and maps exist, much of the available information is highly variable in its scale, quality and coverage.

DECCW is therefore developing a NSW vegetation information system to be the focal point for the state's vegetation data and information. The system includes establishing effective and integrated systems for the acquisition, maintenance and delivery of vegetation classifications, vegetation plot survey and vegetation mapping.

The NSW vegetation information system is streamlining the state's contribution to a National Vegetation Information System, and is steadily improving reporting to the Australian Government on statewide vegetation information, while also supporting a large range of DECCW programs.

## Private native forestry

From August 2007, harvesting timber in native forests on private land has required approval through development consent or the preparation of a private native forestry property vegetation plan. By June 2010, DECCW had issued 1,281 such plans.

DECCW has also established an audit program to ensure compliance with the arrangements. By the end of June 2010, DECCW had carried out 162 site inspections and audits, leading to the issue of four penalty infringement notices, and nine operations having to undertake corrective action. In most cases, forestry operations were complying well with the legislation.

## Property vegetation plans

The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* established the use of property vegetation plans as a way of setting areas for clearing, using offsets and providing incentives. By 30 June 2010, 1,824 property vegetation plans had been approved, including 1,260 that include incentive payments to farmers to improve or protect native vegetation.

This system has reduced clearing approvals from more than 12,000 hectares in 2005–06 to around 2,640 hectares in 2009–10.

As from April 2009, summaries of property vegetation plans that propose broadscale clearing had to be registered on the land title. This has ensured that agreed conservation benefits and clearing approvals continue to apply to the land, regardless of future changes in ownership.

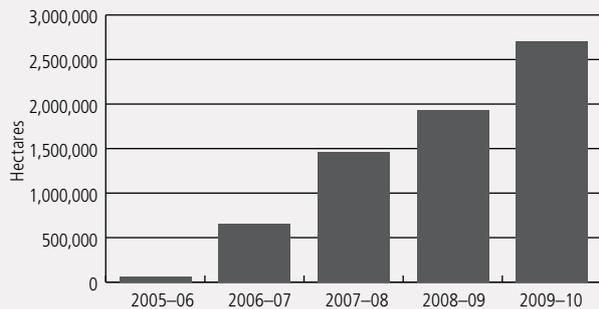
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Land maintained or improved by property vegetation plans

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative total area of land maintained or improved by property vegetation plans (PVPs). A PVP is a voluntary agreement under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* negotiated between a land holder or group of land holders and the local catchment management authority.

This annual data includes offset areas for Clearing PVPs, Incentive PVPs, Conservation PVPs, Invasive Native Scrub PVPs and Thinning PVPs. It does not include clearing statistics or PVPs for private native forestry, which are reported separately.

#### Total area of land maintained or improved by property vegetation plans



**Interpretation:** The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* commenced in December 2005, so the 2005–06 figure only incorporates seven months of data. PVPs were initially taken up slowly by land holders. During 2009–10, about 774,740 hectares were maintained or improved through PVPs. As in previous reporting periods, most land was maintained or improved through Invasive Native Scrub PVPs (about 650,000 hectares). Approximately 124,200 hectares were improved through implementing Incentive or Conservation PVPs, or as offsets for approved clearing.



Photo: J. Lemon, DECCW

# Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation

## Biodiversity conservation

### BioBanking Scheme

The Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking Scheme) provides streamlined biodiversity assessment as part of the development application process, including a rigorous and credible offsetting scheme and opportunities for rural landowners to generate income by managing land for conservation.

Establishing the BioBanking Scheme has included preparing guidance materials, setting up the BioBanking Trust Fund and facilitating the first trades in biodiversity credits. Over 80 private consultants have been accredited as biobanking assessors and over 40 site owners have registered their interest in setting up a biobank site.

The first biobanking agreement was signed in May 2010 (see case study).

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### First biobanking agreement will preserve Cumberland Plain woodland and threatened native animals

The first biobanking agreement was signed in May 2010 to protect 80 hectares of native vegetation on a property south of Camden, on Sydney's outskirts. The St Marys Towers site, which is owned by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, includes 35 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodland and 30 hectares of endangered shale sandstone transition forest. Four threatened species have been recorded on the site – the Cumberland Plain land snail, grey-headed flying-fox, large-eared pied bat and little lorikeet.

The site will be protected by a biobanking agreement on the title of the land, with funds paid into a trust to ensure the land will be managed for conservation in perpetuity. The missionaries will manage the site by removing rubbish, installing new fences, controlling

### Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

To offset impacts on biodiversity that will be caused by the development of growth centres in western Sydney, the NSW Government has created a \$530 million conservation fund. Revenue for this fund will be obtained over the next 30–40 years from a special infrastructure contribution that applies to developments in the growth centres, as well as from general government revenue.

Three quarters of the conservation fund (\$397.5 million) is being used to implement the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. This program, which began in 2008–09, is permanently protecting some of the best remaining bushland in western Sydney and surrounding regions by acquiring land for new reserves and funding agreements with landowners to permanently conserve their land.



Photo: DECCW

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Hon Frank Sartor (left), congratulates the landowners of the St Marys Towers site for managing NSW's first biobanking agreement.

weeds and feral animals, and revegetating land that had previously been used by livestock.

The establishment of this site is a significant conservation outcome in a landscape which is rapidly changing as a result of land clearing and invasive weeds.

In 2009–10, program personnel have:

- constructed four kilometres of fencing round a proposed new reserve at Cranebrook to control illegal access and damage – the fencing will protect 180 hectares of high quality bushland that is home to threatened species such as eastern free-tail bats and Cumberland Plain land snails
- negotiated the first biobanking agreement, in May 2010, at the St Marys Towers site at Douglas Park (see case study).

### New NSW Biodiversity Strategy

DECCW and Industry and Investment NSW are working on a new NSW Biodiversity Strategy to replace the strategy developed in 1999. The new strategy will build on the achievements of the past 10 years and follows the 2009 public exhibition of a discussion paper that canvassed options for biodiversity management in NSW. The new strategy is expected to be exhibited later in 2010.

### Biodiversity management plans

Biodiversity management plans have been completed for Lord Howe Island, the Border Ranges rainforests and the Northern Rivers catchment. All have been adopted by the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth). The Australian Government provided DECCW with \$200,000 to progress the implementation of all three plans in 2009–10. The plans are being implemented through partnerships with Northern Rivers CMA, South East Queensland Catchments, the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, the Lord Howe Island Board and other partner groups.

## Strategic land-use planning for conservation

### Improvements to biodiversity certification

In June 2010, changes were made to the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* to strengthen provisions relating to biodiversity certification in a local government area. Biodiversity certification involves assessing the type and condition of native vegetation present, surveying and evaluating habitat for threatened species, ensuring important habitats are protected and delivering offsets where clearing of habitat is unavoidable. It helps councils and the NSW Department of Planning to strategically plan for biodiversity conservation across the landscape, rather than on a site-by-site basis, at the same time as they plan for new suburbs and associated infrastructure.

The recent changes improve the ways in which biodiversity certification operates, and involve:

- applying certification to land, instead of local environmental plans, to cut administrative processes and clarify the legal controls applying to particular parcels of land
- establishing a scientifically robust assessment to ensure decisions are repeatable and transparent, and meet high environmental standards



Photo: C. Bretherton, DECCW

*This lagoon with its beautiful river redgums will be protected under biodiversity certification of Albury City Council's local environmental plan.*

- expanding the range of conservation measures that can be taken to conserve or enhance the natural environment
- setting stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance.

In November 2009, before the biocertification changes were made, DECCW released a proposal to biodiversity certify Albury City Council's local environmental plan. The proposed certification covers 95% of the Albury local government area and directs development away from significant areas of box-gum woodland and inland grey box woodland, which are endangered ecological communities and provide habitat for threatened fauna including the squirrel glider and woodland bird species.

To offset the removal of some remnant vegetation in development areas, Albury Wodonga Corporation will transfer this high conservation value land to the NSW Government along with funds for managing the land to improve or maintain its biodiversity values.



Photo: K. Ho

*Biodiversity certification will help protect native animals such as diamond pythons.*

## Regional conservation plans

The NSW Department of Planning's regional strategies set the blueprint for sustainable development in regional NSW over the next 25 years. In response, DECCW prepares regional conservation plans to provide biodiversity conservation initiatives and balance the socioeconomic aims of regional strategies.

The Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan, revised during 2009–10, sets out a 25-year program to direct and drive conservation planning and efforts in the lower Hunter Valley. It is a partner document to the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy that sets out government planning priorities and identifies proposed areas of growth.

Draft plans for the far north coast and south coast were exhibited for public comment during the year. These plans identify high value biodiversity assets such as rare and depleted vegetation types, endangered ecological communities, important threatened species habitat, old growth forest and habitat corridors, and analyse their conservation status from a regional perspective. They also identify areas where offsets for urban development may be directed. There were 27 submissions received for the far north coast plan, and 12 received for the south coast plan. The plans are proposed to be finalised later in 2010.

Draft plans for the mid-north coast and central coast regions are also being prepared.

## Threatened species

Many threatened species-related projects, surveys and on-ground works were completed in 2009–10 including:

- supplementing brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) colonies that are on the brink of extinction with captive-bred animals to raise reproductive rates at key sites across the species' distribution
- surveying and monitoring post-release survival rates of spotted tree frogs (*Litoria spenceri*) in the Geehi Valley, since the first captive bred frogs were released in 2005 – a successful breeding season has raised hopes that the program will achieve the longer-term goal of re-establishing the species in Kosciuszko National Park
- attaining a high survival rate when southern corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*) eggs were released into artificial pools. Taronga Zoo successfully bred captive frogs, with most eggs being used to boost wild populations in Kosciuszko National Park.

## NSW Priorities Action Statement

The NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS) is the principal legislative mechanism under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* for promoting recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and abating key threatening processes. The PAS is enabling DECCW and other land and natural resource managers, such as catchment management authorities and local councils, to prioritise actions to maximise protection and recovery of threatened species.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Western Woodlands Way – enhancing connectivity to increase habitat

The threat of climate change has increased the need to examine conservation issues at a broad regional scale. The Western Woodlands Way project is funded by four CMAs – Border Rivers–Gwydir, Namoi, Central West and Lachlan – to prioritise biodiversity investment across the sheep–wheat belt lands in these catchments. The project is using information on the ecological requirements of 40 species of declining mammals, birds and reptiles including the koala, regent honeyeater, brown tree creeper, barking owl and pale-headed snake, to determine priorities for conserving vegetation, revegetating, and creating and improving connectivity.

Revegetation priorities have been analysed with the Ecology Centre at the University of Queensland, using data on habitat requirements and historical distributions of declining species, and reconstructed maps of pre-European distributions of vegetation communities. It was found that a relatively modest network of



Photo: M. Jarman, DECCW

The barking owl is being studied to increase knowledge of ways in which connecting habitat areas can increase the distribution of threatened species.

revegetation sites could increase species' current areas of occupancy by an average of 40% by using only 15% of the landscape, through significantly enhancing landscape connectivity.

The hooded plover recovery program, for example, forms part of the PAS, and significant activities carried out during 2009–10 included fox control, population monitoring and provision of site protection materials at all known nesting locations. Reduced predation from foxes has resulted in more stable plover numbers over the past nine years.

Rupp's boronia (*Boronia ruppiae*) is an endangered plant species with only one known population of less than 300 individuals. Over the past year, actions carried out as part of the PAS included collecting seeds for the NSW Seedbank, in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens. All known plants are being monitored and discussions have been initiated with the Land and Property Management Authority and the Namoi CMA to apply adaptive management techniques to the known habitat to control overgrazing from goats.

## Koala Recovery Plan

The koala is listed as a vulnerable species, with loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitat being the most significant threats these animals face.

The NSW Koala Recovery Plan, released in November 2008, identifies actions to ensure the long-term survival of koalas and provides a framework to address the key threats to their survival. DECCW has committed more than a million dollars to the plan's implementation.

A new National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009–2014 was released in 2009–10 by the Australian Government and signed by relevant states. It complements the NSW recovery plan.

Recovery actions implemented in NSW in 2009–10 included:

- population surveys, with an interim report on surveys conducted in 2007–2009 in the Bermagui/Mumbulla area released in February 2010



Photo: H. McGregor

Captive-bred and released female brush-tailed rock-wallaby (right) getting to know a local male in Warrumbungle NP.

- habitat studies, such as a Gunnedah study that is providing insights into the distances koalas travel in a fragmented landscape and their susceptibility to heat waves
- adoption and review of koala plans of management for Port Stephens, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour, and further research to support future plans of management for the Tweed Shire and koala populations at Woombly and Ashby
- constructing koala fencing, underpasses and overpasses to reduce koala road deaths to almost zero along the Pacific Highway
- translocating koalas affected by the Oxley Highway upgrade, with radio tracking and monitoring to ensure successful re-establishment.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Artificial roosting sites for shorebirds in Towra Point Aquatic Reserve

DECCW, with the support of the Sydney Metropolitan and Southern Rivers CMA, installed two artificial roost structures for shorebirds in Towra Point Aquatic Reserve, through an Australian Government Caring for our Country grant. The two trial structures provide valuable roosting habitat for migratory and non-migratory shorebirds, and are available to birds even in peak high tides. They are built to allow for potential sea level rise in the event of climate change.

Endangered pied oystercatchers are already using the roosts, and migratory shorebirds such as bar-tailed godwits, eastern curlews and whimbrels are expected to use them on their return in October from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds. Construction of another six roosts is planned in the near future.



Photo: DECCW

Pied oystercatcher using the new artificial roosting site at Towra Point Aquatic Reserve.

## Endangered ecological communities

In 2009–10, DECCW, working with the University of Newcastle's Centre for Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration, completed the first year's monitoring of a project studying rehabilitation and revegetation of threatened ecological communities. The project involved establishing four hectares of Lower Hunter spotted gum–ironbark forest and Kurri sand swamp woodland at two sites near Cessnock, in the lower Hunter Valley. The vegetation will be monitored for the next 10–15 years to provide valuable information on the feasibility of restoring endangered ecological communities.

## Establishment of national parks and reserves

The NSW Government establishes new reserves to conserve and protect natural and cultural heritage under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. In 2009–10, 87,187 hectares of land were either reserved or acquired by DECCW under Part 11 of the Act. As at 30 June 2010, 8.4% of NSW or more than 6,04,861 hectares, has been reserved under the Act.

### New reserves

The NSW Government is continuing to add land to the reserve system in line with its National Parks Establishment Plan (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/npestabplan.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/npestabplan.htm)). In 2009–10, eight new reserves were established, totalling 8,704 hectares:

- Capertee National Park (2,800 hectares – see case study)
- Goolawah National Park (534 hectares – see case study)

## ■ CASE STUDY

### New reserves for NSW

New Capertee National Park is the 800th park to be reserved in NSW. It is 15 kilometres north of Capertee township, within a continuous forested corridor that is 70 kilometres long and links to the reserves of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It also includes 700 hectares of critically endangered box-gum grassy woodland.

As it lies at the junction of three bioregions, where many species reach the geographic limits of their distribution, the national park supports high species diversity and provides critical feeding and breeding habitat for threatened woodland birds such as the regent honeyeater and swift parrot.

Its connectivity enables species to migrate and move when faced with the effects of climate change.

Located south of Crescent Head on the NSW north coast, Goolawah national park and regional park will provide protection in perpetuity for 591 hectares of forest ecosystems, rainforests and wetlands that are poorly conserved elsewhere. The new reserves will

- Goolawah Regional Park (57 hectares – see case study)
- Bural Yurrul Nature Reserve (1,341 hectares)
- Clybucca Aboriginal Area (310 hectares)
- Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach) National Park (635 hectares)
- Abercrombie River State Conservation Area (965 hectares)
- Wiaborough Nature Reserve (2,024 hectares).

### Additions to reserves

There is a commitment to consolidate the reserve system by extending reserve boundaries, linking protected areas and buffering reserves from adjoining land uses. Thirty-four areas have been reserved in 2009–10 comprising 29,072 hectares. Notable additions include:

- nine Crown land areas (1,885 hectares) identified in the North East Regional Forest Agreement as additions to existing reserves in north-east NSW
- 17,260 hectares as an addition to Ledknapper Nature Reserve, in the Mulga Lands Bioregion, protecting a large and diverse vegetation community and significant Aboriginal heritage in north-west NSW
- 3,710 hectares as an addition to Carracabundi National Park in a joint initiative with the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Hunter CMA, protecting an important vegetation corridor
- 985 hectares as an addition to Gwydir River Community Conservation Area, which was identified under the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar assessment as Crown land of high conservation value.



Photo: DECCW

*The new Capertee National Park is a haven for native plants and animals.*

also be part of an important regional habitat corridor stretching from Port Macquarie to South West Rocks.

The reserves contain themeda (*Themeda australis*) grassland, an endangered ecological community and remnant littoral rainforest. Thirteen threatened animal species, including birds, koalas and bats, and two threatened plant species, have been recorded on-site.

## River red gum forests

In May 2010, the *National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gum Reservations) Act 2010* was enacted, ensuring the protection of more than 100,000 hectares of river red gum forests, woodlands and wetlands along the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan rivers as national and regional parks (these reservations take effect from 1 July 2010, and so are not counted in the figures quoted above).

The Act also includes a \$97-million management and assistance package to ensure that people and communities whose livelihoods will be affected are supported as they develop new opportunities.

## Other land acquisitions and transfers

In 2009–10, 30 areas totalling 38,427 hectares were acquired through either purchase or transfer to DECCW under Part 11 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* for future addition to the reserve system. Key land acquired in 2009–10 included:

- inland river systems and wetlands
- coastal wetlands and lowlands
- areas with significant Aboriginal cultural heritage
- reserve in-holdings and perimeter additions
- Crown leases with high reservation value.

Land was purchased using funds from several sources, including the NSW Environmental Trust and NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program, and the Australian Government programs Caring for our Country – National Reserve System and Water for the Future. Key purchases in 2009–10 included:

- the 181-hectare former Air Services Australia site at Cranebrook (see 'Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program' under 'Biodiversity conservation')
- the property 'Wyninebah' (6,239 hectares) on the Macquarie River for the proposed new Gingham Nature Reserve, which will connect with Narran Lake Nature Reserve to the north and Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve to the south
- 18,186 hectares of land west of Cobar, adjoining the existing Mt Grenfell Historic Site, to protect important ecosystems and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Other notable lands acquired in 2009–10 but not yet reserved included:

- 32 hectares proposed as an addition to Garawarra State Conservation Area, forming an important forest corridor linking with Royal National Park, and including part of the historic Burgh Track linking Helensburgh Railway Station to the coastal walking track – this will allow DECCW to restore and reopen the track to the public
- 1,290 hectares of land for proposed addition to Kings Plain National Park, east of Inverell, with almost eight kilometres of creek frontage and opportunities for increased tourism
- 745 hectares of land proposed as an addition to Chambigne Nature Reserve, near Grafton, with high conservation and Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

The NSW and Australian governments invested in 2009–10 in improving the health of threatened inland river systems and wetlands in the Murray–Darling Basin. Funding under the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program secured the acquisition of two properties – a major new 4291-hectare purchase west of Moree containing the largest remaining intact wetland on the lower Gwydir River, and 870 hectares that will double the amount of conserved Lachlan River frontage.

DECCW successfully attracted more than \$3.8 million in Australian Government funding under the Caring for our Country – National Reserve System program for the joint purchase of four properties comprising more than 7,100 hectares, which will contribute to some outstanding conservation initiatives in western NSW.

## Wilderness

Wilderness is defined as a large natural area of land that, with its native plant and animal communities, has remained essentially unchanged by modern human activity or can be restored to such a state. DECCW assesses land for wilderness values, either independently or following an external nomination proposal.

In 2009–10, the total area of wilderness in NSW reached almost two million hectares with the gazettal of the Yengo Wilderness. Wilderness now comprises around 30% of NSW parks and reserves, or 2.5% of NSW.

DECCW did not receive any new nominations for wilderness during 2009–10, but continued to assess previous nominations.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Wetlands as part of national parks

The 4,326-hectare property Old Dromana within the Gwydir Wetlands to the west of Moree was purchased by DECCW and the Australian Government in February 2010. This property has a Ramsar-listed wetland of about 600 hectares and is the first public conservation reserve in this area. Significantly, the property also contains remnant marsh club rush, and supports threatened species and large populations of migratory birds.



Photo: DECCW

Old Dromana contains the last significant area of marsh club rush in the Gwydir Wetlands.

## Karst reserves

Abercrombie, Borenore, Jenolan and Wombeyan cave systems contain some of the state's most significant karst features, and are protected in conservation reserves.

The Karst Management Advisory Committee assists DECCW in managing the unique and often fragile features of these reserves. During 2009–10, the committee advised on a range of important documents, planning instruments and proposals, including the:

- draft Jenolan Conservation Management Plan
- draft Cave Access Policy
- *Karst assessment criteria summary paper*
- *Guide to NSW karst and caves*
- *Business case for development of a geodiversity strategy for NSW parks*
- *Speleothem sampling guidelines*
- *Environmental regulatory framework for Jenolan visitor use and services.*

## Restoring degraded areas

### Rehabilitation of former Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme sites

DECCW is remediating many sites in Kosciuszko National Park that were disturbed as part of the scheme. Work conducted during 2009–10 included:

- stabilising and reshaping the Bourkes Gorge Number 1 Spoil Dump, involving stabilising a slope in Bogong Creek and establishing the Cascade Creek drainage line

- rehabilitating Deep Creek Spoil Dump by establishing over 100,000 plants at Jindabyne Valve House, Bourkes Gorge Number 2 Spoil Dump, Geehi Quarry, Tantangara Quarry and Khancoban Tip.

## Blowering Lake foreshores replanting

A joint operation between DECCW and not-for-profit organisation Greenfleet Australia is funding the rehabilitation of about 2,000 hectares of native forest previously cleared for agriculture on the Blowering foreshores in the Snowy Mountains.

Slow natural regeneration of the forest, plus a continual requirement for weed control, has prompted a proposal for more intensive reforestation. To date, about 350 hectares of land have been replanted. New planting of 50 hectares will occur in spring 2010.

## Wildlife management

### Researching and monitoring wildlife in parks

During 2009–10, DECCW continued its research and monitoring programs in national parks and reserves. Some highlights included:

- a November 2009 survey of mallee-fowl mounds in Yathong, Nombinnie and Round Hill nature reserves in central western NSW found 50% more active mounds than in the previous year's survey
- monitoring for the spotted-tailed quoll in the Byadbo Wilderness of Kosciuszko National Park indicated that the animal persists in the southern part of the park, but in other areas there was little evidence of quolls

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Biodiversity survey priorities for reserves in the Sydney basin

The first stage of a biodiversity survey has been completed for reserves in the Sydney basin that cover more than one million hectares, and include areas in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Over the past five years, more than 20 reserves have been surveyed to identify the animals present and to classify and map vegetation communities.

Results of the surveys have found a vast array of threatened species and endangered ecological communities are residing in or visiting the reserves. Over 100,000 new fauna records have been added to the NSW Wildlife Atlas, of which 3,000 relate to more than 50 threatened fauna species.

Almost 500,000 hectares of reserves and adjoining private lands have been mapped so far. Details about the program and the results for individual reserves are available at: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/BiodiversitySurveyPrioritiesProgram.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/BiodiversitySurveyPrioritiesProgram.htm)

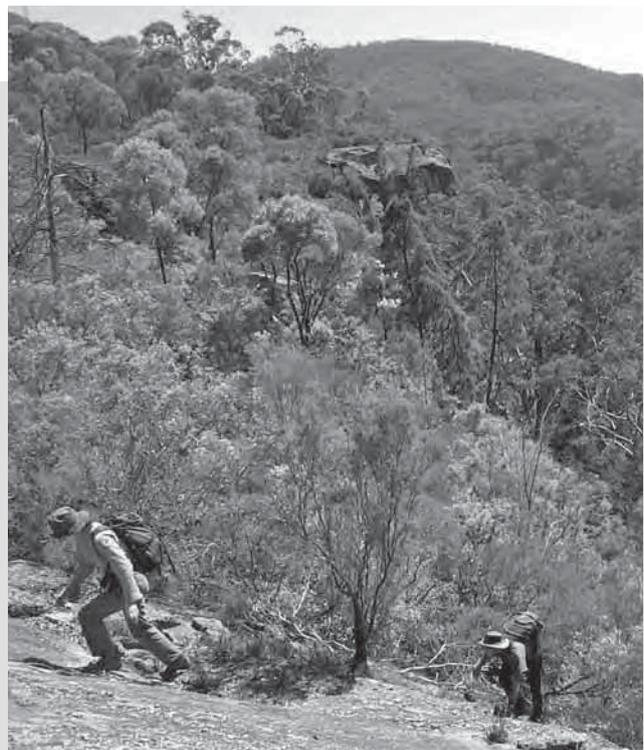


Photo: DECCW

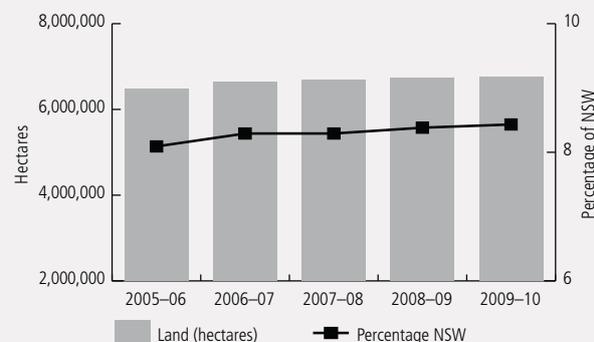
DECCW staff Elizabeth Magarey and George Madani survey on a steep slope in Wollemi National Park.

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

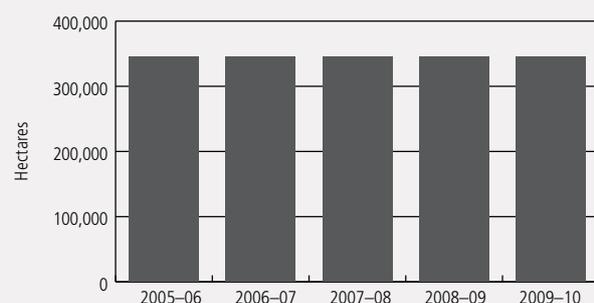
### Land managed by DECCW for conservation

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative area of reserves managed by DECCW (shown in hectares and as a percentage of NSW), and the area in hectares of marine parks managed by DECCW as part of the Marine Parks Authority.

#### Land managed by DECCW for conservation



#### Marine Parks managed by DECCW



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, 38,560 hectares of land were added to the reserve system. Most of these lands were purchased by DECCW with the long-term goal of building a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. As at 30 June 2010, DECCW manages more than 6.7 million hectares of land in NSW, which represents nearly 8.5% of the state's total area. These figures do not include the announced new reserves in the Murray and Murrumbidgee river red gum forests, as these are due to be formally gazetted in July 2010.

At 30 June 2010, approximately 345,100 hectares (34%) of NSW waters were contained in the marine reserve system, including approximately 64,900 hectares (6.5%) in sanctuary zones.

See Appendix 9 for details of DECCW-managed lands and waters.



National parks enable native animals, such as this pink-tongued lizard, to survive.

- monitoring of endangered populations of the broad-toothed rat in sub-alpine areas of Barrington Tops National Park undertaken between February and May 2010 resulted in eight captures for DNA sampling by the CSIRO
- the 7th annual shorebird survey in February 2010, conducted at Port Stephens in collaboration with the Hunter Bird Observers Club, recorded 3,880 birds, including migratory species and vulnerable pied oystercatchers
- surveys of the hooded plover on the south coast recorded 15 fledglings, almost double the numbers of chicks in previous surveys
- ongoing monitoring of snow levels in the Snowy Mountains to study the impacts of climate change showed that the amount of snow has been decreasing, and that snow was thawing significantly earlier in the year – earlier loss of snow patches affects the plant communities that once existed beneath them, and these communities are now being invaded by tall herbfield plants.

### Wildlife management and licensing

DECCW is responsible for protecting wildlife across NSW, including licensing and regulating the sustainable use of wildlife. Around 23,000 native animal keeper, import and export, and other types of wildlife licences are in force as at June 2010. These are now managed on the Government Licensing Service website (see [www.licence.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au/)).

#### New licences issued by category: 2009–10

Interstate import and export	2,113
Scientific research	1,091
Reptile keepers	3,810
Amphibian keepers	304
Mammal keepers	40
Bird keepers	495
Companion animal	91
Fauna dealers	21
Miscellaneous	919
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,884</b>

DECCW has drafted a code of practice for the private keeping of native reptiles. The code sets a range of compulsory standards and optional guidelines, and will include minimum cage sizes. It is being developed with advice from keepers and the pet shop industry.

Other activities during 2009–10 included:

- preparing a draft policy and procedures for the rehabilitation of fauna and new standards for rescue and rehabilitation
- finalising a sustainable management plan for protected and threatened plants in the cut flower industry
- commencing work on a sustainable management plan for the plant industry
- continuing audits of key sectors of the animal keeper's hobby program
- a compliance and enforcement training program for staff to ensure consistent approaches to auditing licensees.

### Kangaroo Management Program

Kangaroos are protected animals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, which means they can only be harmed under the authority of an appropriate licence. DECCW may issue licences for public protection, the mitigation of agricultural damage or commercial purposes.

The commercial harvest of kangaroos in NSW is carried out in accordance with the *NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2007–11*, which aims to conserve viable populations of all kangaroo species across their ranges.

Details of the plan are available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifemanagement/KangarooManagementProgram.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifemanagement/KangarooManagementProgram.htm).

## Marine parks

### Marine park planning

NSW has six marine parks encompassing about 34% of the state's coastal waters. Marine parks are managed using zoning plans that protect representative habitats and areas of high conservation value, and designate where sustainable activities can occur.

Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks, the state's oldest two marine parks, had their zoning plans reviewed during 2008 and 2009. The reviews found that the current zoning plans generally met the objectives of marine park legislation.

However, based on new information from research and monitoring programs and from stakeholder input, opportunities to improve both zoning plans were identified. In April 2010, the new draft zoning plans, the zoning plan review reports and reports on research and monitoring were released and are available on [www.mpa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au).

A review of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park zoning plan commenced in 2009–10.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### New marine research vessel for DECCW

*RV Bombora* is a purpose-built research vessel to be used for marine research throughout NSW waters, including Lord Howe Island. It contains a range of scientific instruments, including a swath acoustic system (which maps the seabed in swaths or sweeps), towed underwater cameras, and oceanographic instruments for sampling the water column.

This technology provides better and higher-resolution bathymetric and seabed habitat information over a much larger area than was previously available. While moving, the vessel can collect information about water temperature, salinity, currents, chlorophyll content and dissolved organic matter. This information can be used to:

- track changes in water quality and dispersal of pollutants
- map marine productivity
- understand the impacts of coastal river outflows on coastal habitats.



Mapping the seabed from the vessel *RV Bombora*.

Photo: D. Stanford, DECCW

The new vessel has significantly increased DECCW's capacity to undertake marine research and monitoring since its maiden voyage in May 2010.

## Marine park and aquatic reserve management

The Marine Parks Authority oversees programs to conserve marine biodiversity, while providing opportunities for sustainable use and enjoyment of marine parks.

Examples of marine park management activities in 2009–10 included:

- progressing Australian Research Council projects worth \$840,000 that are studying the effects of human impacts and invasive species on estuaries in Batemans Marine Park
- adopting the Cape Byron Marine Park Operational Plan
- mapping seabed habitats in Solitary Islands Marine Park
- finalising a policy to help Aboriginal people become involved in planning and managing NSW marine parks, and support the cultural use of fisheries
- installing seagrass-friendly moorings to protect sensitive habitats in Port Stephens–Great Lakes and Jervis Bay marine parks, through projects with the Hunter Central Rivers and Southern Rivers CMAs
- completing a Mooring and Anchoring Policy to balance the protection of marine habitats with the needs of marine park users
- holding a workshop with the non-profit Whales Alive for whale-watching industry operators, so they can share information and experiences on the management and conservation of whales
- conducting marine park *Discovery* tours, such as rocky shore rambles and canoe tours

- giving a series of talks, including shark expert Barry Bruce from the CSIRO describing the movements of great white sharks at Jervis Bay Marine Park
- progressing a primary schools education kit for each marine park, with funding from the Environmental Trust.

## Marine parks and aquatic reserves research

Research and monitoring conducted in 2009–10 was carried out under the Marine Parks Strategic Research Plan 2005–2010. A new five-year plan for 2010–2015 was developed during the year, and will be released for comment later in 2010.

The new plan has been guided by an independent review of marine park science in NSW which found the state's seabed mapping program is probably the best in Australia and praised the excellent scientific work being done (for more information, see [www.mpa.nsw.gov.au/review.html](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au/review.html)).

DECCW, with the Marine Parks Authority, is undertaking specific marine research and monitoring projects.

Examples include:

- examining the impacts of vessel anchoring on soft coral, sponge and seagrass habitats
- continuing with research into coral disease and the potential impacts of divers on reef fauna
- monitoring the distribution and behaviour of dolphins
- assessing and understanding ecological changes in highly disturbed estuaries
- cultural mapping in mainland marine parks.

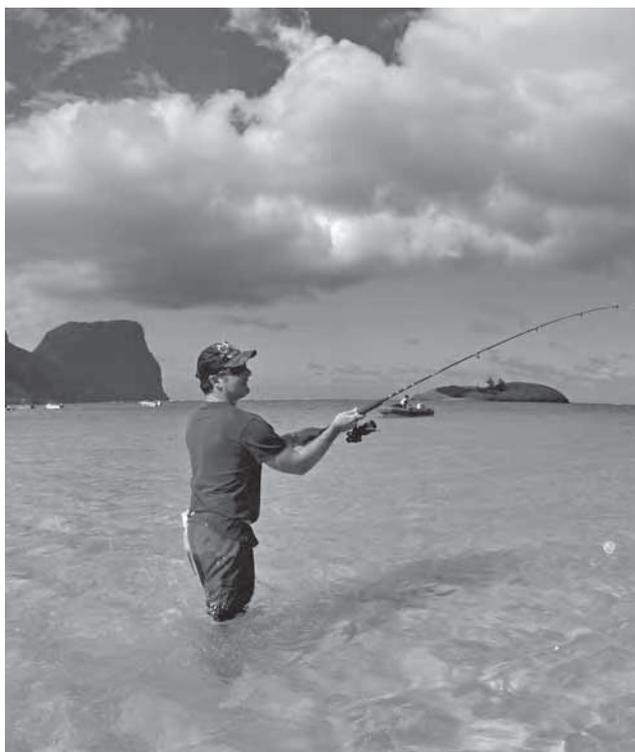


Photo: J. Gilligan

*The review of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park zoning plan will help determine where activities such as beach fishing can occur.*



Photo: J. Gilligan

*In 2009–10, several green turtles were rescued by DECCW staff from various incidents.*

## Marine wildlife management

Each year, DECCW responds to numerous strandings and haul-outs involving whales, seals, dolphins and turtles. In 2009, DECCW recorded 211 marine fauna incidents attended either by DECCW staff or fauna rehabilitation groups. About 60% involved marine reptiles, particularly green turtles.

Sadly, four individuals from three separate species of beaked whales were found dead on NSW beaches in 2009–10. Important skeletal material was provided to the Australian Museum.

The number of whales becoming entangled in ropes, nets and fishing gear increased this year, with 16 humpback whales being entangled compared with 12 in 2008. In response, DECCW has boosted resources for training and equipping staff for the difficult and dangerous work of disentangling whales.

The loss of a southern right whale calf on the NSW south coast as a result of a boat strike was recorded in September 2009, and included in the 2010 Report to the International Whaling Commission.

Throughout 2010, DECCW worked closely with the Australian Government and other states to formulate national policies for cetacean conservation and management. Constant communication with other states resulted in early warning of sick or entangled animals, allowing early interception by teams from other states. The Marine Fauna Advisory Group was formed in 2009 comprising members from universities, Taronga Zoo and animal welfare groups, and provides balanced, high quality advice on policy and procedural guidelines.

*Wild About Whales* (see [www.wildaboutwhales.com.au](http://www.wildaboutwhales.com.au)) was launched in June 2010 to coincide with the official start of the whale watching season. The website offers real-time tracking of whales as they migrate along the NSW coast. The site attracted more than 13,000 visits and more than 7,000 unique users in its first two months of operation.

## Weed control

Reducing the impact of invasive species is a statewide target for natural resource management in the NSW State Plan. Examples of weed control programs DECCW undertook in national parks and reserves during 2009–10 included spraying of serrated tussock and blackberry in Nattai National Park, and removing moth vine and bridal creeper from remote areas of the Nattai and Wollondilly valleys.

## Bitou bush and boneseed

Bitou bush is a widespread weed that impacts on coastal ecosystems. The Bitou Bush and Boneseed Threat Abatement Plan identifies priority sites for control. Control programs are being implemented at 116 sites along the coast of NSW, involving in 2009–10 more than 30 different agencies and numerous community groups, and supported by grants from the Australian Government and the five coastal CMAs. These programs are helping to protect around 90% of the high priority biodiversity identified in the plan as being at risk.

DECCW has prepared the *Monitoring manual for bitou bush control and native plant recovery* (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bitouTAP/monitoring.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bitouTAP/monitoring.htm)), which informs land managers of ways in which they can control and eradicate bitou bush, then restore and rehabilitate degraded land.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Preventing Coolatai grass invasion in box–gum grassy woodland remnants

Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) is an exotic perennial grass introduced to Australia from Africa in the 1890s. Originally introduced as a pasture crop and soil stabiliser, it is an aggressive competitor that rapidly displaces native vegetation and understorey plants, significantly reducing the biodiversity of native plant communities. In north-west NSW, Coolatai grass is widespread along roadsides and stock routes, and has invaded large areas of native grasslands and woodlands, including in national parks and reserves.

Of particular concern is its invasion into remnants of endangered ecological communities such as white box–yellow box–Blakely's red gum grassy woodland, inland grey box woodland and fuzzy box on alluvial soils.

To address this threat, DECCW, with funding assistance from the Australian Government, has been assessing the impact of Coolatai grass on the diversity of native groundcover species in remnants of woodland in the upper Namoi region, and has successfully prevented



*Spraying Coolatai grass with herbicide.*

Photo: DECCW

it from invading three high-conservation areas by spraying it with herbicides. The information gained is being used to identify and encourage best-practice Coolatai grass control programs that incorporate measures to quarantine and prevent the spread of the grass into high-conservation value remnants of white box–yellow box–Blakely's red gum grassy woodland.



Photo: J. Evans

Weed control has enabled threatened native species, such as this spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), to thrive in New England National Park.

### Orange hawkweed

The first coordinated orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) eradication program was conducted in Kosciuszko National Park in 2009–10. The invasive threat of this weed is evident from its history in both the United States and New Zealand, where research has identified that it inhibits the growth of other grassland species.

Volunteers, contractors and staff surveyed, mapped and treated orange hawkweed. Fifty-one new sites were identified for control during 2009–10.

### Restoration work in New England National Park

Around 274 hectares of land added to New England National Park adjacent to the Upper Bellinger River are being restored to enable lowland rainforest and moist eucalypt forest to thrive. Northern Rivers CMA provided \$30,000 for the restoration project, which will run over two years.

Over the past 12 months, infestations of blackberry, lantana, privet, briar rose, silver leaf *Desmodium*, cherry guava, loquat and vine weeds have been controlled. All priority weeds have been photographed from the air and mapped. All significant and sensitive areas, such as areas around heritage buildings, riparian zones and areas dominated by native species, are being restored using bush regeneration techniques.

### Other widespread weeds

DECCW has developed a *National plan to protect environmental assets from lantana* (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/lantanaplan/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/lantanaplan/)) in collaboration with the National Lantana Management Group and Biosecurity Queensland.

DECCW has also been working with Industry and Investment NSW and the 13 CMAs to identify regional widespread weed control priorities (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cmaweeds/index](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cmaweeds/index)). The final report to each CMA will be completed in late 2010. This process allows resources to be allocated to sites where biodiversity benefits are likely to be greatest.

### Biosecurity

Many introduced pest species are widely established in NSW and their complete eradication is rarely practicable. Control efforts must therefore be concentrated in areas where they will be of greatest benefit.

The most cost-effective way to manage invasive species is to prevent the introduction of, or respond quickly to, any new incursions. In April 2010, a new incursion of an exotic fungus, myrtle rust (*Uredo rangelii*) was detected on the Somersby Plateau on the Central Coast. This outbreak was the first report of this rust in Australia. As of early June 2010 it had been detected only on three species: *Agonis flexuosa*, turpentine and bottlebrush in five private nurseries. However, its introduction may have serious consequences for other native flora as well as forestry, the florist industry, the nursery industry and home gardens, if it becomes established.

Accordingly, a nationally coordinated response program was implemented as soon as the rust was detected. This program is being led by Industry and Investment NSW, and DECCW is a key partner.

In March 2010, DECCW surveyed the Goodwood Island wharf area on the Clarence River near Iluka to confirm that a colony of yellow crazy ants, first detected in 2004, had been eradicated. Goodwood Island wharf provides shipping supplies to Norfolk and Lord Howe Island. This successful eradication program prevented the further spread of the yellow crazy ant to these islands.

### Education and awareness relating to invasive species

DECCW continues to work with NSW Department of Education and Training and Industry and Investment NSW to raise public awareness and to help the community combat weed problems.

*Weeds Attack!* is an interactive, computer-based learning resource that teaches school students about weeds through games and challenges. The resource is available on [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/schools](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/schools).

*NSW: No Space 4 Weeds* is a statewide community campaign to raise awareness of the impact of weeds and highlight the benefits of preventing weeds spreading. It outlines simple actions people can take, such as not dumping garden waste and planting non-invasive garden plants.

## Pest animal control

Pest animal control is a responsibility of all landowners in NSW. DECCW, as manager of around 8.5% of the state, relies on cooperative management of pests with other public and private landowners.

### Wild dogs

Because wild dogs, including dingoes, can cause significant losses to livestock, DECCW has continued to undertake a large number of wild dog control programs during 2009–10, wherever possible in collaboration with district livestock health and pest management authorities and local wild dog associations and cooperatives. Control methods vary but include aerial and ground baiting, trapping, shooting and exclusion fencing. Major emphasis has been given to the following areas:

- Kosciuszko National Park
- far south coast – in the past 12 months, only 14 sheep have been reported as having been killed by wild dogs
- Sturt National Park – DECCW will respond within 36 hours from the national parks office at Tibooburra if there is a report of wild dogs attacking livestock
- Taralga/Wollondilly area
- Turill–Mudgee–Rylstone
- Hunter and mid-coast
- Macleay and Hastings areas
- Dorrigo Plateau – DECCW has also funded repairs and upgrades of the wild dog fence along the western boundary of Cathedral Rock National Park, which now provides a continuous barrier from Guyra Road to the Waterfall Way
- Coffs Coast area
- Northern Rivers – DECCW in partnership with the North Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority has developed a public information brochure entitled *Wild dog management* in the Northern Rivers to outline land holders' responsibilities in managing wild dogs, and ways in which the authority can assist
- Northern Tablelands – in the Armidale area, DECCW has provided fencing materials to repair more than ten kilometres of the barrier fence bordering Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, and in the Walcha area, DECCW provided a new electric fence energiser and other fencing materials to support local land holders
- Bourke area.

### Foxes

The introduction of foxes into Australia in the 1870s has been linked to severe declines and extinctions of medium-sized ground-dwelling and semi-arboreal mammals, ground-nesting birds and freshwater turtles. Foxes are now widespread across the Australian mainland.

Although eradication is not possible in the immediate future, under the NSW Fox Threat Abatement Plan, initiated in 2001, fox control has been established at more than 50 priority sites across nearly one million hectares of public and private lands. Monitoring programs measure the responses of targeted threatened species, other native fauna and foxes to fox control at these sites.

A draft revised threat abatement plan was prepared in 2009–10 and is expected to be released in 2010–11.



Photo: S. Chen, DECCW

DECCW ranger Rob Hunt setting up an M-44 ejector to help control wild dogs and foxes in national parks.

### Feral goats

DECCW has successfully completed a Natural Heritage Trust-funded project based in western NSW. The results show that restricting access to artificial water sources can significantly reduce goat numbers, and increase the migration of goats into a controlled area, where they can be managed.

To measure feral herbivore populations in national parks in western NSW, DECCW conducted aerial surveys at Toorale, Gundabooka, Booligal and Willandra national parks in 2009–10. Findings from the surveys are contributing to a collaborative project with Industry and Investment NSW and Western CMA to evaluate feral goat populations and trends across western NSW.

Two aerial culling operations were completed in winter in Nattai National Park resulting in the culling of around 200 goats. In the Northern Plains region, more than 2,500 goats were culled. In far west NSW, more than 45,000 goats were removed from Paroo Darling, Mutawintji, Gundabooka and Mungo national parks, mainly using contract mustering.

## Wild horse management

Through the Horse Management Plan for Kosciuszko National Park, horses continue to be removed from key locations with high conservation significance, and from areas such as roads where they are a risk to public safety. Aerial surveys in 2009 across the Australian Alps reserves in NSW and Victoria determined that there are more than 7,500 horses in that area, their numbers having increased by 22% since the 2003 bushfires.

In 2009–10, DECCW in conjunction with horse interest groups and the RSPCA humanely trapped and removed more than 470 horses from Guy Fawkes River National Park in northern NSW. Most horses have been made available to horse interest groups.

## Fire management

DECCW coordinates fire fighting operations with the NSW Rural Fire Service, Forests NSW, the Sydney Catchment Authority and NSW Fire Brigades. DECCW is a member of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council.

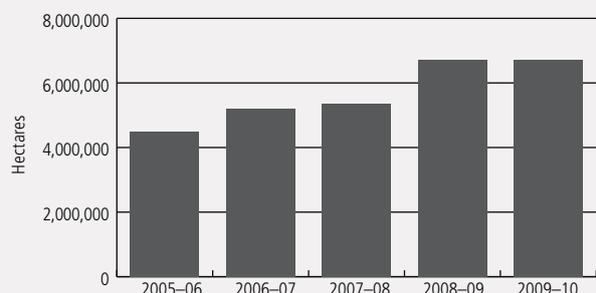
Through these cooperative arrangements, DECCW contributes to district bushfire management plans and develops reserve fire management strategies (see performance indicator) for all fire-prone parks and reserves.

### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Reserves covered by an adopted fire management strategy

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative area of the reserve system covered by fire management strategies adopted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. DECCW works with local bushfire management committees across the state to ensure that its strategies in parks are compatible with each district's bushfire management plan.

#### Area of reserve system covered by an adopted fire management strategy



**Interpretation:** In recent years, DECCW has prioritised the development of fire management strategies for national parks and reserves, resulting in finalised fire management strategies covering around 6.7 million hectares or 100% of parks and reserves where a fire management strategy is required. However, this figure does not include about 40 recently established reserves that strategies are being prepared for.

In 2009–10, excellent weather conditions for hazard reduction burning allowed DECCW to undertake prescribed burning on more than 93,000 hectares of parks and reserves. This was more than 60% of the hazard reduction burning carried out by all fire agencies across NSW, and represented more than double the annual average over the previous five years (see table).

#### Prescribed burns conducted over the past five years on DECCW-managed lands

Fire year	Number of burns	Total hectares treated
2005–06	162	27,400
2006–07	76	23,718
2007–08	157	48,514
2008–09	168	59,202
2009–10	269	93,117

DECCW also treated more than 5,500 hectares on lands next to parks, while hazard reduction through mechanical means such as slashing was carried out on over 1,600 hectares of parks. More than 9,000 kilometres of DECCW fire trails were maintained in 2009–10.

Wildfires in DECCW parks and reserves in 2009–10 accounted for only 5.7% of the total number of wildfire incidents in NSW. Approximately 120,000 hectares of DECCW land were burnt.

During November and December 2009, significant wildfire activity was recorded in the north coast, Northern Tablelands and plains, and Blue Mountains areas. Most of these fires were caused by lightning.

DECCW fire fighters assisted with 105 fires in areas outside reserves during the year. A tragic incident involving the crash of a helicopter in the Dorrigo area during these suppression efforts resulted in the death of one of DECCW's valued fire fighters, Aaron Harber.

DECCW deployed five fire fighting personnel to British Columbia during forest fire emergencies in Canada during July 2009. DECCW personnel formed part of a larger joint ANZ task force sent to assist the suppression efforts.

#### Wildfires on DECCW-managed lands

Fire year	Number of wildfires	Total hectares
2005–06	202	26,695
2006–07	372	254,727
2007–08	160	43,726
2008–09	166	21,745
2009–10	327	121,941

## Origin and movement of wildfires affecting parks and reserves in 2009–10

Fire origin	Fire movement	Number of fires	Percentage of NSW fires on DECC lands
On-park	Controlled on-park	216	3.6%
On-park	Moved off-park	33	0.6%
Off-park	Moved on-park	88	1.5%

DECCW is committed to rehabilitating park lands after fire. During 2009–10, measures to ensure that disturbed areas were given support to recover included:

- using fire suppression strategies with minimum environmental impact
- rescuing wildlife with the assistance of volunteer groups such as the Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES)
- rehabilitating temporary fire control lines comprising temporary bulldozer trails and hand-constructed trails and fire breaks
- removing dangerous tree limbs and trees from visitor areas
- implementing targeted weed and feral animal control after fires.

## Fire research

DECCW researches the ways in which native flora and fauna respond to fire, and how to minimise extinction risks for species sensitive to particular patterns of fire, while balancing this with the need to protect life and property. Over the past year, DECCW research included finding out about:

- the impact of fires on tree hollows and associated arboreal fauna
- the impact of fire frequency on native mammals
- the impacts of fire on various threatened plants
- ways in which fire size can affect the post-fire persistence of certain plants
- the role of fire in setting the balance between cypress pines and eucalypts in the woodlands of western NSW.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Fire success in the Blue Mountains

During the spring and summer of 2009–10, 63 fires were recorded in the parks and reserves of the Blue Mountains, most of which (89%) were caused by lightning.

Reserves in this region include remote and difficult terrain as well as bushland directly adjoining urban areas. Utilising DECCW's remote area fire fighting teams who are skilled in dry fire fighting techniques and fire aviation, 94% of these fires were successfully controlled in park lands before they could spread to any other land.

Overall only 9,000 hectares were burnt in the Blue Mountains this year, with 62% of fires being contained in 10 hectares of land or less. The largest fire, in Wollemi National Park, was contained in the park but affected 3,700 hectares of land.

DECCW fire fighters also assisted with 11 fires on other lands in the Blue Mountains region.



Photo: DECCW

*Using fire aviation in remote and difficult terrain in the Blue Mountains.*



Photo: M. Jarman, DECCW

# Contribute to sustainable visitation and tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves

## Sustainable visitation and tourism

### Amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

In June 2010, the *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Visitors and Tourists) Act 2010* was passed by the NSW Parliament and will be proclaimed on 1 October 2010.

The legislation implements several recommendations of the 2008 Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks – see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parks/tourismtaskforce.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parks/tourismtaskforce.htm).

The amendments passed by Parliament aim to:

- clarify, without materially broadening, the types of activities and visitor facilities allowed in national parks
- constrain the scale of new accommodation in parks and, for the first time, rule out developments such as major resorts, rifle ranges and large sporting complexes
- strengthen environmental checks and balances by introducing new sustainability measures, requiring that any leasing and licensing proposals in national parks be consistent with the natural and cultural values of the land
- increase public scrutiny of leasing and licensing arrangements by providing more opportunities for the public to comment on what happens in their local parks
- provide greater safety and access by permitting licensed tour operators to lead small groups into remote and spectacular areas.

The changes bring NSW into line with other significant ecotourism destinations, including New Zealand and Africa, benefit rural and regional economies and boost local employment opportunities.

### Park visitation management

Under a NSW State Plan target, DECCW is working to increase visits to parks and reserves by 20% by 2016 through developing programs that encourage an appreciation of parks and nature, and by providing access to recreational opportunities.

Using a new and improved method of telephone surveying, it was estimated that NSW national parks received 38 million visits in 2008. While this is considerably higher than previous estimates, it is also thought that

promotional work to encourage visitation has played a role. Counters located on 17 key walking tracks in the Blue Mountains calculated 907,240 people using the tracks in 2009–10 – an increase of 7% from the previous year.

Research exploring the demand for outdoor nature-based recreation across the state was completed in 2009–10. The study examined recreational use and expectations in greater Sydney; on the north coast, northern tablelands, southern tablelands and south coast; and in western NSW. Detailed results are available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/demandforoutdoorrecreation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/demandforoutdoorrecreation.htm).

### Parks Eco Pass

DECCW licenses recreational and tour operators to conduct a large range of activities in parks, including sightseeing, bushwalking, horse riding, mountaineering, surfing and kayaking, and cultural, educational and eco tours.

Parks Eco Pass is the new licensing system launched in 1 July 2009 for recreational and tour operators. It provides a streamlined, statewide licensing system that will support the growth of nature- and cultural-based recreation and tourism, while better ensuring the sustainable use of NSW parks and reserves. By June 2010, DECCW had received 158 applications through Parks Eco Pass and issued 104 licences.

### Promoting our parks

A marketing and communications plan was developed in 2009–10 for 2010–2014. New guidelines to strengthen the consistency of messaging and presentation across all national parks have been developed, and public awareness of DECCW as a conservation agency offering a wide range of nature and cultural experiences has been increased through development of the DECCW website.

Two statewide online promotional campaigns were launched in the first half of 2010. *Wild, Wild World* (see [www.wildwildworld.com.au](http://www.wildwildworld.com.au)) celebrates the International Year of Biodiversity and promotes statewide nature tours and activities. The site received more than 5,300 visits by 3,700 different users in its first three months of operation.

*Wild About Whales* (see [www.wildaboutwhales.com.au](http://www.wildaboutwhales.com.au)) was launched in June 2010 to coincide with the official start of the whale watching season.

Events held in national parks included the inaugural Sydney Harbour Island Hopping, a key event in the Crave Sydney program in October. Island Hopping attracted more than 6,000 visitors to Fort Denison, Clark Island, Shark Island and Garden Island. Surveys showed more than half of the visitors had not been to a harbour island before.



Photo: D. Boud

*Island Hopping, held in October 2009, proved to be a very popular event.*

A public relations campaign in 2009–10 meant around 450 articles and accounts were generated across print, radio, television and online channels. The email newsletters *Explore* and *Naturescapes* kept visitors updated on news, events and highlights (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/naturescapes](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/naturescapes)).

Blue Mountains National Park celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 2009. A highlight was a moonlit walk into Leura Forest run by DECCW. Other celebrations included the Golden Gumtree Postal Run that delivered a school education program to some 1,200 students at 16 mountain schools.

## National Landscapes in the southern ranges

The National Landscapes program is a partnership between Tourism Australia and Parks Australia, developed to identify and promote up to 20 of Australia's best natural and cultural landscapes. The program aims to achieve conservation, social and economic benefits for Australia through promoting nature-based tourism experiences.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Upgrading Burragorang lookout

Upgraded facilities were completed at the popular Burragorang lookout, in Burragorang State Conservation Area, including a new accessible viewing platform, three new barbecues strategically located throughout the precinct, new picnic shelters, upgrades to tables and seating, updated visitor information signs, and renovation of the toilet amenities, including better accessibility.

The success of the project has been reflected in positive comments and feedback received from visitors and the local community.

A Tourism Masterplan for the Australian Alps National Landscape was launched in April 2010 by the Australian Government (see [www.tourism.australia.com/en-au/marketing/5651\\_national-landscapes-program.aspx](http://www.tourism.australia.com/en-au/marketing/5651_national-landscapes-program.aspx)). DECCW is a member of the Steering Committee promoting the Australian Alps.

## Upgrading visitor facilities

Examples of major works in progress or completed in 2009–10 include:

- continuing the upgrade of the Grand High Tops walking track in the Warrumbungle National Park
- installing shelters, barbecue facilities, toilets and a walking track to the Sculptures in the Scrub installation at Dandry Gorge in the Pilliga region
- upgrading one of the three cabins at Dawsons Spring in Mt Kaputar National Park to improve access for people with a disability
- upgrading campgrounds in northern Kosciuszko National Park where horses are permitted, including Long Plain, Old Camp, Ghost Gully and Wares Yards
- continuing work on the Mount Stillwell Walking Track in Kosciuszko National Park, with the stone paving and crushed granite track now extending from Charlotte Pass vehicle turning circle to the top of Charlotte Pass chairlift
- completing the Thredbo Valley track works from Bullocks Flat to the Diggings picnic area
- completing the two-year project to re-light the South Glory Cave at Yarragobilly Caves in Kosciuszko National Park and install new hand rails, security cameras, emergency phones and visitor counters
- upgrading tracks in the World Heritage-listed Wollumbin, Nightcap and Border Ranges national parks, with funding from the federal Jobs Fund
- completing a major upgrade of the Minnamurra Rainforest Visitor Centre, café and boardwalk
- restoring sections of the Grand Canyon Walking Track, near Blackheath .



Photo: DECCW

*The upgraded Burragorang lookout.*

## Leasing and property management

DECCW manages a large portfolio of commercial property and leases that are used to enhance facilities and services for park visitors. During 2009–10, revenue from all DECCW property and leases was about \$23 million.

Highlights from 2009–10 included:

- commencing an ongoing accommodation compliance program during the 2009 ski season to better monitor compliance with the terms of leases
- continuing to implement the IPART Report on Crown Land Communication Tower Sites, which is improving rental returns and formalising occupancies for telecommunication and broadcasting facilities
- finalising lease arrangements for the first high ropes adventure course in Blue Gum Hills Regional Park
- introducing market-based rents for, and improving the environmental performance of, the marina and public facilities at Akuna Bay, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, pending a comprehensive environmental assessment
- winning New Tourism Development awards for the unique accommodation at Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse in Myall Lakes National Park.

## Discovery program

The *National Parks Discovery – Walks Talks and Tours* program provides community education and interpretative activities for visitors and school groups. Discovery activities during the year employed local people with relevant experience and included lighthouse tours, wildflower walks, whale watching, community open days, bird watching, tree planting, spotlighting, snorkelling and bike riding.

The *Discovery* program was themed 'Starry Starry Night' in 2009 in recognition of the International Year of Astronomy. In 2010, the program has been themed around 'Wild Wild World', to acknowledge the International Year of Biodiversity. New and revitalised tours and activities have been developed consistent with these themes, and have been very popular.

In southern Sydney, 286 activities were conducted during 2009–10. In addition, 98 Aboriginal cultural activities and 20 'International Year of Biodiversity' activities were conducted.

*Discovery* in the Blue Mountains enjoyed a 34% increase from the previous year's participation, with more than half of this year's 11,581 participants joining programs led by Blue Mountains Aboriginal Discovery Guides.

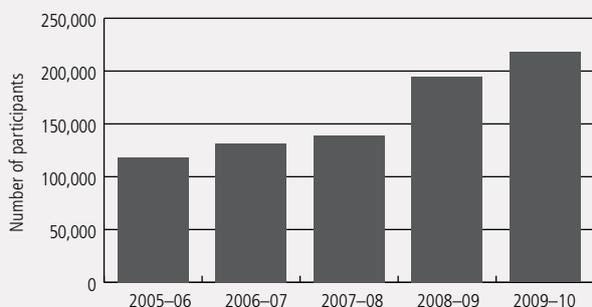
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### The National Parks *Discovery – Walks, Talks and Tours* education program

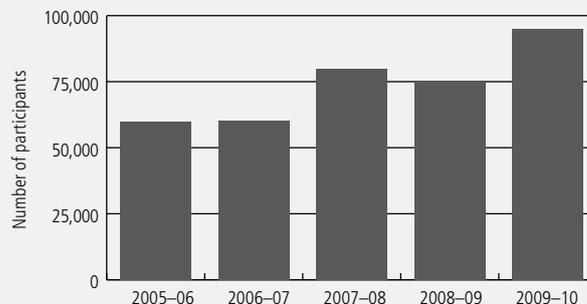
**Definition:** This indicator measures the total number of participants in all *Discovery – Walks Talks and Tours* education program activities. It also indicates the percentage of a surveyed sample of participants satisfied with their experience. DECCW surveys at least 10% of participants in each regional program over the year.

*Discovery for Schools* is conducted in regions that have the required demand and suitably skilled staff to deliver school education activities. It includes providing key syllabus and curriculum requirements. Activities may comprise school excursions to national parks or outreach programs in classrooms.

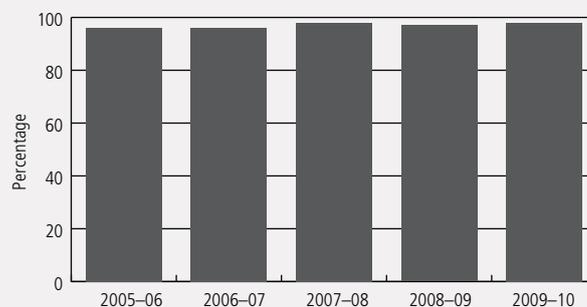
#### Total number of participants in *Discovery – Walks Talks and Tours* education programs



#### Participants in *Discovery for Schools* education programs



#### Percentage of participants satisfied with *Discovery* education programs



**Interpretation:** *Discovery – Walks, Talks and Tours* education programs recorded a strong 12% growth during the year, with 218,009 participants. The increase was largely due to the commencement of new activities, including popular *Discovery* tours of the Cape Byron Lighthouse Museum, which attracted over 15,000 participants during the year, as well as the continued growth of the *Discovery for Schools* program.

At Ben Boyd National Park on the far south coast, DECCW conducted tours to the national park for passengers of two cruise ships visiting Eden. Passengers from a German cruise ship were led by a German-speaking Discovery Coordinator.



Photo: M. Van Ewijk

*Finding out about the coastal environment through Discovery.*

### **Discovery for Schools**

This program supports nine casual Discovery Rangers, a part-time Aboriginal Discovery Ranger and a casual Aboriginal Discovery Ranger.

Across the Sydney area, 364 programs were delivered to 12,364 students.

In northern NSW, over 300 programs were delivered to more than 25,000 students, focusing on Aboriginal culture, cane toads, and living with wildlife.

## **Volunteer participation and partnerships**

In 2009–10, volunteers contributed significantly to conservation and public appreciation of national parks. It is estimated that each year around 4,000 volunteers contribute more than 177,000 volunteer hours to weed and fire control, conservation works, threatened species programs and community education.

In 2009–10, DECCW continued its partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), engaging volunteers both from Australia and overseas for more than 346 volunteer days for planting, weed removal and repairing walking tracks.

The successful volunteer tourism program at Montague Island involving CVA and Charles Sturt University continued, while CVA also launched a new five-day volunteer program for Sydney Harbour National Park where volunteers regenerated bushland during the day and spent nights at the historic Governor's Cottage at Middle Head.

Corporate volunteering has continued to develop in Sydney Harbour National Park and Lane Cove National Park.

In 2010, DECCW rolled out a new volunteering policy to support and encourage volunteering across the agency. Training in volunteer management was also conducted for DECCW staff.

## **■ CASE STUDY**

### **Protecting the Mogareeka little tern breeding colony**

Volunteers on the far south coast are celebrating another season of monitoring and protecting the Mogareeka little tern breeding colony. The colony of threatened birds successfully raised 17 chicks this year, despite a challenging time with flooding, high seas and disturbances from domestic dogs.

Bega Valley Shire Council rangers and many volunteers have been involved with monitoring the birds and talking with local beach users, which have been vital for the survival of the nests. There have been reports of 107 little terns fledging on the south coast this season, with around 70 fledglings at Lake Conjola.



Photo: J. Dunn, DECCW

*Chick at the Mogareeka little tern breeding colony.*



Photo: M. Jarman, DECCW

## Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands

Building a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system to protect natural and cultural heritage in NSW ensures such heritage is conserved. Protected areas on private and other public lands can support protected areas, particularly where ecosystems are poorly represented in national parks and reserves.

### National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is constituted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to advise the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment on a range of issues, including the management of parks and reserves, and the protection of wildlife, conservation agreements and wilderness areas. The council may have up to 19 members, with qualifications required of each member as set out in the Act. Four meetings are held each year. The council's work is also carried out through subcommittees.

The council has a statutory role in reviewing plans of management for parks and reserves (see 'Plans of management' section). During 2009–10, the council considered and made recommendations on 35 draft plans of management covering 46 parks and reserves. Significant

plans included those for Glenrock State Conservation Area, Macquarie Nature Reserve, Jervis Bay National Park and Woollamia Nature Reserve. The council was also consulted on amendments to the plan for Cape Byron State Conservation Area.

The council also commented on park planning initiatives, the Game and Feral Animal Control Bill, managing water in parks and DECCW's plans to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

### Park Management Program

DECCW's Park Management Program aims to continually improve systems, policies and procedures to support park managers. In 2009–10, DECCW:

- commenced initiatives to improve communication between park management staff, including information sessions using video conferencing technology to reach regional locations
- developed new specifications for volunteer management, planning information systems, a pests and weeds information system and a system for managing section 121 'occupier' wildlife licences
- refined processes for standardising regional and local operations plans.



Photo: SC Photography

*The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. Standing left to right: Lynne Moyce, Alice Prudhoe, Nick Jacomas, Sally Barnes, Ken Prendergast (Deputy Chair), Suzanne Jones, Michael Dunlop, Glenda Chalker, Rod Young, Alison Verwey, Ian McKenzie. Seated left to right: Bruce Hayllar, Jane Judd (Chair), Anne Reeves, Ronnie Harding, Janet Hayes. Absent: George McKay.*

## Plans of management

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, a plan of management must be prepared for each terrestrial park and reserve. These plans are statutory documents that set out conservation values, management goals, priorities for managing weeds, pests and fire, access arrangements, recreational opportunities, visitor facilities, procedures for neighbour relations, and works to be carried out.

In 2009–10, 22 plans covering 33 parks and reserves across 80,793 hectares were formally endorsed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. These included plans for Bangadilly National Park, Werboldera State Conservation Area, Jubullum Flat Camp Aboriginal Area, Mullion Range State Conservation Area and Giralang Nature Reserve. A further 17 draft plans covering 32 parks and reserves were placed on exhibition for public comment during the year.

Regional operations plans are prepared each year to ensure that the actions and strategies in plans of management are implemented in a systematic and prioritised way.

To help maintain these assets, DECCW introduced a statewide asset maintenance system (known as the AMS) in 2009–10. Functions of the AMS are to enable a comprehensive inventory of assets to be maintained, schedule maintenance activities and analyse costs.

For example, the AMS contains detailed information on 33,000 signs, 775 picnic areas with 2,560 barbecues and 4,150 picnic tables and seats, and 625 viewing platforms and lookouts. It also shows there are 25.6 kilometres of pedestrian bridges and elevated walkways, 52 kilometres of retaining and sea walls, 593 vehicle bridges (with a combined length of 16 kilometres) and 38,000 kilometres of roads and trails.

DECCW's park management business areas began adopting this major new system in November 2009. DECCW has been working on further data quality review, back-up training and the development of 'cyclic maintenance plans' for priority assets including roads and high-risk structures.

## Managing historic heritage

DECCW manages many historic heritage sites across NSW parks and reserves. Highlights in 2009–10 included:

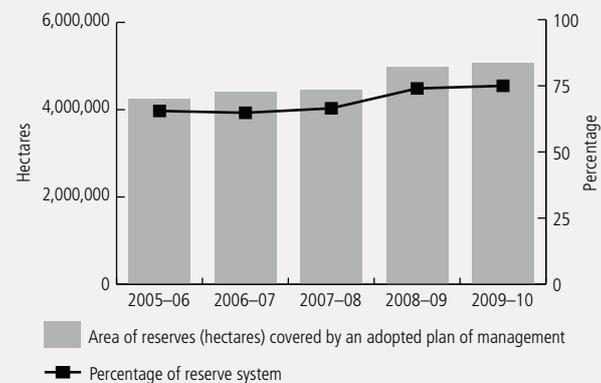
- completing 3D modelling of the historic Innes Ruins near Port Macquarie, in June 2009 – this exercise is thought to be the first use of 3D modelling technology in NSW, and will enable DECCW to more effectively monitor the condition of the ruins
- continuing to rebuild iconic alpine huts burnt by wildfires in 2003, with O'Keefe's Hut in the Jagungal Wilderness completed in 2009, Sawyers Rest House and Brooks Hut completed in March 2010, the Pretty Plain hut being re-opened in March 2010, and the Dr Forbes Hut being re-opened in May 2010
- completing the first stage of refurbishment of the 1890 Kiandra Courthouse in Kosciuszko National Park in May 2010
- continuing restoration of the Officers Mess and commencing work on the Training Farm Dormitories in Scheyville National Park
- finalising planning documents for the refurbishment of a further accommodation section of the historic Yarrangobilly Caves House (constructed in 1917)
- completing significant works at Currango Homestead, with all historic buildings painted, all floor-coverings replaced in key buildings, and a walking track interpretation booklet and visitor guide being printed
- completing conservation works on Bakers Cottage, in Lane Cove National Park, including stabilising the building from ground subsidence, and replacing windows and doors
- completing refurbishment of lighthouses in northern NSW
- commencing a two-year stonework program to conserve the granite guard towers and front-range buildings at Trial Bay Gaol, and to upgrade interpretative facilities

### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Adopted plans of management for the reserve system

**Definition:** This indicator measures the area and percentage of the reserve system managed by DECCW which is covered by an adopted plan of management.

**Area and percentage of reserve system covered by an adopted plan of management**



**Interpretation:** As at 30 June 2010, there were 292 adopted plans covering 414 parks and reserves. In total, more than 5 million hectares are now covered by an adopted plan of management, representing over 75% of the reserve system.

Parks with no adopted plan of management are managed under the principles set out in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and in accordance with DECCW policy before a plan of management is adopted.

## Park asset maintenance

DECCW's assets in national parks and reserves include land and buildings, plant and equipment, visitor facilities, and infrastructure such as roads, signs, bridges, car parks, fences and pipelines (an overall summary of assets is provided in Appendix 19).

- developing a DECCW Reconstruction Policy to guide future reconstruction, re-creation or rebuilding of heritage structures and sites, to be finalised in 2010–11
- commencing development of a DECCW Adaptive Re-use of Heritage Places Policy, to be finalised in 2010–11.

## Cultural and historic heritage in the landscape

DECCW conducts high-level research to assist staff and the public to better understand and manage cultural and historic heritage.

In 2009–10, DECCW completed *Cultural landscapes: a practical guide for park management*, which aims to assist park managers in managing cultural heritage places and landscapes in NSW parks, and in engaging local communities in managing and conserving parks.

A *Cultural Heritage Research Prospectus* was prepared to explain the types of research DECCW undertakes in the fields of culture and heritage, and ways in which DECCW can work collaboratively with, or support, individuals or groups wanting to undertake cultural heritage research (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/2010105cultureprospectus.pdf](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/2010105cultureprospectus.pdf)).



Photo: C. Smith

The opening of Pretty Plain hut in Kosciuszko National Park.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Conservation agreement permanently protects largest feral-free area on Australian mainland

Scotia Sanctuary, the largest feral-free area on mainland Australia at 64,000 hectares, is also the largest area ever to be permanently protected under a conservation agreement with DECCW.

The sanctuary, which is 150 kms south of Broken Hill and managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, is surrounded by a protective fence which keeps feral animals out, and is a refuge for many threatened species including Bolams mouse, malleefowl, mala, greater bilby, burrowing bettong, woylie, greater stick-nest rat, bridled nail-tail wallaby and numbat. The sanctuary contains an endangered ecological community – *Acacia loderi* woodland (Broken Hill gidgee).

Scotia also forms the central part of a large continuous area of more than 350,000 hectares of protected areas. It links Nanya Conservation Agreement Area and Tarawi Nature Reserve in NSW with Danggali Conservation Park

*Place-making in national parks: a case study of park-use by Arabic-speaking and Vietnamese Australians on the Georges River, NSW* is a collaborative research project with the University of Technology, Sydney, on migrant use and perceptions of Georges River National Park. Key findings of the research included the strong preference for large group picnics, based on extended families, and a clear tendency for park use and nature appreciation to be influenced by cultural traditions. The publication will be available in 2011.

## Conservation Partners Program

Conservation partnerships promote voluntary conservation on private land. Linking areas of habitat helps protect the state's biodiversity from pressures, including the potential impacts of climate change.

The Conservation Partners Program monitors and supports landowners who manage their land for conservation.

## Conservation agreements and wildlife refuges

Conservation agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* conserve significant natural and cultural heritage on private and other non-reserved public lands in perpetuity. They are voluntarily entered into, registered on the land title and legally binding on current and successive landowners.

As at 30 June 2010, there were 268 conservation agreements protecting 127,500 hectares of land managed solely for conservation. The involvement of non-government conservation organisations and other public landholders in formal conservation commitments continued to grow across the state.



Photo: S. Cohen, DECCW

The threatened bridled nail-tail wallaby *Onychogalea fraenata* is one of the many native species that will be protected in Scotia sanctuary in perpetuity under a conservation agreement covering 64,000 hectares.

and the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve in South Australia. These protected areas are about one and a half times the size of the Australian Capital Territory.

This is an excellent conservation outcome in an area that has been pressured by land-use change and clearing.

DECCW continued to support land holders with conservation agreements through visits to properties. Monitoring points were established on more than 20 properties to measure any future changes in conservation values.

Wildlife refuges protect significant wildlife and habitats on private and other non-reserved public lands on a long-term basis. They are noted on the land title and are legally binding on current and successive landowners. As at 30 June 2010, there were 659 wildlife refuges covering 1,934,694 hectares, about 80% of which were managed jointly for conservation and other compatible land uses, and about 10% solely for conservation.

Other major partnership projects in 2009–10 included:

- the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, with work progressing in the Kosciuszko to Coast, Southern Highlands and Hunter target areas, and with 34 conservation agreements and two wildlife refuges commencing negotiation (see 'Great Eastern Ranges Initiative' under 'Minimise and manage potential increased risks to life, property and the environment' in Chapter 2)
- the Box Gum Grassy Woodlands Stewardship Project under way in the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Central West, Namoi and Border Rivers/Gwydir catchments, in partnership with CMAs and the Australian Government, with negotiations commenced to establish conservation agreements on 27 properties
- commencement of the Protected Areas on Private Lands project, with the Australian Government, under which 20 conservation agreements are being negotiated, focusing on under-represented bioregions in western NSW
- continued funding initiatives for land holders with the Paddy Pallin Foundation, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, and the Wildlife Land Trust to provide

funding for conservation projects on lands protected by in-perpetuity conservation agreements, with grants in 2009–10 providing \$60,000 to 21 land holders.

## Wildlife Habitats and Corridors program

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council of NSW again undertook its annual Tidy Towns Awards Program, which includes key programs to encourage regional and rural communities to keep their environment as a quality place to live. The Wildlife Habitats and Corridors category was sponsored by DECCW to recognise the efforts and achievements of communities working with their local councils to conserve important wildlife habitat. There were 23 entries this year, with one of the winning projects the Wagga Wagga City Council Bio-certification Project, reported on in last year's annual report, in which land, water and biodiversity were comprehensively mapped across the local government area.

## Nature Conservation Trust of NSW

The Nature Conservation Trust is an independent body established under legislation to enhance support for conservation of natural and cultural heritage among the wider community, encourage stronger private sector investment in conservation, and raise and administer funds to sustain itself into the future. The Trust's main work is in promoting conservation on private land in NSW.

During 2009–10, DECCW continued its support for the work of the Trust through membership on its Board and conservation committee. In addition, DECCW made a further \$500,000 grant payment to cover operational and administrative costs as part of the Government's four-year, \$2-million commitment to the Trust.



Photo: S. Cohen, DECCW

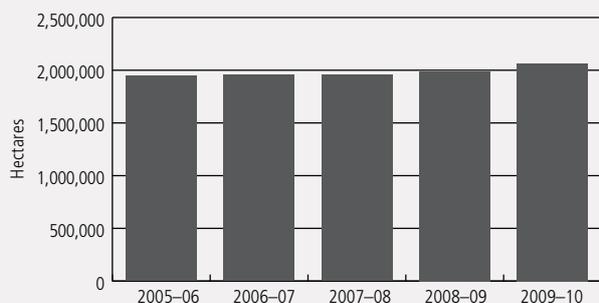
*The property Gundharwar on the south-west slopes of NSW is covered by a conservation agreement to protect land in perpetuity.*

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Private and unreserved land in NSW managed for conservation

**Definition:** This indicator measures the total cumulative land area of NSW that is protected and managed by private and other public land holders for conservation. Land is managed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* through voluntary conservation agreements and wildlife refuges.

#### Private land managed for conservation outcomes



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, 11 new conservation agreements were established plus one addition to an existing conservation agreement, protecting a total area of 74,772 hectares. Eleven new wildlife refuges were established protecting a total area of 1,178 hectares. There were two revocations of wildlife refuges. As at 30 June 2010, landholders managed a total of 2,062,194 hectares of land for conservation outside the reserve system. This represents 2.57% of the land in NSW.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Improving the recognition and safety of rangers in South America

DECCW staff are supporting conservation efforts in the Amazon through membership of the Protected Area Workers Association NSW (PAWA).

Improving the professional standards, recognition and safety of protected area workers elsewhere in the world is an important focus of PAWA. As a result, 12 DECCW staff members travelled to Bolivia in November 2009 for the 6th World Ranger Congress and donated seven duffel bags containing 42 GPS units, 12 fire helmets, 24 fire uniforms, and numerous fire-rated gloves and field shirts, to South American rangers.

PAWA's Equip the Amazon project works in partnership with Brazilian agencies to help indigenous communities living in Tumucumaque Indigenous Park to protect their land. Located in north-east Brazil, the park encompasses more than 4.2 million hectares of Amazon rainforest and is home to numerous indigenous communities, many of whom live traditional lifestyles with minimal influence from the outside world. Tumucumaque lands are coming under increasing threats from deforestation



Training South American rangers in using GPS units.

to make way for agriculture, illegal mining and timber extraction. Equip the Amazon provides indigenous communities with much needed resources for effective land management, and the training necessary for using and maintaining those resources. DECCW supports Equip the Amazon through donating superseded equipment such as GPS units, digital cameras and fire fighting equipment, and through promoting this project to staff and the broader community.



Photo: P. Loughton, DECCW

# Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage

## Conservation, protection and management of Aboriginal cultural sites and objects

DECCW's Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officers, located across NSW, work in close partnerships with local Aboriginal communities and conservation specialists to protect, conserve and manage Aboriginal cultural sites and objects, such as rock art, traditional burials and scarred trees.

During 2009–10, officers conducted the following works:

- conserved Aboriginal burial sites at Kinchega National Park, Mungo National Park and Lake Victoria, and on private land at 'Eastcourt Station' in the lower Murrumbidgee catchment, using both traditional and contemporary techniques
- assisted Forbes Shire Council to relocate a scarred tree from a prominent area that may have been dangerous to the public to Lachlan Aboriginal Natural Resource Advisory Committee education area
- conducted Aboriginal rock art conservation work on the Cobar Penneplain, assisted by Aboriginal community members from Cobar and Lake Cargelligo, including protective measures to remove wasp and swallow nests, apply silicon protection to redirect water, and assess other potentially damaging impacts
- conducted a ground penetrating radar investigation at the former Carowra Tank Aboriginal Mission Cemetery,

near Ivanhoe in western NSW, which revealed Aboriginal burials, and ongoing work with the Aboriginal community of Ivanhoe, Lachlan CMA and the Lachlan Aboriginal Natural Resource Advisory Committee to fence, revegetate and establish interpretative signs at the site

- implemented remedial conservation works including fencing, geotex matting and erosion netting at a cultural site at Murrinna Point, Bermagui, that contains burials, cultural objects and middens, and which had been affected by public access for surfing and fishing.

DECCW also develops policies and strategies to help staff meet their culture and heritage responsibilities. In 2009–10, activities included:

- finalising the Aboriginal Languages Policy which implements the NSW Government's Aboriginal Languages Strategic Plan and guides DECCW staff in the use of Aboriginal languages in publications, interpretive materials, signage and tours (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/aboriginallangspolicy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/aboriginallangspolicy.htm))
- preparing an Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategic Policy, to be finalised later in 2010, which sets out the broad goals for achieving healthy Country and healthy communities
- preparing a Sale of Aboriginal Objects Policy, to be finalised later in 2010, to guide DECCW staff about their legal responsibilities and obligations regarding the protection of Aboriginal objects.



Photo: D. Gordon, DECCW

DECCW staff member Glen Morris inspecting the Biames Shelter site at Milbrodale, NSW with Uncle Tom Miller and Steve Talbot of the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council.

## Aboriginal cultural heritage legislative reform

Changes to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* relating to the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage were passed by the NSW Parliament in June 2010. The main amendments:

- introduce updated offences for harming Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal Places, and increase the penalties for these offences
- provide a number of defences that a person can rely on to avoid prosecution for the offence of harm to Aboriginal objects
- provide exemptions from and exclusions to Aboriginal cultural heritage offences, so that in certain circumstances an offence does not apply, and a person cannot be prosecuted
- modernise the existing Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) system
- require Aboriginal community consultation to be a legal obligation which must be followed before AHIPs can be applied for.

Other amendments also improve the enforceability of the legislation, including through:

- introducing remediation directions
- increasing the time within which DECCW can commence court proceedings where an offence has occurred
- allowing greater options for courts when sentencing offenders
- expanding the ability of any person to take court action to restrain threatened or apprehended breaches of the Act or Regulations.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage provisions in the Act and related Regulations will commence on 1 October 2010. The new amendments significantly strengthen the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. Potential penalties for Aboriginal heritage offences increase, in some cases from \$22,000 to up to \$1.1 million for companies. The NSW Government has also committed to a broader reform process over the next two years, which will examine Aboriginal cultural heritage issues in NSW and their recognition in legislation.

## Aboriginal heritage protection

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, DECCW issues Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) for any development or activity that is likely to have an impact on Aboriginal Places or objects. Under DECCW policy, AHIP applicants must consult with Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge about the significance of any Aboriginal Place or object before commencing with the development or activity.

In April 2010, DECCW replaced the *Interim community consultation requirements for applicants 2005* with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. The new requirements provide a clearer and more definitive

process for determining the appropriate people to consult. Certainty is improved by separating 'consultation' from 'employment', and by clarifying the information DECCW requires for decision making.

DECCW conducted 18 information sessions around the state during April and May 2010 to explain the new requirements. DECCW also prepared a 10-minute DVD which provides information on the consultation process, along with tips about how Aboriginal people can get involved. These can be found on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/consultation.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/consultation.htm).

## Aboriginal Places

Aboriginal Places are lands of special significance for Aboriginal culture, declared by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment under section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Aboriginal Places include lands that contain Aboriginal burials, historic sites such as locations of massacres or Aboriginal objects, places identified by Aboriginal stories or celebrated by ceremony, post-contact living areas such as missions or Aboriginal reserves, areas containing culturally significant landscapes, and plant or animal species.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW Aboriginal Field Officer highlighting rock art at Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Sydney.

Four new Aboriginal Places were declared in 2009–10:

- Cubawee Aboriginal Place was declared in May 2010. 'Cubawee' means 'a place of full and plenty' in the Bundjalung language. Cubawee Aboriginal Reserve, seven kilometres west of Lismore, was a self-managed Aboriginal settlement from the 1930s to the 1960s.
- Terry Hie Hie Corroboree Ground and Grinding Grooves Aboriginal Place is a place of special significance to Aboriginal people because it is linked with the site of the historic Terry Hie Hie Aboriginal settlement.
- Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Place, in north-west NSW, holds a wide range of culturally valued sites and provides a link between Aboriginal people and culture today and in the past.
- Lambie Gorge, located on Ngarigo Country in Cooma, is significant because it includes Bagal or totemic figures embodied in the landscape associated with the snake, frog and turtle story. It also possesses evidence of being a traditional camping area as indicated by the presence of artefact scatters.

To date, 70 Aboriginal Places have been declared across NSW.

In 2009–10, DECCW began developing a new Aboriginal Places Policy to guide DECCW staff in nominating, assessing and managing Aboriginal Places. The policy will be finalised in 2010–11.

DECCW is also developing a web-based map of all Aboriginal Places across NSW which will be finalised by the end of 2010.

## Repatriation and reburial

The NSW Repatriation Program facilitates the return of Aboriginal ancestral remains, Aboriginal cultural property, knowledge and information that originate from NSW, and that are currently held in Australian museums and collecting institutions, to Aboriginal communities. Repatriations are carried out under an agreed NSW Repatriation Framework and Program.

DECCW also coordinates the return of ancestral remains and cultural material held in DECCW collections under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

In 2009–10, DECCW conducted repatriations of 65 sets of remains and objects. These included:

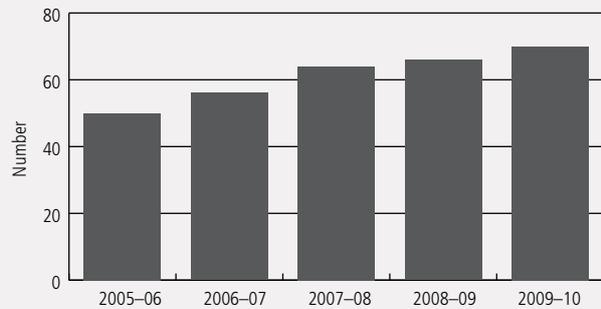
- 18 sets of remains were buried in the Barham State Forest in July 2009, with members of the Deniliquin and Moama Aboriginal communities, and staff from Forests NSW and DECCW, participating in this project
- 12 sets of ancestral remains held at the Australian Museum and University of Sydney were reburied at Koonadan Historic Site, a traditional Wiradjuri burial ground near Leeton in November 2009
- three sets of ancestral remains from the Leeton Local Aboriginal Land Council boundary were reburied at the Koonadan Historic Site
- a scarred tree was repatriated from the Kurnell Museum by members of the Eden Aboriginal community, assisted by DECCW, to be on permanent display in the Monaro Bobberrer Gudu Aboriginal Cultural Centre on the far south coast of NSW

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Aboriginal Place declarations for sites of Aboriginal cultural significance

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative number of places across NSW that were declared as Aboriginal Places under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* following recognition of their special significance to Aboriginal culture.

#### Aboriginal Place declarations



**Interpretation:** Four Aboriginal Places were declared in 2009–10: Terry Hie Hie and Dandry Gorge in north-west NSW, Lambie Gorge in southern NSW and Cubawee in northern NSW.

The number of declarations does not always reflect the level of ongoing investigative work, as investigations may not be completed in a single reporting year, or investigations may find that a nominated place does not meet legislative requirements for declaration.

- a scarred tree was repatriated from the Victoria Museum by members of the Baradine Local Aboriginal Land Council, assisted by DECCW, and placed in a permanent location where it can be viewed by the local Aboriginal community.

During 2009–10, DECCW also developed a Collections Care and Control Strategy to ensure the proper safe keeping and management of Aboriginal objects in DECCW's possession before they are repatriated to communities. The strategy has resulted in a comprehensive inventory of all materials being held, and their storage in safe and secure facilities.

## Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) contains 64,000 Aboriginal sites recorded during the last 40 years in NSW. DECCW constantly updates its records on the system, to ensure there are no errors and that new sites are promptly recorded.

DECCW, other government departments, Aboriginal communities and developers rely on AHIMS for accurate data about Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and objects in NSW.

DECCW also works with Aboriginal communities and other organisations to ensure their participation in accurately recording information in AHIMS.

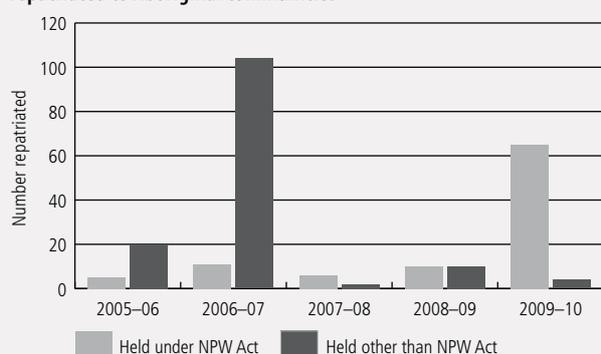
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities

**Definition:** This indicator measures the number of Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material held under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* which DECCW has repatriated to NSW Aboriginal communities. DECCW also works with the Australian Museum and community groups to facilitate repatriation under other legislation.

A 'collection' may be more than two and up to 200 items. The repatriation process involves extensive consultation with Aboriginal communities to ensure items are returned appropriately and according to Aboriginal community protocols.

#### Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, DECCW returned 65 sets of remains and collections held under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*, and helped return four remains and collections held by museums and universities to Aboriginal communities.

Activities relating to AHIMS in 2009–10 included:

- correcting the location of more than 300 Aboriginal sites in Royal National Park, in partnership with the Illawarra Prehistory Group
- returning 2,500 copies of Aboriginal site cards to the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, after the information they contained, including photographs, maps and descriptions of Aboriginal sites, had been recorded in AHIMS
- assisting local Aboriginal land councils to set up GIS systems to view their site information in an interactive way.

## Research into Aboriginal cultural heritage

DECCW researches Aboriginal culture and heritage to more effectively work with Aboriginal communities to protect and manage their heritage.

*Aboriginal women's fishing in NSW: historical documents* was completed in 2009–10. A thematic history of Aboriginal women's fishing practices was produced for general readership, and an extended annotated bibliography was produced for those wanting to explore the subject in more detail. Both documents are available from [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/fishing.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/fishing.htm)

*Aboriginal wellbeing* was also produced in 2009–10, and includes interviews with Aboriginal people who participated in 11 publications produced since 2003 on NSW Aboriginal women's and men's heritage – see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chpublications/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chpublications/).

The participants have subsequently been invited to speak about their experiences of participating in the production of the publications and to reflect on how this experience affected their wellbeing. These reflections will be presented in *Aboriginal men's and women's heritage: wellbeing*, which is expected to be available in late 2010.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Aboriginal heritage and culture identified and preserved in wetlands

The NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program aims to arrest the decline of wetlands in the Lower Murrumbidgee and Lachlan River systems. The Recording of Aboriginal Use and Values project, which concluded in 2009–10, has documented Aboriginal cultural values around the wetlands, and aims to increase Aboriginal people's access to, and use of, the wetlands, their waters and their resources.

The project engaged over 60 Aboriginal community members from Lake Cargelligo, Griffith, Ivanhoe, Hay, Balranald and Robinvale, and trained Aboriginal people in historical research, tracing family history, oral history recording, archaeological site identification and use of technical tools to record Aboriginal sites. The project:

- resulted in 517 new records relating to Aboriginal people's association with, and connection to, the wetlands, as well as information relating to Aboriginal people's involvement in natural resource management and views on water management and regulation
- included archaeological research and predictive modelling that recorded over 1,200 new Aboriginal sites
- produced 13 Aboriginal oral histories and five non-Aboriginal oral histories containing information on people, places and events
- identified a range of socioeconomic development opportunities for Aboriginal people in natural and cultural resource management
- led to two formal access and use agreements between private land holders and Aboriginal community organisations to allow Aboriginal people access to certain lands for cultural purposes and to use wetland resources sustainably
- gave effect to the Murrumbidgee Cultural Water Allocation, which is part of the Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan.

## Aboriginal Discovery program

Through the Aboriginal *Discovery* program DECCW works with local Aboriginal communities to encourage the broader community to learn more about local Aboriginal culture and heritage through walks, talks, tours and school programs.

*Discovery* in the Blue Mountains enjoyed a 34% increase in 2009–10 over the previous year, and more than half this year's 11,500 participants joined programs led by Blue Mountains Aboriginal Discovery Guides.

*Discovery* Programs at Tumut have grown over the past four years to deliver programs to more than 5,000 participants each year, with a major focus on Aboriginal Discovery. The Aboriginal Discovery Program is offering an Aboriginal Tour Guide Training and Mentoring Program, which is increasing opportunities for Aboriginal people to work with DECCW to develop their careers through accredited training and traditional learning.

Since early 2009, this *Discovery* program, in conjunction with landscape photographer Murray van der Veer, has run a regular three-day photographic workshop which is available to all new and experienced photographers (see <http://discoveryphoto.org/dpj/>). In May 2010, a photographic exhibition entitled 'Discovering Country' held at the Rocks in Sydney showcased works from the workshop. Proceeds from the exhibition are contributing towards further training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Snowy Mountains and Tumut regions.

At Jigamy Farm on the far south coast, students took part in NAIDOC week activities for schools in July 2009. Activities included a bush tucker walk, Aboriginal dance, story telling, language and art. The process involved a collaborative effort with Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council, Eden community Elders and the Bournda Environmental Education Centre.

## Aboriginal rock art conservation and management

During 2009–10, DECCW worked with Aboriginal communities to protect and conserve important rock art sites. Works included installing drip lines and fences near Cobar, and removing graffiti from sites in Jervis Bay National Park on the NSW south coast and at Como in Sydney's south.

DECCW completed conservation works at The Basin, in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. DECCW Aboriginal field officers, with the Metropolitan Land Council, highlighted engravings, removed vegetation and installed new interpretive signs.

In April 2010, with assistance from the Illawarra Aboriginal community, DECCW carried out conservation works on an Aboriginal rock art engraving site in Dharawal Nature Reserve, south of Sydney. The works, involving the removal of lichen and vegetation from the site, gave members of the community the opportunity to learn different conservation methods.



Photo: B. Welsh, DECCW

Conserving rock art by removing lichen from within an engraving at Dharawal State Conservation Area, south of Sydney.



Photo: J. Lemon, DECCW

The site at Dharawal State Conservation Areas once rock art conservation has been completed.

## Aboriginal Land Management Framework

The Aboriginal Land Management Framework is a whole-of-government project led by DECCW to coordinate access to, and use and joint management of, public land by Aboriginal people. The project aims to develop a common understanding between the NSW Government and Aboriginal communities about programs and initiatives to strengthen connections to Country, and build on the strong links between Aboriginal people's involvement in land management and improved health and wellbeing outcomes for communities.

In the first phase of the project, DECCW conducted workshops with Aboriginal people to find out about their needs and aspirations regarding land management. A report on the issues raised during the public consultation workshops is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/almf.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/almf.htm). The project will be finalised in 2010–11 with the development of information packages for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal landowners and Aboriginal people with an interest in public land.

## Botany Bay initiatives

Botany Bay is a highly symbolic place, as it was a point of significant early contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans. During 2009–10, as part of the launch of the Meeting Place Project, the dual naming of Kamay Botany Bay National Park took place, attended by members of the La Perouse Aboriginal community. School children from Kurnell Public School and La Perouse and Matraville Solider Settlement Public School participated in the ceremony through dancing and tree planting.

*First Encounters* is the title of a long-running exhibition at the Kamay Botany Bay Visitor Centre art gallery. The exhibition is the result of a partnership between DECCW, the Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art and Culture Studio and the Australian Society of Marine Artists. The current Aboriginal display is a private collection on loan from a local Aboriginal Elder.

## Supporting the practice of Aboriginal culture and heritage

Each year, DECCW develops teaching and training resources and conducts training for communities, staff, other agencies and the public in the care and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Activities in 2009–10 included:

- the Dreaming Tracks Project, which recorded traditional walking routes that Aboriginal people used to access the Hunter Valley, and revisited significant sites recorded in earlier surveys from the 1970s and 1980s, with community members from the Wannaruah, Mindaribba, Awabakal, Bahtabah and Wonarrua Nations Aboriginal corporations
- producing the Cultural Connections to Wahluhal Country in the Bundjalung Nation CD-ROM Interactive Education Support Kit, to support primary school curriculum-based learning about Aboriginal connections to the local natural environment, native plants and animals, and science and technology
- training in Aboriginal site awareness and Aboriginal culture and heritage management through the Riverina Institute of TAFE as part of private native forestry courses, to assist private land holders, machine operators, forest contractors and crews working on private property to better understand and manage cultural sites and artefacts
- the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Teachers Kit (to be released in late 2010), a resource to help teachers conduct lessons about traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Our Country, Our Water, a resource for Aboriginal communities about water management in NSW
- Aboriginal site awareness training sessions, which aim to improve participants' understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage site values, DECCW's responsibilities and procedures, and the legislation that applies to cultural heritage and its management.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Muttonbird Island arts project

In June 2010, the Federal Government announced the successful grant recipients for the second round of the Jobs Fund. One successful grant was for the redevelopment of the entrance to Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve in Coffs Harbour.

A grant of \$320,000 will develop an interpretive arts project that includes an outdoor education and performance space, information on the cultural and natural values of the nature reserve, employment of Aboriginal artists, and training and employment of Aboriginal Discovery rangers to run cultural tours of the nature reserve and surrounding reserves, including Solitary Islands Marine Park.

The island is important to the local Gumbaynggirr people and is the site of a nesting colony of shearwaters. The project is an important outcome for the local Aboriginal community of Coffs Harbour, with both Elders and young people involved. The area is an important tourism drawcard for Coffs Harbour, with over 150,000 visitors per year.

The public art project is a collaboration between Arts Mid North Coast (who received the grant), Coffs Harbour City Council, the local Aboriginal Elders Group (Garlamirla Guyuu Girrwaa) and DECCW.

## Culture camps

Culture camps support and enhance Aboriginal connections to Country through intergenerational learning, the practice of custodial responsibilities and the continuation of valued traditions. Camps conducted with DECCW support during 2009–10 included:

- the Living Country Culture Camp at the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve in November 2009, where representatives from the six Aboriginal language groups of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wanaruah and Wiradjuri), along with staff from DECCW and the Jenolan Caves Trust, took part in workshops, art, dance, story telling, bushwalking, boomerang throwing, swimming and visiting the Jenolan Caves
- the 31st Eden cultural camp with the La Perouse Men's Elders Group in November 2009
- a women's cultural camp at Saltwater National Park involving Aboriginal women from the Taree community in December 2009
- a culture camp on the south coast in March 2010 for the Shoalhaven community to promote and educate male Koori youth on men's health issues, with health professionals, service providers and community members attending
- a culture camp in Yarriabini National Park on the north coast in March 2010 for the Dhungutti and Gumbayngirr community to celebrate the signing of a memorandum of understanding between DECCW and local Aboriginal communities.



Photo: J. Herder, DECCW

Paintings completed at an Aboriginal women's cultural camp at Yengo National Park for the Mingaletta Women's Group.



Photo: M. Jarman, DECCW

# Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and consists of nominees from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Elders groups, as well as registered native title claimants and Aboriginal owners. It advises the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Director General of DECCW on matters relating to the identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.

A new committee was re-constituted on 9 November 2009, with 11 members appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment for two- and three-year terms.



Photo: SC Photography

*The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee at Gap Bluff. Front row left to right: Alice Williams, Viola Brown, Maureen O'Donnell, Merle Williams. Back row left to right: Larry Kelly, Robin Heath, Victor Perry (Chair), Glenda Chalker (Deputy Chair), Steven Meredith. Also appearing in photo on extreme right: Norman Laing, Executive Director Country, Culture and Heritage Division. Absent: Ian Woods.*

## Joint management of parks

The joint management of parks and reserves involves DECCW and Aboriginal people sharing responsibility for management, and is an important recognition of the special link that communities have to their traditional lands. Formal joint management options include:

- DECCW returning a protected area to its Aboriginal owners and leasing it back to be jointly managed under Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

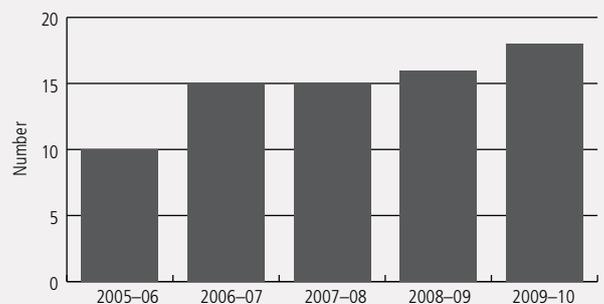
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for joint management of protected areas

**Definition:** DECCW works with Aboriginal communities to incorporate cultural practices into the management of parks and reserves under joint management arrangements. These agreements are guided and formalised under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth). This indicator shows the cumulative number of formal joint management agreements in place with Aboriginal communities, including leases, Indigenous Land Use Agreements and memoranda of understanding.

DECCW also engages in informal partnerships with Aboriginal communities. However, given the localised nature of many of these, they are difficult to measure accurately and are not included in this indicator.

#### Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for joint management of protected areas



**Interpretation:** During 2009–10, two new joint management agreements were finalised. A memorandum of understanding for Yarriabini National Park between DECCW and the Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr peoples was signed in March 2010. A lease-back arrangement under Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* for Gaagal Wanggan (South Beach) National Park between DECCW and the Gumbaynggirr peoples was signed in April 2010.

At 30 June 2010, with the inclusion of Yarriabini National Park and Gaagal Wanggan (South Beach) National Park, there are 18 formal joint management arrangements with Aboriginal communities in place, covering 111 areas across more than 1.5 million hectares (or 23%) of the reserve system.

- Indigenous land use agreements with native title holders under the *Native Title Act 1993*
- memoranda of understanding between DECCW and Aboriginal communities.

DECCW may also enter into less formal partnerships with Aboriginal people to protect and manage their culture, heritage and land.

On 26 March 2010, DECCW and the Dhungutti and Gumbaynggirr people celebrated the signing of a memorandum of understanding for Yarriabini National Park, near Scotts Head. The memorandum allows Aboriginal people to be more involved in managing the national park, which incorporates Mt Yarrhapinni. Aboriginal people have already had significant involvement in managing the park, including creating the sculpture at the Pines picnic area, advising during redevelopment of the picnic area and Yarriabini Lookout, and advising on bush foods and Aboriginal heritage management.

On 23 April 2010, the new Gaagal Wanggan (South Beach) National Park near Nambucca Heads was created. This park is owned by the Unkya and Nambucca Local Aboriginal Land Councils and jointly managed with the Gumbaynggirr people. The new park is the result of the NSW Government and the Nambucca Heads and Unkya Local Aboriginal Land Councils negotiating a resolution to land claims under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

The NSW Government has recognised the importance of these lands and waters to the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal community, and also the need to protect the significant coastal and estuarine values of the area and maintain public access and enjoyment. The Aboriginal community wish to see the land conserved for and used by the public.

In October 2009 and March 2010, the chairs of the boards of management and committees for all Aboriginal joint managed parks in NSW met to share information and discuss issues relevant to all parks. The October meeting was hosted by the Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management at Port Stephens. The second meeting was held in conjunction with the DECCW Aboriginal staff network meeting in Bourke, and was hosted by the Gundabooka National Park Co-management Committee.

## Aboriginal Park Partnerships Program

In 2008–09, DECCW established a four-year Aboriginal Park Partnerships Program to support partnerships between DECCW and Aboriginal communities for park management, education and interpretation, and to support Aboriginal people's access to and use of parks for cultural activities. Projects funded under the program in 2009–10 included:

- seven Aboriginal guides receiving training in Certificate I in Tourism or Aboriginal guiding
- eight members of the Karuah Aboriginal community completing a Certificate 2 CALM TAFE accredited course through working as a 'green team'
- work with the Brungle/Tumut Aboriginal community to develop a an oral and written history of the community, and continued training and mentoring of Aboriginal people in delivering cultural tours
- recruitment and training for Stage 2 of the Towra Team Project, which has led to the employment of 12 casual Field Officers and two casual Discovery Guides, who have gained a driver's licence and pesticide certification; and developed bush regeneration, cultural heritage, first aid, and land management skills in partnership with the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation and the La Perouse Land Council
- development of a draft co-management agreement for Koonadan Historic Site in Leeton, including 'Back to Country' days, workshops, and a site master plan
- cultural heritage surveys on Woggoon Nature Reserve, involving 15 Aboriginal community members and support from the Condobolin Local Aboriginal Land Council, which has identified items and a site of cultural significance
- a project management trial, in which an Aboriginal cadet project manager is employed and mentored by project management consultants, and is helping to develop business plans for projects in the Blue Mountains and western Sydney.



Photo: DECCW

*Illegally dumped waste can be a major problem for Aboriginal communities. DECCW is helping Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local government to clean up such waste on Aboriginal-owned land.*

## Aboriginal lands clean-up program

DECCW is committed to reducing the incidence of litter and illegal dumping in Aboriginal communities to improve health, social wellbeing and education. Under the Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Program, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local councils develop collaborative projects that prevent illegal dumping on Aboriginal-owned lands.

To date, more than \$1 million has been provided by the Environmental Trust to ten Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local government to:

- clean up illegally dumped materials on Aboriginal owned lands
- deter further illegal dumping
- maximise recycling and resource recovery from illegally dumped materials
- foster relationships between Aboriginal communities, local and state government and community groups.

Eight completed projects in 2009–10 resulted in the re-use of around 2,500 tonnes of material; the recycling of around 170 tonnes of metal, concrete, brick, glass and white goods; and the disposal of 499 tonnes of mixed wastes.

The projects will allow Aboriginal communities to implement broader waste management strategies and explore further land-use options, such as entering into biobanking or sustainable native forestry agreements. A further eight projects are under way, with six of these nearing completion.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Aboriginal knowledge and cultural values in natural resource management

The Aboriginal Knowledge and Cultural Values in Natural Resource Management Project was a partnership between DECCW and several CMAs, and was funded through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. The project aimed to increase Aboriginal community participation in managing natural resources in the catchments of the Hawkesbury–Nepean, Hunter, Macquarie, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee river systems. Like other river catchments across the state, these catchments face increasing pressures from development, competing water uses, pollution and the impacts of drought.

The project also aimed to address the need for a consistent management system that incorporates Aboriginal values of Country into broader natural resource and environmental management in NSW. The project employed 24 Aboriginal Community Facilitators for 18 months, most of whom completed TAFE qualifications while working on projects. Another six young Aboriginal people were employed on the project to provide technical mapping support.

As a result of the skills and qualifications gained, most Aboriginal participants have gained further employment with government, Aboriginal community and business

## Land Alive

Land Alive is funded by the Environmental Trust over four years to build the capacity of Aboriginal landowners to be effective land managers. The project builds knowledge and understanding of the biodiversity and cultural values of land holdings, develops experience in conservation programs and delivers accredited training in conservation land management to Aboriginal communities. Thirty Aboriginal trainees continued training in conservation land management during the year.

In 2009–10, Land Alive funded the development of management plans for a further four Aboriginal-owned areas, bringing the total number of Aboriginal land management plans to nine. Biobanking assessments have been funded for three Aboriginal-owned areas and Land Alive is supporting one Aboriginal landowner in discussions with a developer.

Land Alive also funded the Hot Spots Fire Management Program, in which the Nature Conservation Council helped two Aboriginal landowners to plan for fire.

A mid-term evaluation of Land Alive undertaken in April 2010 found that more follow-up work with landowners is needed to ensure more use of their completed land management plans, and that communities need simple and clear communication material to explain the core concepts of biobanking. DECCW will be focusing on these



DECCW negotiated the protection of a cultural heritage site with the Wonnarua community and Xstrata mine. Featured in the photo are members of the Wonnarua community, Uncle Barry French and Alan Paget.

Photo: DECCW

organisations. One facilitator confirmed at the awards day that by working on this project, and in receiving her Certificate 4 in Conservation and Land Management, she had achieved her lifelong ambition to be qualified and employed in an environmental job and to work on behalf of her community.

The project has been a highly successful and a positive partnership between DECCW, catchment management authorities and Aboriginal communities in the management of Aboriginal heritage, natural resources and the environment.

areas in 2010–11, including continued funding for the NSW Aboriginal Land Council to establish a position dedicated to working with DECCW on making the BioBanking Scheme accessible to, and understood by, local Aboriginal land councils and communities.

## Other joint projects with Aboriginal communities

In 2009–10, DECCW concluded the three-year funding and management agreement with NTSCorp, who implemented the Gomeroi Project. This three-year project built the capacity of the Gomeroi Nations in north-west NSW to participate and engage in land use planning, and natural resource and water management, and to implement self-governance.

DECCW completed an Aboriginal Women and Natural Resource Management Program, interviewing Aboriginal people in NSW who have worked in natural resource management (e.g. as members of Aboriginal green teams). Participants found the most significant benefits of such work were an enhanced sense of community, developing their leadership skills, access to Country, facilitating their ability to care for Country and strengthening their cultural identity. The outcomes of the research will be presented in a report in late 2010.

DECCW supported the Regional Partnership Agreement, which was signed in 2009–10 in Coffs Harbour between the Australian and NSW governments, the Many Rivers Training Enterprise and Employment Aboriginal Corporation, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and representatives from industry and non-government organisations. The agreement aims to address Indigenous unemployment in the Many Rivers region, by increasing Aboriginal employment in the climate change, environment and conservation job markets.

In a partnership between DECCW and Aboriginal community members of the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury, the Yellowmunde Regional Bushcare program is continuing to target lantana at sites that

are significant to local Darug people in Yellowmunde Regional Park. The program commenced in May 2009 and will continue until 2011.

DECCW's Tumut parks office organised an adventure kids camp for Aboriginal youth in May 2010, as the first stage of a two-year project. It is hoped that the second stage will see DECCW employing a trainee adventure guide in partnership with local adventure tourism providers.

DECCW's Narrabri parks office continued to develop partnerships through existing joint management arrangements. Programs established in 2009–10 included:

- the employment of 12 Aboriginal people with DECCW
- the Sculptures in the Scrub project at Dandry Gorge in the Pilliga
- Aboriginal site training and surveys
- site conservation works
- exploration of the cave complex at Kelvin Aboriginal Area near Gunnedah.

Bomaderry Creek Regional Park near Nowra gained new visitor facilities and interpretation works following a volunteer project organised by DECCW with Aboriginal students from Shoalhaven High School. The project, part of the Shoalhaven Volunteer Youth Initiative, involved the students volunteering one day a week for eight months, during which time they created and installed two mosaic artworks interpreting the significance of Bomaderry Creek to the local Aboriginal community.

At Eden on the far south coast, four Aboriginal community members were employed as a summer crew from October 2009 to June 2010, receiving training as remote area fire fighters, participating in wildfire suppression and hazard reduction, and working on visitor facility construction projects.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Creating new opportunities at Sea Acres Rainforest Nature Reserve

The Yun Yi Barragay – Walk With Me program is a partnership project with the local Aboriginal community to develop and market educational and interpretive experiences in Sea Acres Nature Reserve. Three new visitor and educational experiences were created in 2009–10: Bush Tucker Tours, Schools Education Program and Coastal Walk. These are being piloted with targeted groups and schools. The program employs four casual Aboriginal interpretive guides.



Ben McMillan and Natalie Talbot join Uncle Bill O'Brien, Aboriginal Discovery Ranger and Nardja Davies, Sea Acres Rainforest Nature Reserve, for a bush tucker tour.

# Secure and sustainable supplies of water, and water is used more wisely



Photo: R. Thomas

*Through the NSW Office of Water, DECCW is leading policy and reform in sustainable water management and assisting water utilities to provide urban water and sewerage services that benefit all NSW.*

## Context

A major challenge for the NSW Government is to balance the water needs of farms, towns, industries and the environment when drought across parts of NSW means continuing water shortages in many regions. There is also the prospect of climate change leading to lower water availability. At the same time, population growth in metropolitan, coastal and some regional centres is increasing demand for water.

In recent years, NSW has suffered the worst drought on record, which poses significant problems for agriculture and regional communities. Studies indicate that climate change may mean existing models of water supply will be less accurate, and may also decrease the reliability of supplies for both irrigation and town water in some regions. The impacts of both climate change and natural climate variability on wetlands, riparian environments and groundwater-dependent ecosystems also need to be studied and managed.

A key issue is whether there is enough flexibility in water infrastructure and water management institutions to successfully manage water supplies in much drier conditions. The continued development and implementation of statutory water sharing plans are helping to ensure that surface water and groundwater are shared equitably among communities. Adaptive water management strategies based on the best available science are being developed, and additional investment is being encouraged to develop new options to increase the supply of water and reduce demand.

The Australian Government's National Water Initiative has significant implications for water management in NSW. There are potential changes to some existing water sharing plans, resource management in the Murray-Darling Basin, the management and operation of rivers, metering and monitoring, and compliance and enforcement. First steps for the Murray-Darling Basin involve the Australian Government making an assessment of what the national approach should be, and preparing a basin-wide strategic plan.

Reforms are already being implemented to facilitate competition and encourage the participation of the private sector in water markets, and to ensure that efficient and affordable water services are delivered to consumers. The *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* and associated regulation and reforms are refining the regulatory framework for delivering recycled water and supporting innovation and investment by the private sector.

Effective conservation and education programs can lead to significant demand reductions. Despite an extra one million people, Sydney uses the same amount of water as it did in 1974, due in part to water efficiency programs.

DECCW, through the NSW Office of Water, will continue to facilitate water conservation and education, encourage water recycling initiatives, promote effective urban water planning, and encourage the development of water supplies through the use of new technologies.

## Outcomes

- Balancing the water needs of the environment and water users in regional and metropolitan NSW for long-term secure and sustainable water use
- Overseeing, guiding and assisting water utilities to provide urban water and sewerage services that are well managed, efficient and equitable across NSW.

## Key drivers

- NSW State Plan ([www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/))
- *Water Management Act 2000* ([www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au))
- *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* ([www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au))
- Metropolitan Water Plan ([www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au))
- National Water Initiative ([www.nwc.gov.au](http://www.nwc.gov.au))
- *Water Act 2007* (Commonwealth) ([www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au))
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform ([www.coag.gov.au](http://www.coag.gov.au))

## Performance indicators

- Proportion of water extraction covered by water sharing plans
- Proportion of *Water Act 1912* licences converted to tradeable water access licences under the *Water Management Act 2000*
- Volume of water recycled in Sydney
- Volume of water saved in Sydney
- Percentage of requirements of best practice management guidelines met by local water utilities



Photo: S. Cohen, DECCW

# Balancing the water needs of farmers, towns, industries and the environment

## The National Water Initiative

The National Water Initiative is a comprehensive strategy being implemented by the Australian Government to improve water management nationwide. The NSW Government is a partner in the initiative, which was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2004. The key aims are to:

- expand the permanent trade in water to enable its more efficient use and recovery, to achieve environmental outcomes
- encourage investment in the water industry through more secure water access entitlements and improved access to information
- make water planning more transparent and comprehensive to deal with the interaction between surface water and groundwater systems and the provision of water to meet specific environmental outcomes
- address over-allocated river systems as quickly as possible, in consultation with affected stakeholders, and manage adjustment.

In 2009–10, DECCW's NSW Office of Water, with other state agencies, drafted the National Water Initiative Policy Guidelines for Water Planning and Management, and submitted these to COAG for approval. The guidelines address and clarify critical issues such as over-allocation, over-use and sustainable water extraction. They will also help water planners across Australia implement principles for best-practice water planning which deal with intercepting and storing overland flows, constructing farm dams and bores, planning large-scale plantation forestry and mining, and developing further water sharing plans across Australian states and territories that are consistent with the National Water Initiative.

The NSW Office of Water has been further developing water accounting, including a national stocktake report (the Water Accounting Development Project, sponsored by the National Water Commission, see [www.nwc.gov.au/html/243-water-accounting.asp?intSiteID=1](http://www.nwc.gov.au/html/243-water-accounting.asp?intSiteID=1)), and helping the Bureau of Meteorology to develop national water accounts each year.

## Murray-Darling Basin governance arrangements

The Murray–Darling Basin is one of Australia's major water catchment and drainage regions, extending over much of NSW and Victoria, all the Australian Capital Territory, and parts of South Australia and Queensland. About 75% of NSW – including nearly all land west of the Great Dividing Range – lies within the basin, and around 57% of the basin lies within NSW.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority, administered by the Australian Government, is responsible for developing a basin-wide plan that will set a sustainable 'cap' on extractions from both surface water and groundwater sources. During 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water provided information and water modelling details for the plan. A consultation draft is expected to be released later in 2010, with a view to commencement in 2011.

As the basin plan is expected to require significant reductions in extraction limits once finalised, the NSW Office of Water will need to re-make a number of NSW water sharing plans.

The Authority will also prepare an environmental water management plan, and develop and implement basin-wide water trading rules. During the year, the NSW Office of Water negotiated extensively with the Australian Government on the water trading rules being developed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission under the *Water Act 2007* (Commonwealth).

## Water for the Future

To support the national water reforms, and particularly the expected water management changes in the Murray–Darling Basin, the Australian Government has committed \$12.9 billion to its Water for the Future program to take action on climate change, use water wisely, secure future water supplies and support healthy river systems, of which \$3.1 billion will be used to buy back water licences and \$5.8 billion will be used for rural water use and infrastructure projects in the Murray–Darling Basin.

## Commonwealth water licence buy-backs

In response to concerns that the Australian Government was purchasing a disproportionate amount of NSW water entitlements, a memorandum of understanding was agreed to in September 2009. Under the agreement, the Australian Government will purchase no more than 890 gigalitres of general security entitlement (or equivalent) in NSW by 2013. This limit represents almost 15% of the state's general security entitlement. As at June 2010, the Australian Government owned 568 gigalitres of licensed water entitlement from NSW, as well as 247 gigalitres from Victoria, 41 gigalitres from South Australia and 7 gigalitres from Queensland.

During the year, negotiations occurred with the Australian Government on the procedures and arrangements for 'water shepherding' – that is, transferring water from one system to another, and protecting it from extraction. The Australian Government requested that the NSW Government transfer environmental water allocations over 1,300 kms from the Warrego River through Menindee Lakes to the Murray River, through three river systems. The NSW Office of Water had to assess the water losses involved and ensure the rights of other water users were not affected. As a result, some 8,000 megalitres of water was made available to the Australian Government in May and June 2009 to allow for the watering of six environmental sites along the Murray River, followed by a further 3,700 megalitres in May 2010.

## Infrastructure projects

Under the Murray–Darling Basin agreement, the Australian Government has approved the allocation of \$1.358 billion to the NSW Government for various infrastructure projects. Components of this funding for proposed projects that will be managed by the NSW Office of Water include:

- up to \$137 million for projects that reduce river losses by converting open domestic and stock supply systems to pipes
- up to \$221 million to upgrade the accuracy of water metering (jointly with State Water Corporation)
- \$50 million to licence floodplain extractions and improve the management of water on floodplains, including by modifying floodplain structures.

Detailed business cases for all NSW Government projects were submitted to the Australian Government in June 2010.

## Water sharing plans

DECCW, through the NSW Office of Water, is working to have all inland water sharing plans completed by the time the Murray–Darling Basin Authority's basin plan commences in 2011. During 2009–10, five further water sharing plans commenced – the NSW Border Rivers (regulated), the Lower North Coast (unregulated and alluvial), the Hunter (unregulated and alluvial), the Central Coast (unregulated) and the Coffs Harbour Area (unregulated and alluvial). This brings the number of water sharing plans commenced to 49. A further plan for the Peel Valley (regulated, unregulated and groundwater) was finalised during the year and will commence early in 2010–11. Significant work has progressed on all remaining inland water sharing plans.

It is expected that 84 water sharing plans will be developed to cover the entire state, although this number may change as planning progresses. The broader aim is for all NSW plans to be completed by 2012, which would bring all water users within the licensing system set out under the *Water Management Act 2000*, providing more secure water entitlements, opportunities for water trading, and specific rules to protect the environment.

To develop water sharing plans for the remaining, mainly coastal river systems, expert regional panels have been convened to assess the environmental and socioeconomic values of the river systems and develop draft water sharing rules. These rules are discussed with key stakeholders before draft plans are prepared for public exhibition. During 2009–10, draft plans were released for public comment for the Tweed River, Richmond River, Murrumbidgee–Wallaga Lakes, Towamba, Bega–Brogo and Peel areas, and in the Greater Metropolitan Region.

## Implementing water sharing plans

The NSW Office of Water is responsible for monitoring water availability and determining annual water allocations under water sharing plans.

In 2009–10, drought continued across much of inland NSW, although flooding in the north-west occurred over Christmas–New Year, providing substantial inflows to the Menindee Lakes storages.

In the southern inland valleys, conditions remained dry. In the Murrumbidgee valley, for example, flows continued at low levels, but were higher than in the record dry year of 2006–07. Although early in the year the region had limited water allocations for high-security users and no general security allocations, the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys ended the year with full high-security allocations and some general security allocations.

In the Lachlan valley, however, the situation remained critical throughout the year with only 10% of high-security allocations provided. The NSW Office of Water worked closely with local water advisory groups to determine priorities and options for water supply in critical water shortage areas; to ensure supply to towns, essential industries and rural properties for domestic use and stock; and to ensure the survival of permanent plantings.

Some environmental releases were made with the limited water available, as the flow rules are designed to replicate natural flow conditions as far as possible. For example, 19,000 megalitres were released for the Macquarie Marshes between August and December 2009, which, combined with good rainfall over Christmas, allowed some lagoons in the northern marshes to fill for the first time since 2003.

## Critical water planning

Where extraordinary measures need to be taken, critical water planning communiqués are issued by the NSW Office of Water that outline water resource availability and how it is being shared. Communiqués are available on [www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Critical-water-planning/Critical-water-planning/default.aspx](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Critical-water-planning/Critical-water-planning/default.aspx).

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

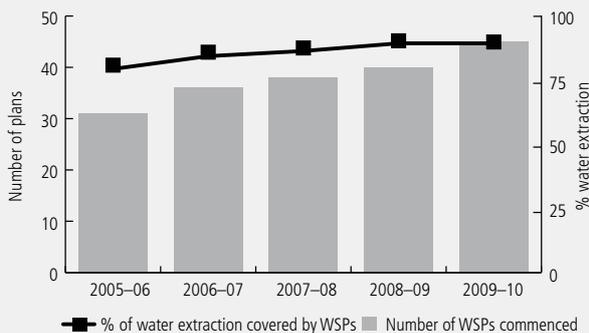
### Proportion of water extraction covered by water sharing plans

**Definition:** For river and groundwater systems to be healthy and productive in the long term, it is critical to balance the competing needs of the environment and water users. A water sharing plan (WSP) is a legal document prepared under the *Water Management Act 2000* that establishes rules for sharing water between the environmental needs of a river or aquifer and water users, and also between different water uses such as town supply, rural domestic supply, stock watering, industry and irrigation.

By setting rules for how water is allocated for the next ten years, a WSP provides a decade of security for the environment and water users, ensuring that water is provided for the environment through a legally binding plan, and licence holders such as irrigators can better plan their business activities. Irrigation accounts for about 80% of all water used in NSW. In addition, WSPs set rules for water trading (that is, the buying and selling of water licences or annual water allocations).

This indicator measures the cumulative number of plans that have formally commenced and the cumulative proportion of water extraction across NSW covered by commenced water sharing plans.

#### Proportion of water extraction covered by water sharing plans



**Interpretation:** Five new WSPs formally commenced in 2009–10, bringing the total number of WSPs in operation across NSW to 45. This represents around 54% of the WSPs that are expected to be developed. The plans currently cover 90% of the total volume of water extraction.

Most of the water volume extracted is from major river systems and alluvial groundwater aquifers. As the WSPs for these were commenced some years ago, and the five plans commenced in 2009–10 were for smaller areas, the total water volume extracted covered by WSPs did not significantly change in 2009–10.



Water licensing officers inspecting infrastructure at Bathurst.

In July 2009, storage levels in Wyangala Dam were the lowest in history for the start of a year. Also during the year, the situation in the Lachlan was so critical that supplies were halted for a period to ensure town water could be provided. Fortunately, rainfall over Christmas eased the situation, and flow along the length of the Lachlan River was re-instated.

## Performance against Murray–Darling Basin cap

A key provision of water sharing plans is the limit placed on water extractions, which is determined by the environmental flow rules and, in the inland river systems, by the Murray–Darling Basin cap on water diversions. Each year an Independent Audit Group (IAG) reviews the implementation of the Murray–Darling Basin cap in each state.

In 2009, the IAG assessed all NSW valleys as being within the basin cap, except for the NSW Border Rivers and the combined Barwon–Darling and lower Darling valleys. Following the signing of an inter-governmental agreement with Queensland on flow sharing arrangements for the Border Rivers, the IAG is considering a proposed cap for the NSW Border Rivers. For Barwon–Darling water users, there was a further reduction in annual water availability in 2010, with new limits on water use over three years. A water sharing plan for the Barwon–Darling valley is being developed, and further changes to management arrangements will be addressed through this process.

Since the introduction of Murray–Darling Basin cap reporting in 1997–98, the NSW Government has managed its extractions so that it is, cumulatively, more than 2,000 gigalitres below the cap. The IAG review of Murray–Darling Basin cap implementation for 2009–10 will take place in September 2010.

## Water rights and trading

Water licensing and trading are managed under two Acts. Where a water sharing plan has commenced, licences and approvals are managed under the *Water Management Act 2000*. Licences to extract water outside these areas are still managed under the *Water Act 1912*.

## Licensing and approvals under the *Water Management Act 2000*

For water sources where water sharing plans have commenced, *Water Act 1912* licences are converted to water access licences issued under the *Water Management Act 2000*, which are then listed on a Water Access Licence Register administered by the Land and Property Management Authority (see [www.lands.nsw.gov.au/land\\_titles/public\\_registers/water\\_access\\_licence\\_register](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au/land_titles/public_registers/water_access_licence_register)).

Water access licences provide a clearly defined share of the available water from a particular water source that can be sustainably extracted. They also provide a clearly defined entitlement that is separate from land ownership and that can be bought or sold or used as collateral when seeking finance. As of 30 June 2010, there were 20,296 water access

licences listed on the Water Access Licence Register. In areas where water sharing plans have commenced, there were 106 access licences still to be listed.

## Licensing under the *Water Act 1912*

Licences issued under the old *Water Act 1912* are generally tied to the land, as the licence covers both the right to take a specific volume of water as well as the works to be constructed and operated to use that water. There were 11,257 surface water licences and 87,368 groundwater (bore) licences managed under the *Water Act 1912* as at 30 June 2010.

Although fewer licences are administered under the *Water Management Act 2000* than under the old Act, the newer licences cover most of the large areas of extraction. About 90% of water extraction in NSW is now managed under the new Act.

## Water trading

The market for tradeable water entitlements promotes more productive and efficient uses of water, and assists entitlement holders to adjust to changes in product markets and water availability.

The *Water Management Act 2000* provides for water trading (i.e. the buying and selling of licences or annual water allocations) and changes to water access licences (e.g. changing category, subdividing, or nominating work under the licence).

A permanent trade occurs when the licence holder trades the ongoing share of available water. This may involve the transfer of a whole water access licence to another party or the sale of a part of the licence share. Temporary water trading can occur when the licence holder buys or sells a volume of the year's allocation.

In 2009–10, there were 1,246 permanent transfers undertaken under the *Water Management Act 2000* in NSW, totalling 1,063,079 share units. This does not include trades within irrigation corporations, private irrigation districts and irrigation trusts.

The total number of temporary trading activities for water sources subject to water sharing plans was 4,757 trades totalling 1,202,168 megalitres.

Under the *Water Act 1912*, there were no permanent transfers recorded during 2009–10. There were 15 temporary transfers of surface water involving 699 megalitres, and no temporary transfers of groundwater.

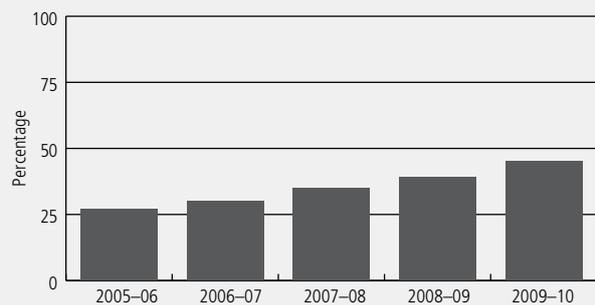
The NSW Office of Water provides information for water users and members of the public about water access licences and approvals managed under the *Water Management Act 2000* (see [www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-licensing/Registers/default.aspx](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-licensing/Registers/default.aspx)). During 2009–10 there were 11,085 online searches of the register. There were 2,931 dealings lodged, including 783 permanent transfers of holder and seven term transfers.

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Proportion of *Water Act 1912* licences converted to tradeable water access licences under the *Water Management Act 2000*

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative proportion of licences held under the *Water Act 1912* that have been converted to licences under the *Water Management Act 2000* through the commencement of water sharing plans. The original licences were tied to the land and provided the right to take a specific volume of water, as well as the works to be constructed and operated. The new licences provide a defined share of available water in a particular water source that can be sustainably extracted. This water entitlement is separate from land ownership and can be bought and sold.

#### Percentage of licences converted to tradeable water access licences



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, the percentage of licences held under the *Water Management Act 2000* increased by 6 percentage points to 45%.

## Water metering and extraction monitoring

In December 2009, COAG endorsed a National Framework for Non-urban Water Metering, to improve the accuracy of water metering. After 30 June 2010, meters must comply with national standards. The NSW Office of Water has developed a Metering Implementation Plan that describes ways in which NSW will implement the national standards.

A key component of the new standards is the 'pattern approval' of water meters. At 30 June 2010, no meters in Australia had been pattern approved by the National Measurement Institute, and the NSW Office of Water will, as set out in the national framework, ensure that new meters are installed in accordance with the standards.

The NSW Office of Water is installing new water meters under the Hawkesbury–Nepean River Recovery program, funded by the Australian Government. At 30 June 2010, new water meters had been installed on approximately 30% of the extractive capacity in the Hawkesbury–Nepean River. Installation will continue in 2010–11.

In June 2010, the NSW Government submitted a business case to the Australian Government to install or replace water meters in the Murray–Darling Basin at a cost of around \$221 million, which will ensure most surface water and groundwater extraction is metered. The Australian Government had already announced the approval of a pilot scheme for this project that will see meters installed in part of the Murray catchment. A decision on the full proposal is expected in 2010–11.

## Water compliance monitoring

DECCW, through the NSW Office of Water, is responsible for regulating surface and river water, and groundwater in NSW, which includes monitoring, encouraging and maintaining community compliance. The NSW Office of Water works with other agencies such as the State Water Corporation, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Australian Government to gain compliance which ensures all users, including the environment, have an equitable supply of water.

Compliance activities include:

- community and industry education to promote voluntary compliance
- monitoring water resource activities and deploying proactive programs to identify potential breaches in a timely manner
- investigating alleged breaches, and taking appropriate action when a breach occurs.

The NSW Office of Water is using improved investigatory and enforcement powers to help deter would-be offenders and ensure authorised officers are more effective in detecting, investigating and stopping illegal activities.

Information about possible offences is received from surveillance activities and inspections conducted by authorised officers, and reports from the public and other agencies.

Investigations and their associated outcomes under water legislation are shown in tables below.

### Compliance investigations in 2009–10 under the *Water Act 1912* and *Water Management Act 2000*

#### Investigations

Total number of investigations*	624
Number of investigations finalised (percentage)**	246 (39%)
Number of ongoing investigations***	378

\* The total number of investigations is the sum of those commenced during the financial year and those ongoing from previous years.

\*\* When an investigation is finalised, an outcome is determined (compliance action or no compliance action). Refer to the table on the next page for a breakdown of outcomes. An investigation may have more than one outcome.

\*\*\* The number of investigations ongoing at the end of the financial year.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Ensuring equitable access to water along the Darling River

Flooding in early 2010 meant water flowed down the Darling River to the Menindee Lakes and beyond for the first time in 10 years. When the NSW Office of Water received reports of floodwaters being diverted or blocked, a compliance operation was undertaken for the Darling River and its tributaries from Brewarrina to Menindee, as well as tributaries around Broken Hill, to ensure floodwaters were proceeding through the river system.

Aerial surveillance identified 57 structures. Four teams of two compliance officers investigated 42 of the structures to see whether they were impeding, or had the potential to impede, the pending floodwaters. Of the structures inspected, 26 were found to be compliant (within harvestable rights or constructed before 1999) and were not affecting flows. These included a number of road crossings of waterways. Some structures observed from the air could not be located on the ground, while some additional structures were identified. Fifteen structures could not be inspected due to road closures and other access issues.



*A water compliance officer checks data in preparation for an aerial surveillance operation.*

Photo: M. Smith, DECCW

As a result of the inspections, the NSW Office of Water issued advisory letters, warning letters, and draft directions to remove works and structures or make modifications to comply with licence conditions.

## Compliance outcomes in 2009–10

Act	Outcomes of investigations	
<i>Water Act 1912</i>	No compliance action*	47
	Warning/negotiation	40
	Remediation agreement	0
	Remediation notice	7
	License suspension	2
	Stop work order	4
	Prosecution**	0
<i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	No compliance action*	61
	Warning letter	69
	Stop work order	5
	Remediation notice	23
	Penalty notice	40
	Licence suspension	0
	Debit water account	0
	Prosecution**	0

\* This figure represents the total number of cases that have an outcome recorded as 'No compliance action', which may include 'Actioned by other agency', 'Advisory letter', 'Authorised', 'Decided not to pursue', 'Exclusion', 'Exempt', 'No works found', and 'Not regulated by Act'. For complex cases there may be more than one 'No compliance action' or 'Multiple compliance actions'.

\*\* Prosecutions finalised in the financial year.

## Water savings programs

### Cap and Pipe the Bores program

The Great Artesian Basin is one of the largest underground water resources in the world and lies beneath around 25% of NSW and 22% of Australia.

The Cap and Pipe the Bores program, begun in 1999, is a partnership between the NSW and Australian governments and land holders to reduce the waste of water from free flowing artesian bores and bore drains by replacing them with capped bores and efficient piped reticulation systems. Incentives are provided to land holders to offset the cost of rehabilitating bores and installing new infrastructure.

Ongoing benefits of the program include the recovery of artesian pressure, the re-activation of springs, reduced salinity, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity conservation, feral animal control and improved land management. Land holders also report that reliable and strategically placed water supplies can significantly reduce the impact of drought.

From 1999 to 2009, \$57 million of combined NSW and federal funds were provided to the program. Under a National Partnership Agreement between the NSW and Australian governments as part of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, continued funding has been assured until June 2014.

During 2009–10, 16 schemes were completed, saving 2,046 megalitres of water each year and decommissioning 457 kilometres of bore drains.

Construction is being planned for seven new projects during 2010–11, with a further 16 new projects undergoing early design work. New schemes were ranked according to the ratio of dollars spent to the volume of water saved, ensuring the most cost-effective use of funding.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### New capped bores save water and reduce salinity

The Talmoi/Midkin Bore Project was carried out from April 2008 to June 2010 on the highly productive black soil plains about 50 kilometres north-west of Moree, in predominantly grazing and cropping country.

The NSW and Australian governments provided \$1.77 million to replace three 100-year-old free flowing bores with two new capped bores. Land holders provided \$2.19 million, bringing the total project cost to \$3.96 million. These bores provide essential stock and non-potable domestic water to 25 properties across 38,800 hectares that are powered only by natural, free artesian bore pressure. Around 160 kilometres of bore drains have been deleted, saving 1,200 megalitres of water and stopping 765 tonnes of salinity from entering the environment each year.



Bore after capping and piping.

Photo: G. Pankhurst, DECCW

## Darling River Water Savings Project

Through the Darling River Water Savings Project, options are being investigated to improve the water supply and management of the entire Darling River system. Following an initial report in 2007, the NSW and Australian governments each contributed up to \$650,000 for further investigations, and the second and final report was delivered in March 2010. This report identifies six broad options for saving water, including structural changes and potential operational changes to reduce loss of water from the Menindee Lakes, as well as infrastructure to maintain the water supply for Broken Hill. Potential annual water savings from these options range from 34 to 125 gigalitres.

The NSW Government will review the final report in light of potential changes that may result from the Murray–Darling Basin Plan and the review of the Murray–Darling Basin agreement. The Australian Government has approved funding of up to \$400 million to construct the recommended works.

## Environmental works and measures

DECCW's NSW Office of Water administers a number of environmental and river works on behalf of the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, Snowy Hydro Limited and catchment management authorities. These works include:

- the Koondrook Perricoota Forest Flood Enhancement project, which involves constructing a regulator and channel to bring floods to the forest – this is expected to commence in 2010–11
- fishways at the Edward River Offtake and Stevens Weir on the Edward River – these were under construction as at June 2010.

Under the Murray–Darling Basin Authority's River Works and Maintenance Program, \$2.7 million is being invested annually until 2011 to rehabilitate the bed and banks of the Murray River by replacing willows with native species, and stabilising the river bank using groynes and sediment management techniques. Similar works are also being undertaken in the upper Murray and Tumut rivers.



Steven's weir fishway under construction, showing the downstream entrance.

Photo: J. Sheehan



Photo: A. Crawford, DECCW

DECCW staff member Jon Holliday analyses algae samples

## Water for Rivers Project

The Water for Rivers Project was established in 2003 to implement the recommendations of the Snowy Water Inquiry. The Australian, NSW and Victorian governments committed \$375 million over eight years to achieve targeted total water savings of 282 gigalitres.

By June 2010, 215 gigalitres of water entitlements had been recovered to provide environmental flows to the Snowy and Murray rivers. Of this, 136 gigalitres was recovered in NSW, comprising 80 gigalitres from water recovery projects and 56 gigalitres from purchases from willing sellers of entitlements. In 2009–10, projects have been developed in the Murrumbidgee valley. These projects involve measuring water extractions and rivers flows, obtaining more accurate forecasts of tributary inflows, and managing dam releases to better meet customer and environmental needs. A summary of projects and water savings can be found on [www.waterforrivers.org.au](http://www.waterforrivers.org.au).

## NSW Algal Management Strategy

Blue-green algae can pose major health concerns for people and livestock. The NSW Algal Management Strategy outlines a whole-of-government approach for managing blue–green algal blooms in NSW. The strategy is administered by DECCW's NSW Office of Water, and supported by a State Algal Advisory Group that sets the policy and framework and nine regional algal coordinating committees. These regional committees minimise impacts, provide warnings and advice to the public, and maintain an extensive network of algal monitoring sites throughout NSW.

A map showing the latest algal alerts is provided on [www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Management/Water-quality/Algal-information/default.aspx](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Management/Water-quality/Algal-information/default.aspx).

The continuing drought across most of NSW, followed by summer rainfall that flushed nutrients into waterways, provided ideal conditions for blue-green algal growth in inland reservoirs and rivers during 2009–10. Many large storages maintained red alerts for recreational use for extended periods of the year. These included the Pindari (near Ashford), Copeton (near Inverell) and Windamere (near Mudgee) reservoirs, and Lake Lyell near Lithgow.

In the Murray River, a 2009 bloom was followed by a further major blue-green algal bloom in February 2010, which affected more than 1,000 kilometres of the river from the Hume Dam to Mildura, as well as the Edward River system. Both rivers were placed on red alerts. The bloom was managed effectively under the risk management strategies implemented by the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committees, including media releases, web information, algal information hotlines and close monitoring.

The NSW Office of Water evaluated the first Murray River algal bloom, and will release a report on the management of the 2010 bloom that will examine ways in which earlier recommendations have been implemented.

The NSW Office of Water has also commissioned a social profiling study in the Murray region to assess the socioeconomic impact of algal blooms in the region. The report is expected to be finalised during 2010–11, and its outcomes will be used to develop more effective communications and better ascertain the impacts of algal blooms.

A blue-green algal bloom occurred from late February to the end of March 2010 in the lakes in the Olympic Regatta Centre at Penrith. This forced the closure of some recreational activities.

The Algal Management Strategy also includes a framework for managing marine algal blooms. Various marine blooms occurred along the NSW coast during 2009–10 causing the closure of some beaches by local councils, or warnings against recreational collection of shellfish. A bloom of toxic marine algae caused problems during the autumn of 2010 at Wagonga Inlet, near Narooma, causing the closure of commercial oyster harvesting and recreational shellfish gathering.

## Monitoring, evaluation and reporting for water resources

DECCW is the lead agency for the 13 natural resource targets in the NSW State Plan. For water resources, targets are set for:

- an improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems by 2015
- an improvement in the ability of groundwater systems to support groundwater dependent ecosystems and designated beneficial uses by 2015.

During 2009–10, DECCW's NSW Office of Water coordinated statistical analysis and reporting on these targets as part of the preparation of state of the catchment reports. These reports describe the condition of the 13 catchments across NSW, and for water-related targets include consideration of water quality, fish, macroinvertebrates and hydrology. The reports will be available during 2010–11.

A preliminary statewide map of, and draft identification document for, groundwater dependent ecosystems is being developed. Ecosystem mapping has been produced for several water sharing plans across NSW.

A range of National Water Commission projects continued in 2009–10 to collect groundwater data, and to improve knowledge of groundwater–surface water interactions and the impact of groundwater extraction on aquifer water quality.

A need for improved alignment of water allocation and catchment planning has been identified in the National Water Initiative. In 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water completed a National Water Commission project aimed at better aligning water sharing plans and catchment action plans. A framework was developed that sets out principles that can be applied, with some local variations, in any Australian state or territory, and brings together water and catchment planning using existing resources and data. The approach was trialled successfully in the Hunter–Central Rivers catchment area.

DECCW continued working with the Namoi and Central West catchment management authorities (CMAs) to apply the framework in their areas, using funding from Catchment Action NSW. DECCW has worked with all CMAs to better coordinate and integrate natural resource data and information on river health, provide consistent reporting, and use the most up-to-date data in managing riverine environments.

## Water monitoring

The NSW Office of Water holds most NSW information on water resources, with records of river flows and groundwater levels across the state extending back more than 100 years. A comprehensive network of monitoring stations is maintained throughout the state and upgraded as required.

In 2009–10, nine surface water and 196 groundwater monitoring sites were installed to better monitor the state's water resources, and meet the needs of the new water sharing plans. A further 180 'telemetered' sites that allow remote monitoring were installed. The following table shows total operational monitoring sites.

### Total operational monitoring sites

	2005 –06	2006 –07	2007 –08	2008 –09	2009 –10
Surface water – continuous sites*	930	933	949	1,040	1,031
Groundwater – continuous sites	600	650	677	669	723
Grab sample water quality sites	370	427	359	317	309
Groundwater – manual sites	4,575	3,913	3,162	2,958	3,014

\* Includes continuous water quality sites

## Real-time data collection

The NSW Office of Water operates a telemetry system for receiving and downloading data from over 620 river gauging sites, 200 groundwater sites and 60 metering facilities around NSW. This enables the previous 24 hours' data to be collected from the whole state in about 20 minutes. It also assists in providing data for flood warnings.

Information is collected, processed and automatically sent to key clients, including State Water, the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and the Bureau of Meteorology. It is also available on [www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au), where it is accessed by the State Emergency Service and other agencies, irrigators and the general public.

The surface water telemetry network is undergoing a major upgrade – currently 55% complete – where sites will transmit data hourly directly to the internet, giving water managers and the public the most up-to-date information. The system is meeting or exceeding the target of having 95% of data available on the internet by 9 a.m. daily.

More than 200 groundwater monitoring sites are also providing data for groundwater sharing plans.

## Water resource information online

The information from the NSW Government's water website ([www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au)) is managed by, and includes data from, a range of state agencies, particularly the Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (operated by the NSW Department of Services, Technology and Administration) and State Water. The website receives over six million visits each year, providing real- and near real-time water data, as well as information from the NSW Office of Water's monitoring programs.

## Water quality monitoring

The NSW Office of Water manages and monitors water quality as part of its Surface Water Assessment and Monitoring Program (SWAMP), as well as on behalf of the Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission (DBBRC) and the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

During 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water analysed information from 173 monitoring sites (114 under SWAMP, 16 for the DBBRC and 43 for the MDBA). Sites were sampled weekly, fortnightly, monthly or during floods. Chemical, physical and algal measures, including cyanobacteria, were taken and analysed in the NSW Office of Water's laboratory. Annual water quality reports are provided to the DBBRC for its Border Rivers water quality program, and to the MDBA as part of its water quality monitoring, algal investigations and Menindee Lakes operation impact assessments.

Data is used to inform reporting under the NSW Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy, for monitoring and evaluating NSW water sharing plans and the Basin Water Quality and Salinity Management Plan, for monitoring the effectiveness of catchment investment strategies and for use in State of the Environment reporting.

The NSW Office of Water is developing a method and program for including phycocyanin (blue-green algal pigment) and chlorophyll monitoring in the sampling.

DECCW has received funds from Catchment Action NSW to develop regional water quality management targets, which are required for the National Water Quality Management Strategy. Further development of the regional targets, including whole-of-government engagement, will continue into 2010–11 as part of implementing stage 2 of the project.

## Integrated monitoring of environmental flows – regulated rivers

The Integrated Monitoring of Environmental Flows program was established in 1997 to assess the ecological benefits of environmental flow rules in the state's regulated rivers (i.e. rivers where downstream flows are regulated by a major storage or dam to supply irrigation water) as well as the Barwon–Darling River. Benefits of environmental flows include reduced algal blooms, increased biodiversity, more abundant native fish and more natural ecosystems. The program operates in partnership with scientific experts from universities, the CSIRO, cooperative research centres and consultants.

The program monitors and evaluates the ecological performance of water sharing plans for the regulated rivers and informs the development of new plans. It estimates the likely long-term effects of environmental flows and assesses whether the plans' provisions have maximised the ecological benefits of environmental flows.

Studies under the program in 2009–10 included work on:

- links between aquatic invertebrates and biofilms (mats of algae, fungi and bacteria on the stream floor) and how these vary as the result of catchment development
- the responses of fish to flows in the Paterson River
- carbon limitations in the Hunter River estuary
- ecosystem response models and climate change predictions for the lower Lachlan River wetlands
- environmental flow response and socioeconomic monitoring in the Macquarie valley.

For more information, see [www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Management/Monitoring/Regulated-rivers/default.aspx](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-Management/Monitoring/Regulated-rivers/default.aspx).

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Stream flow measurements help assess future flood impacts

During floods on the NSW north coast and through the Darling River system in 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water extensively measured stream flows. The use of Doppler technology allowed efficient and instantaneous physical measures to be taken, particularly on the Paroo River which flooded for the first time in nearly 20 years. Such accurate measurements have led to a clearer picture of the distribution of stream flows, and have helped compile improved models for flood prediction and management. Ultimately, more timely and accurate data will support decision making by the Bureau of Meteorology, the State Emergency Service and the community when managing floods.

## Cost recovery for water planning and management services

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets maximum prices that can be levied by the NSW Office of Water, on behalf of the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation, on bulk water users for its water planning and management services. These fees and charges provide for progress towards full cost recovery, consistent with national water reforms. By the end of 2010, most services will have achieved or be approaching full cost recovery.

Long-term pricing provides bulk water users with a greater certainty for their business planning. It also assists the NSW Office of Water with establishing planning and management services as a discreet, transparent and accountable core business entity.

During the year, the NSW Office of Water lodged its pricing submission with IPART for the period commencing 1 July 2010. The submission proposed fees and charges for services at full cost recovery levels from 2010–13. IPART sought further costing and pricing information, resulting in deferment of commencement of the new determination. In the interim period, fees and charges remain at the level set for 2009–10.

A key focus for planning and management cost recovery is the pricing commitments under the national water reforms. These include meeting requirements under the *Water Act 2007* (Commonwealth), including publishing information on services and associated charges and reporting to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

In December 2009, the NSW Government announced that fixed water charges would be waived for general security regulated licence holders that receive a zero water allocation for three consecutive years. For 2009–10, this waiver applied to general security licence holders in the Lachlan valley.

## Groundwater drilling

The NSW Office of Water provides specialist services to government agencies and communities for water well drilling, particularly very deep bores. Significant projects this year included:

- drilling six new artesian bores and sealing eight old bores as part of the Cap and Pipe the Bores program
- constructing two deep production bores in the Koondrook Perricoota forest to provide water for the Living Murray project
- monitoring bores in the Macleay Valley sands for groundwater, and monitoring the interaction between groundwater and sea water levels
- monitoring additional bores to assess the connections between surface water and groundwater in the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys
- establishing a test production bore and monitoring bores for the University of NSW groundwater field training centre at Wellington
- rehabilitating two town water bores near Kempsey.



Photo: G. Russell

*Airlifting groundwater to clean a hole following a change of rods during bore drilling.*



Photo: DECCW

# Ensuring urban water and sewerage services are well managed, efficient and equitable

## Metropolitan Water Services

### Metropolitan Water Plan

The NSW Office of Water manages the development, implementation and review of the Metropolitan Water Plan, which sets out ways in which the NSW Government is securing Sydney's water supplies while improving river health.

The plan outlines measures that ensure Sydney's water needs are met in response to drought, a changing climate and a growing population. It is reviewed and updated every four years to reflect changes in community behaviour, improved understanding of climate change impacts and advances in technology. Sydney's water is being secured through:

- dams, which continue to provide most of Sydney's drinking water
- recycling – projects in place and being planned will mean recycling provides 12% of Sydney's water needs by 2015, which is equivalent to 70 billion litres of water being recycled every year
- desalination – the plant began operating in the summer of 2010 and can provide up to 15% of Sydney's current water needs
- water efficiency – measures will save 145 billion litres of water a year and reduce Sydney's water needs by 24% by 2015.

The NSW Office of Water coordinates the actions under the plan, chairs the Metropolitan Water Chief Executive Officers' Committee and provides secretariat support to the Metropolitan Water Independent Review Panel. The panel provides expert advice to the Premier and monitors progress of the Metropolitan Water Plan, including input to the four-yearly reviews.

### Metropolitan Water Plan – review

A major review of the 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan was completed in 2009–10. The review included an analysis of environmental, social and economic factors to ensure the plan can provide water for people and the environment in the medium term.

Following workshops and surveys in early 2009, a second phase of consultation was undertaken in late 2009 involving comprehensive community discussion of the proposed measures.

The NSW Office of Water modelled available water supply and demand options, including an analysis of cost effectiveness and an analysis of different rainfall and inflow scenarios such as a drought more than twice as severe as the recent drought. The review also included an assessment of the environmental and social impacts of the measures by expert panels.

The review confirmed that sound investments have been made in water supply and efficiency programs over the past four years. It found that only minor adjustments to the directions of the 2006 plan are needed to ensure Sydney has enough water to meet its needs until at least 2025, and to help protect river health through environmental flows. The updated plan is expected to be released in the second half of 2010.

### Metropolitan Water Plan – progress

A progress report on the 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan, which will be incorporated into the 2010 plan, has determined that the NSW Government is on track to secure Sydney's water supplies. In 2009–10:

- more than 100 billion litres of water per year were saved through water efficiency programs
- 33 billion litres of water per year were being recycled that might otherwise have come from drinking water supplies (this amount will rise by a further 18 billion litres a year when the Replacement Flows Project is initiated later in 2010 (see case study on the next page)
- the desalination plant was completed on time and \$89 million under budget
- 90 of 92 actions under the Metropolitan Water Plan had either been achieved or were on target; only two had been delayed, both of which are progressing to a revised timetable.

The NSW Office of Water is responsible for, and has worked with other agencies to deliver, initiatives related to:

- increasing and diversifying water supplies
- increasing recycling and stormwater re-use
- understanding the impacts of climate change on water demand and supply
- protecting and restoring river health
- implementing water industry competition reform
- contributing financial and in-kind support to the review and extension of the federal Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme
- managing and delivering the Water for Life education program.

Each of these initiatives is reported in more detail below.

### **Increasing and diversifying water supplies**

The NSW Office of Water continues to work with key agencies such as Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) to implement key projects under the Metropolitan Water Plan. The SCA has completed extensive investigations and concept designs for the rehabilitation or replacement of the Upper Canal which transports water from the Upper Nepean dams to Prospect Water Filtration Plant.

Construction work has also been completed on Sydney's desalination plant which will be able to provide up to 15% of Sydney's water needs. The power used by the plant is being 100% offset with renewable energy from a 67-turbine wind farm near Bungendore.

### **Increasing recycling and stormwater re-use**

DECCW, through the NSW Office of Water, manages water recycling proposals where the private sector is the proponent. In fulfilling this role, DECCW liaises with

Sydney Water, other key NSW Government agencies, and private sector proponents to provide technical and commercial advice.

Significant projects under way include the Rosehill–Camellia Recycled Water Scheme, which will be operational in 2011 and supply 4.7 billion litres of water each year, and the Caltex and Continental Carbon project at Kurnell which is expected to be completed by 2012.

Stormwater management helps protect people and property from flooding, improves waterway health and, if stormwater is treated and reused, provides a valuable alternative source for non-drinking purposes. The NSW Government is promoting and supporting an integrated approach to stormwater harvesting, focusing on smaller, local schemes which provide an alternative water source but also deliver river health, water quality and flood mitigation benefits.

During 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water carried out a feasibility study into the Prospect Roofwater Harvesting Scheme in western Sydney. The outcomes of the study, due in 2010–11, will determine if the project will proceed to a detailed design stage.

Information on the 100 or more recycling and stormwater projects that are under way or planned across Sydney is available on [www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/recycling](http://www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/recycling).

### **Understanding the impacts of climate change on water demand and supply**

To better understand the impacts of climate change on Sydney's water supply system and future water demand, the NSW Office of Water has coordinated a collaborative study with the CSIRO, the University of New South Wales, Sydney Water, the Sydney Catchment Authority and the federal Department of Climate Change. The project, titled 'The climate change impacts on water supply and demand in Sydney', began in mid-2006 and the final report is due for release later in 2010.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### **Hawkesbury–Nepean River to be replenished with 18 billion litres of recycled water**

The Replacement Flows Project involves constructing the St Marys Water Recycling Plant in western Sydney, which was completed in early 2010. The plant is treating effluent from the St Marys, Quakers Hill and Penrith sewage treatment plants to an advanced level, and then discharging it to Boundary Creek, downstream of Warragamba Dam. The water flows into the Hawkesbury–Nepean River from Boundary Creek.

These discharges will substantially replace environmental releases from Warragamba Dam that currently help protect the river downstream, thereby saving water in the dam for drinking while also significantly reducing nutrient loads to the river. Ultimately, 18 billion litres of highly treated recycled water each year will flow into the Hawkesbury–Nepean River.



Photo: G. Duffus, courtesy Sydney Water Corporation

*Water from the recycled water plant at St Marys is piped to Penrith, where it is released into Boundary Creek before entering the Hawkesbury–Nepean River.*

DECCW issued an environment protection licence to Sydney Water in February 2010 to regulate any impacts from the recycled water discharged to Boundary Creek.

The project broke new ground in modelling climate change impacts at the regional level and has helped to identify future research needed to improve modelling. While the results of the study provide valuable information on ways in which Sydney's water supply and demand may be affected by climate change over time, climate change modelling is an evolving science and there are remaining uncertainties and limitations in downscaling global models to the regional level and predicting greenhouse gas concentrations in the future.

### Protecting and restoring river health

The NSW Office of Water continues to lead the development of water sharing plans for the river and groundwater systems of the Greater Metropolitan Region in accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000*. Significant work has progressed on the draft surface water and groundwater sharing plans for Sydney. Public consultation on the draft plans took place in mid-2010. Once commenced, these plans will provide legal protection for environmental water and thereby contribute to improving river health.

The review of the 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan and preparation of an updated plan has helped balance environmental needs and the needs of the Sydney community regarding water supply. In line with the plan, the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) has modified its dams and weirs. New variable environmental flows began being released from Tallowa Dam on the Shoalhaven River in mid-2009 and from the four dams on the Upper Nepean river system from mid-2010. Work is also nearly complete on a series of weirs downstream on the Nepean River to allow passage of flows and fish movement.

Importantly, the 2010 Metropolitan Water Plan sets out the further work needed to identify optimal environmental flow rules for Warragamba Dam. These will be outlined in the 2014 update to the plan.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Environmental monitoring of Sydney's desalination plant

DECCW has been heavily involved in the environmental regulation of two key components of the Sydney Desalination Project: the desalination plant itself, including intake and outlet structures, and the pipeline that transfers water underneath Botany Bay to the drinking water system at Erskineville.

DECCW assessed the impact of the plant on the environment during its construction and operational phases, focusing on disposal of wastes generated during the plant's operation, minimising the toxicity of brine discharged to the ocean, minimising impacts of the intake structure on marine life, and monitoring the marine environment.

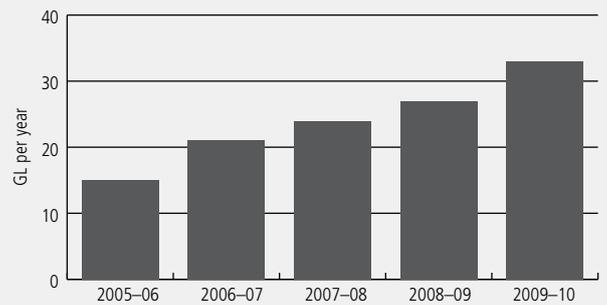
Now that the plant is operational, DECCW regulates the discharge into the Tasman Sea of brine from the desalination process through an environment

### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Volume of water recycled in Sydney

**Definition:** This indicator reports the volume of water recycled in Sydney each year. Both the State Plan and the Metropolitan Water Plan set a target to increase water recycling in the Sydney metropolitan area from 15 billion litres in 2005 to 70 billion litres by 2015. Under the 2010 Metropolitan Water Plan, water recycling will provide 12% of Sydney's water needs by 2015. The recycled water will be used for non-drinking purposes such as industrial uses, watering parks and sporting fields, toilet flushing and garden watering.

#### Volume of water recycled in Sydney



**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, the volume of water recycled in Sydney increased by a further six billion litres. The NSW Office of Water has worked with Sydney Water and key organisations to increase the volume of recycled water from 15 billion litres in 2005–06 to 33 billion litres in 2009–10. With the commissioning of the Replacement Flows Project, which could supply up to 18 billion litres of highly treated recycled water each year to the Hawkesbury-Nepean River from late 2010, this figure will increase further.

The NSW Office of Water developed and released catchment health indicators for the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. These indicators cover land use and human settlements, biodiversity and habitats, water availability and water quality. One indicator relates to community attitudes



The desalination plant at Kurnell.

Photo: B. Peters, courtesy Sydney Water Corporation

protection licence held by the plant operator. Modelling of the brine discharge was undertaken as part of the design process, and is required to be validated by the operators of the plant in the coming year. Sydney Water is monitoring the brine discharge to detect and measure any environmental impacts.

DECCW has worked closely with Sydney Water, its contractors and the NSW Department of Planning throughout the project to minimise any environmental and amenity impacts.

and engagement, which supplements the biophysical indicators. These indicators will be used in future audits to assess environmental changes across the catchment.

The NSW Government has established the Office of the Hawkesbury–Nepean to improve the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean River system. The *Hawkesbury–Nepean River Act 2009* commenced in February 2010 and established the office as a statutory corporation and a NSW Government agency. The office will:

- coordinate and implement management strategies on the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean river system, particularly regarding the management of aquatic weeds
- give the public access to information and advice about management strategies relating to the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean river system
- provide opportunities for the public to be involved in the development of management strategies
- promote the effective management of in-stream development, such as jetties and other waterfront structures
- provide a one-stop shop for government services relating to the river.

In May 2009, the Australian Government announced up to \$77.4 million of funding for the Hawkesbury–Nepean River Recovery Program. Comprising seven projects, the program aims to improve river health by securing more than seven billion litres of water each year for additional environmental flows, increasing Sydney's water supply and stopping over 48 tonnes of nutrient pollution from entering the river each year. DECCW is carrying out three of the projects:

- the Licence Purchase Project which will purchase water access licences from willing sellers across the catchment
- the Improving Hawkesbury–Nepean Water Balance Accounting Project, which aims to install or upgrade water metering systems for up to 2,000 licensed water users
- the Nutrient Export Monitoring Project, which aims to measure nutrient from primary industries before and after the Nutrient Smart Management and Water Smart Farms projects.

The seven projects are planned for completion in September 2011. For further information visit [www.ohn.nsw.gov.au/River-recovery/default.aspx](http://www.ohn.nsw.gov.au/River-recovery/default.aspx).



Harvesting water hyacinth weed at Castlereagh.

Photo: R. Coventry, DECCW

The Lower Hawkesbury–Nepean Nutrient Management Strategy released in 2010 coordinates and targets the range of projects and programs under way to reduce the amount and types of nutrients entering the river.

## Implementing water industry competition reform

Under the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*, the NSW Government has licensed four private companies to provide recycling and wastewater services. The projects are being overseen by DECCW, through the NSW Office of Water.

The first licence was issued to construct, maintain and operate a new recycled water plant at Fairfield as part of the Rosehill Recycling Scheme. This will initially provide 4.7 billion litres of recycled water a year to industrial and irrigation customers in western Sydney. The second licence was issued to allow high-quality recycled water to be conveyed to users through a network of retrofitted gas pipes. Further licences have been issued to a company to operate a recycled water treatment plant in the heart of the Sydney CBD, which will supply recycled water for indoor non-drinking purposes. Another company has been granted licences to recover water from sewage in a major development at Darling Harbour to provide recycled water for non-drinking purposes.

The 2010 Metropolitan Water Plan continues to encourage the private sector to develop new technologies and enter the industry. Under the plan, work is in progress to streamline the approval processes between the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* and the *Local Government Act 1993* for private schemes.

## Managing and delivering the Water for Life education program

Community involvement continues to be an important element of the Metropolitan Water Plan. Water for Life, which is managed by the NSW Office of Water, is a comprehensive six-year education program to engage the 4.3 million people in the greater Sydney region to help secure water for the future. The program aims to:

- increase community understanding of the strategies to secure Sydney's water
- encourage households, businesses and government across Sydney to save water.

Public information projects under Water for Life in 2009–10 included:

- the Water for Life communications campaign, run on television and radio, in print and online, which has increased the proportion of community members 'taking action often' to reduce their water consumption to 84% (from 65% in 2005)
- the Water for Life website, electronic newsletter and microsite, which are useful community resources attracting an average of over 23,000 page views each month
- community input into the review of the 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan that included workshops for community, business and key stakeholders across greater Sydney, and a publicly available online survey



Photo: I. Charlton, DECCW

Col Maes checks an installed meter on the Nepean River for the Improving Hawkesbury-Nepean Water Balance Accounting Project.

- an online stormwater video series and stormwater and recycling maps which increase community understanding of the many recycling and re-use projects that are planned or under way across Sydney.

The Water for Life education program coordinates activity across the water agencies and non-government organisations, and implements the actions of the *Water Education Plan for Greater Sydney 2008–2012*. The program is supported by the inter-agency Metropolitan Water Education Group comprising communication and education professionals from DECCW, Sydney Water, the Sydney Catchment Authority and the Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean.

Projects in 2009–10 focused on supporting other organisations to deliver water education, including:

- training workshops on communication and behavioural change to support staff from councils and non-government organisations in delivering best-practice water education projects
- developing a Stormwater Partnership Kit through a pilot project that allocated grant funding and provided educational resources for councils across greater Sydney.

Targeted education projects to engage the community in 2009–10 included:

- eight councils and non-government organisations receiving grant funding of almost \$300,000 to deliver practical water education projects
- the WaterSmart Sydney pilot, which coached householders over the phone in developing personalised action plans to save water, energy and money in their homes. A component of this pilot project supported culturally and linguistically diverse communities to continue their water wise activities.

### Supporting water customers

The NSW Office of Water coordinates and administers the Government's water concession programs. These include pensioner water rebates schemes and water rates exemptions for councils, and charitable and not-for-profit organisations. As part of this program, the Government provides funds to water corporations for rebates and exemptions on water bills to ensure that vulnerable customers have continued access to urban water services.

During 2009–10, over \$132 million was distributed under these concession programs, including nearly \$110 million by Sydney Water and nearly \$10 million by Hunter Water Corporation in pensioner water rebates.

The NSW Office of Water began a review of pensioner water rebates in NSW. The review is examining the four different pensioner rebate schemes operating in NSW, and will make recommendations in 2010–11.

## Non-Metropolitan Water Services

### Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program

The Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program supports the provision of effective, sustainable and safe water supply and sewerage services by more than 100 non-metropolitan local water utilities in NSW.

DECCW, through the NSW Office of Water, develops strategic policy and provides leadership, guidance and technical expertise to support water supply and sewerage services in non-metropolitan urban areas of NSW. Key services include:

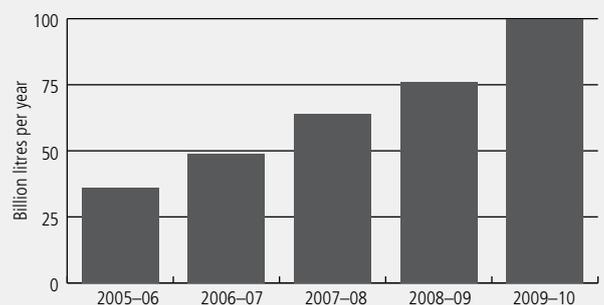
- providing technical assistance in best practice management, operation and maintenance to 106 non-metropolitan utilities
- overseeing and monitoring utility performance
- managing local water and sewage treatment activities, and dam safety programs, to ensure the safe and effective management of the 550 water and sewage treatment works and 116 dams and weirs

#### PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

##### Volume of water saved in Sydney

**Definition:** This indicator measures the volume of water saved in Sydney each year compared to consumption in 1999 through efficiency measures implemented as part of residential and business programs, leak reduction and regulatory measures. Efficiency measures introduced under the Metropolitan Water Plan are reducing the demand for water, with a target to save 145 billion litres per year and reduce Sydney's water needs by 24% by 2015.

##### Volume of water saved in Sydney



**Interpretation:** The volume of water saved compared to consumption through water efficiency programs increased to more than 100 billion litres per year in 2009–10. The NSW Office of Water, with other agencies, undertook a number of activities under the Water for Life education program to inform Sydneysiders about the value of water and the role of the Metropolitan Water Plan. This work, in conjunction with other demand management programs under the Metropolitan Water Plan such as BASIX building sustainability guidelines, the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme and Sydney Water's residential *WaterFix* and *Every Drops Counts* in Business programs, have helped to reduce water use to levels equivalent to the early 1970s, despite an increase in population of around 1.4 million.

- administering funding for backlog water and sewerage infrastructure and emergency drought assistance.

### Strategic business and financial planning

To assist delivery of an effective and efficient water supply and sewerage services in non-metropolitan NSW, the 106 local water utilities must prepare and implement sound strategic business plans to demonstrate their financial sustainability. These include a 30-year asset management plan to address future infrastructure needs. Through these plans, utilities can fund all future commitments for capital and recurrent expenditure, and dividend and tax-equivalent payments.

In the most recent monitoring report for 2008–09 (see the *NSW water supply and sewerage performance monitoring report* on [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)) 89% of local water utilities had completed a sound strategic business plan and long-term financial plan, compared to only 31% ten years earlier. This includes all utilities with over 3,000 connected properties and covers 98% of the connected properties in non-metropolitan NSW.

### Best-practice pricing

Responsible and equitable pricing of water supply, sewerage and liquid trade waste services is a key responsibility of each utility. Such pricing enables customers to balance the benefits and costs of their use of water services, and promotes efficient use of water resources.

Better pricing has enabled NSW local water utilities to avoid more than \$1 billion in water and sewerage capital expenditure over the past decade, while also avoiding the need to increase overall costs to consumers, as measured by the median 'typical residential bill'.

### Trade waste regulation

One hundred local water utilities in NSW are responsible for regulating liquid trade waste discharges to their sewerage systems. Responsibilities include approving and monitoring discharges and levying appropriate fees and charges. To assist utilities, the NSW Office of Water released *Liquid trade waste regulation guidelines* in 2009 (see [www.water.nsw.gov.au/Urban-water/Country-towns-](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Urban-water/Country-towns-)

## ■ CASE STUDY

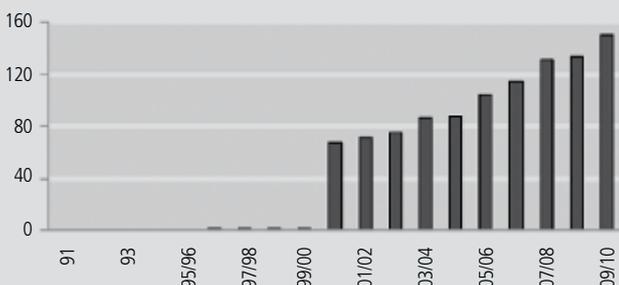
### Strategic pricing saves water

Over the past 14 years to June 2010, the median residential water usage charge has increased from effectively nil (i.e. a 'free water allowance') to 150 cents per kilolitre. Although 68% of local water utilities had effectively 'free' water allowances in 1996–97, these were abolished by 2006–07. Over a similar period, the proportion of water utilities' revenue from residential customers that comprises water usage charges increased from 20% to 73%.

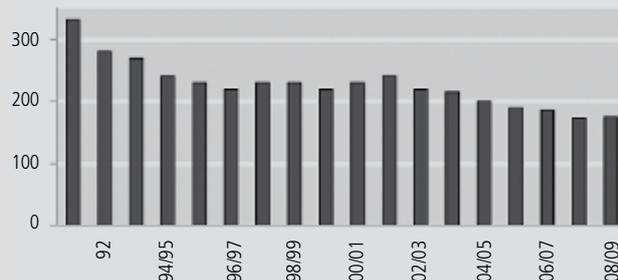
This has sent strong pricing signals to residential water users that have assisted NSW utilities to achieve a 47% reduction in the average volume of water supplied to residential properties since 1991, which equates to a saving of 110 billion litres per annum.

At the same time, there has been a reduction in the statewide median water supply 'typical residential bill', which has fallen by 3% over the past 14 years.

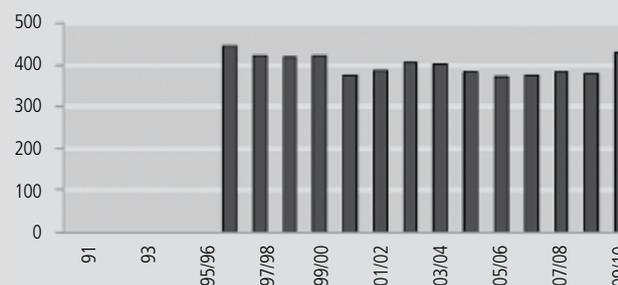
Residential water usage charge (c/kL) 2009–10 \$



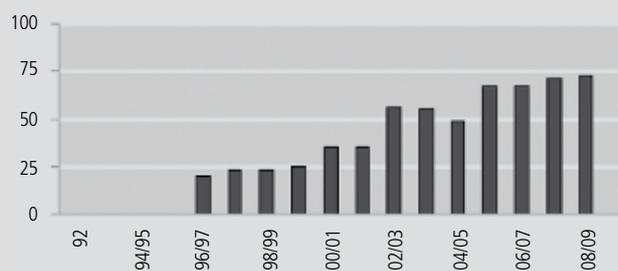
Average annual residential water supplied (kL/connected property)



Water supply typical residential bill 2009–10 \$



Percentage of residential revenue from water usage charges



program/Best-practice-management/Liquid-trade-waste/Liquid-trade-waste/default.aspx).

To comply with the best practice guidelines, local water utilities must adopt and implement an appropriate liquid trade waste policy. To assist them, the NSW Office of Water has provided a model policy, reviews utilities' policies and provides consent to soundly based policies. As at 30 June 2009 (the latest date for which figures are available), 69% of utilities had an appropriate trade waste policy, 67% had complying liquid trade waste fees and charges, and 69% had complying non-residential sewerage charges.

### Utility performance

The 2008–09 annual *NSW water supply and sewerage performance monitoring report*, which is available on [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au) (the most recent available) presents key performance indicators for all utilities, together with the statewide performance of the combined non-metropolitan water utilities and interstate comparisons. The report has been provided to various government agencies and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Summary performance reports are provided by the NSW Office of Water for each utility, showing its performance and its ranking relative to other utilities for over 50 key performance indicators.

### National performance framework

The NSW Office of Water is a member of the group that developed and maintains the National Performance Framework for annually reporting the performance of the larger urban water utilities (those with more than 10,000 connected properties) under the National Water Initiative.

Under this criteria, 30 NSW utilities are eligible for reporting in the *National performance report 2008–2009 for urban water utilities*. This report shows:

- of the eight Australian states and territories, NSW is one of the three that have complied with the economic regulation and pricing requirements of the National Water Initiative
- while real water and sewerage prices have been increasing in recent years to fund increases in operating and capital expenditure, in non-metropolitan NSW the typical residential bill for water supply and sewerage services has fallen slightly over the past 13 years.

Overall, non-metropolitan water utilities in NSW have implemented continuous improvement principles, including preparing an annual action plan for improving their performance. They have also successfully avoided real increases in their 'typical residential bill' measure through sound strategic business planning and asset management, together with their strong pricing strategies that have achieved full cost recovery and efficient use of water supply, and sewerage and trade waste services.

## Water conservation and drought management

By 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available), 87% of local water utilities had implemented water conservation plans that included pricing reforms, community education, water loss reduction, retrofit programs and rebates for water efficient appliances or rainwater tanks.

In terms of recycling, 79% of local water utilities had begun programs to re-use effluent, mostly for agriculture. The total volume of water recycled in the 2008–09 financial year was 38,000 megalitres. This was 23% of the total volume of sewage collected, compared to 14% in 1998–99. In 2008–09, 25% of local water utilities recycled over 50% of their effluent. Nine utilities each recycled over 1,000 megalitres.

By 2008–09, 90% of local water utilities had implemented a drought management plan. NSW is currently in its ninth year of continuous drought. During periods of drought, the Government provides technical and financial assistance to utilities to maintain essential water supplies. To ensure urban

#### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

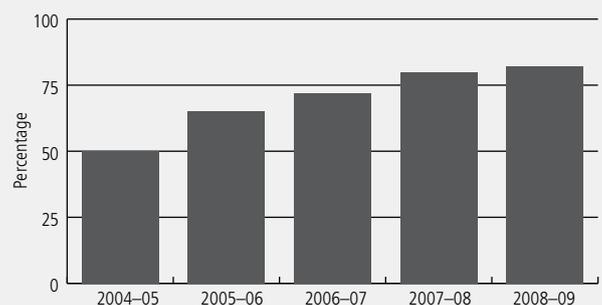
#### Percentage of requirements of best practice management guidelines met by local water utilities

**Definition:** This indicator measures the cumulative proportion of the 19 key requirements of the *Best practice management of water supply and sewerage guidelines 2007* (or earlier versions of the guidelines) that are being met by the 106 NSW local water utilities. Compliance with the guidelines enables utilities to achieve effective, sustainable and safe water supply and sewerage services. The guidelines focus on business and financial planning, pricing and regulation, water conservation, drought management and integrated water cycle management.

Each utility that meets all the requirements of the guidelines is eligible to pay an 'efficiency dividend' to the council's general revenue (required under the National Water Initiative), and compliance is also a prerequisite for eligibility for financial assistance towards capital cost of backlog infrastructure under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program.

Detailed information is provided in the annual *NSW water supply and sewerage performance monitoring report*, which is available on the NSW Office of Water website ([www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)). Data collection and compilation timeframes mean that the report is not available for some 12 months after the end of the financial year reported, hence the latest available figures are for 2008–09.

#### Proportion of key requirements of best practice guidelines met by local water utilities



**Interpretation:** In 2008–09, 82% of the guideline requirements were met, an increase of 2% since 2007–08. Data for 2009–10 will be available in the next annual report.

water supplies are reliable and secure, the NSW Office of Water works to ensure that no town runs out of water.

In 2009–10, financial assistance of \$37 million was approved by the NSW Government to secure town water supplies, bringing the total since the drought commenced to \$92 million.

### Integrated water cycle management

Integrated water cycle management is the integration of urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater services on a local catchment basis. This requires that water services be managed sustainably, considering natural processes, other water users (including the environment), and broader catchment issues. It also requires that water use be efficient and waste be reduced to a minimum. Through such management, a local water utility can identify an optimal strategy that would include opportunities for water recycling, stormwater harvesting, water-sensitive urban design, reduction in system leakage and the use of sources such as rainwater tanks.

Twenty-eight of the 106 local water utilities in NSW have now completed a full integrated water cycle management plan and a further 23 utilities have begun preparing their plan. These plans ensure not only improved water sustainability, but also often provide better social, environmental and economic outcomes.

### Infrastructure funding

The Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program provides financial support to local water utilities to provide water supply and sewerage services to country towns in NSW. Assistance is provided for the capital cost of works to address the 'backlog' in water supply and sewerage infrastructure. The identified 'backlog' relates to the infrastructure necessary to meet the demand, loads, service standards and regulator requirements that existed when the 1996 program was first launched by the NSW Government. Each utility is responsible for other costs, including operating and maintenance costs and any capital costs required to meet growth, asset replacement and changes in standards or requirements post-1996.

During 2009–10, the program provided \$64.9 million. This funding enabled the completion of major sewerage projects at Coffs Harbour, Crowdy Head, Cudal, Currarong, Mooney Mooney-Cheero Point, Stroud and Tenterfield. Major water supply projects were completed for the Shannon Creek dam, Mendooran and Urbenville, and Woodenbong Muli Muli, as well as for emergency drought relief projects across the state.

The total expenditure on the program since 1996 exceeds \$875 million, and has enabled completion of 385 water supply and sewerage projects that have delivered enhanced public health, environment and security of services, directly benefiting more than one million residents in country NSW.

The Government's total commitment to this program is now more than \$1.17 billion, and the program is scheduled to run until 2016–17. This assistance is ensuring that water supply and sewerage services in urban areas of regional NSW remain appropriate, affordable, cost-effective and well

managed, meet community needs, protect public health and achieve sustainable environmental outcomes.

Population in non-metropolitan NSW with reticulated water supply service in 2008–09	<b>1.8 million</b> <b>(97.9% coverage).</b>
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Population in non-metropolitan NSW with reticulated sewerage service in 2008–09	<b>1.7 million</b> <b>(95.2% coverage).</b>
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### Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program

Access to clean drinking water and the ability to safely dispose of waste water are critical to improving the health of Aboriginal communities. The NSW Aboriginal Land Council and the NSW Government are working in partnership to improve water and sewerage services for Aboriginal communities across NSW. More than \$200 million will be invested over 25 years on maintenance, operation, monitoring and capital works for water and sewerage infrastructure.

The program commenced in July 2008. The NSW Office of Water manages the program, with implementation overseen by a steering committee comprising representatives from key agencies and organisations.

Risk-based management plans are being developed to identify risks to the continued safe operation of the water supply and sewerage systems, to improve the reliability of the systems. Five management plans have been completed so far, and a further 10 interim plans have been prepared.

The NSW Office of Water consults with local Aboriginal land councils and local water utilities to develop agreements through which the utilities, or other service providers, take responsibility for day-to-day operation and maintenance of water and sewerage systems. Two long-term agreements have been executed so far, and 21 interim agreements are in place.

As a result of the program, more than 2,700 Aboriginal people are now receiving a better water supply or sewerage service, or both of these.



*The treated and raw water storage tanks at the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal community in the Cobar Shire, located 15 km north of Condobolin, which will be maintained and funded by the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program over the next 25 years.*

Photo: J. Bourke

# A credible, efficient and effective organisation



Photo: DECCW

*As the leading environment, conservation and water management agency in NSW, DECCW ensures staff have the skills to deliver positive outcomes for the environment, and the organisation is managed cost-effectively and efficiently.*

## Context

As at 30 June 2010 DECCW employs more than 4,321 staff (full-time equivalent), with more than 2,000 in regional locations. DECCW is a leader in environmental sustainability and has established an action plan to enable the organisation to lead sustainability issues across the NSW Government sector. DECCW is continuing to reduce its own overall energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

To ensure compliance with statutory requirements, government policies and procedures, and continuous improvement practices, DECCW regularly reviews and updates its corporate governance strategies and department-wide policies.

DECCW continues to encourage a diverse and well-trained workforce, with solid training programs and career development opportunities for staff. The high calibre of DECCW staff was reflected in the number of awards won in 2009–10. DECCW continues to attract new staff by running graduate, cadet and trainee work programs.

## Outcomes

- Having sound corporate governance arrangements
- Being a leader in environmental sustainability
- Having effective external communications and excellent customer service
- Having healthy, trained staff and a safe and productive workplace
- Having the best available knowledge and information, and effective work systems for sound decision-making.

## Key drivers

- State Plan – *Investing in a Better Future* [www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/)
- DECCW Corporate Plan (2010 update) [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/plan.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/plan.htm)
- NSW Government Sustainability Policy [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm) and the internal DECCW Sustainability Action Plan
- NSW Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wrapp/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wrapp/index.htm)
- NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan *Two Ways Together* [www.daa.nsw.gov.au/policies/policy.html](http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au/policies/policy.html)
- DECCW Code of Ethical Conduct [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/ethics.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/ethics.htm)
- DECCW Guarantee of Service [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/gos.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/gos.htm)
- DECCW occupational health and safety, equal employment opportunity and ethnic affairs priority strategies and frameworks.

## Performance indicators

- Requests handled by DECCW's Information Centre
- Visits to DECCW websites
- Freedom of information requests
- DECCW staff accidents and workers compensation claims
- DECCW staff representation in equal employment opportunity groups
- Payment of accounts.



Photo: A. Weeraratne, DECCW

# Corporate governance

DECCW implements effective corporate governance systems that:

- enhance strategic planning and overall organisational performance
- strengthen risk and asset management
- enhance DECCW's credibility and public reputation through transparency and accountability
- prevent and detect fraudulent, dishonest or unethical behaviour
- strengthen budgeting and financial management systems and reporting.

In April 2010, DECCW published a *Corporate Plan 2010 update* to take account of the incorporation of the NSW Office of Water, and the release of a revised NSW State Plan. The corporate plan (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/corpplanning.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/corpplanning.htm)) sets out DECCW's goals, outcomes, objectives and priorities.

DECCW monitors a comprehensive set of corporate performance indicators, on which performance reports are based. These reports are provided quarterly to DECCW management and the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and half-yearly to the EPA Board. The NSW Office of Water monitors a suite of performance indicators monthly and quarterly, and meets weekly with the Minister of Water to provide reports and updates on corporate and financial performance.

## Management

The Director General is the head of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, and works with the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Minister for Water, the DECCW executive management team, senior managers and staff to achieve DECCW objectives and ensure its resources are used efficiently.

DECCW executive members consider corporate and budget performance at regular meetings, to ensure DECCW is meeting its responsibilities. Executive subcommittees cover issues such as information technology, science, natural resource management, external funding and legislation. Various boards and committees advise on policy development and meeting corporate objectives, including the EPA Board, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee.

## Risk management

DECCW follows an internal corporate Risk Management Policy and guidelines that help ensure risk is managed systematically, efficiently and effectively. Corporate risk management procedures incorporate risk identification, analysis, evaluation and treatment, as well as management and staff accountabilities. The policy and guidelines are supplemented by occupational health and safety, fire management and tree risk management policies and procedures. DECCW also addresses risk through its insurance arrangements.

DECCW's updated Fraud and Corruption Control Strategy was released in August 2009 (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/fraud.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/fraud.htm)). It sets out policies, highlights activities that are susceptible to fraud and corruption, and details DECCW's approach to preventing, detecting, reporting on and investigating fraud and corruption.

As part of DECCW's internal audit program, key controls were tested in 2009–10 to ensure they were effective in minimising fraud and corruption.

The risk of fraud and corruption is also reduced through the Code of Ethical Conduct (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/ethics.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/ethics.htm)) and a Statement of Business Ethics (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/commercial/businessethics.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/commercial/businessethics.htm)). These guide DECCW's relationships with external providers and stakeholders.

## Business continuity planning

In 2009–10, DECCW revised its Business Continuity Plan and Pandemic Response Plan to complement regional incident response plans and disaster recovery plans. These plans aim to minimise the disruption of services to the public should a catastrophic event or pandemic occur. Training in and testing on the Business Continuity Plan were conducted in 2010 and ongoing refinements are continually being made to maintain its effectiveness.

## Asset management systems

DECCW has an asset strategy in place as part of NSW Government total asset management and budgetary reporting processes. DECCW manages land and buildings, water entitlements, plant and equipment, visitor facilities in parks and infrastructure systems such as roads, pipelines and flood mitigation structures (see Appendix 19).

DECCW's Parks and Wildlife Group, which manages most of DECCW's physical assets, introduced a new asset maintenance system, known as the AMS, during the year. The AMS enables a comprehensive inventory of assets to be maintained, facilitates scheduling of asset maintenance and provides reports of local or state-wide maintenance activities and costs. (For more information, see Chapter 4, 'Park asset maintenance' under 'Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands').

Major works are in progress to improve the condition of DECCW assets. These are shown in Appendix 18.



DECCW's assets include the heritage property Davidson Whaling Station in Eden.

Photo: S Cohen, DECCW

## Audit and compliance program

DECCW's comprehensive internal audit program helps to ensure its programs and processes comply with legislation and best practice management.

In 2009–10, DECCW reviewed and updated its Internal Audit Committee Charter and Internal Audit functions to align them with the core requirements set out in NSW Treasury Circular TC09/08 *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy*. The Director General's Internal Audit and Risk Management Statement attesting to compliance with the Treasury Circular is provided at the end of this section.

As a result of the review, DECCW established a new Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), the membership of which is outlined in Appendix 5. The ARC oversees DECCW's environment protection, finance and administration, risk management and fraud and corruption controls.

Conservation compliance is overseen by the separate Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee (CACC), established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Both the ARC and CACC meet quarterly, and officers from the Audit Office of NSW regularly attend meetings as observers.

DECCW's internal auditors submit final reports to the appropriate audit committee, and report recommendations are monitored to ensure they are fully implemented. DECCW's internal auditors for 2009–10 were IAB Services and Walter Turnbull.

Audit reports completed during 2009–10 and presented to the ARC covered:

- back-up procedures (for electronic data)
- decision making and accountability processes in the Environment Protection and Regulation Group
- financial management of catchment management authorities
- native vegetation
- the NSW Climate Change Fund grants program
- procurement practices
- RTA DRIVES compliance (Roads and Traffic Authority vehicle registration database)
- the World Heritage management and upkeep program.

Audit reports completed during 2009–10 and presented to the CACC were:

- park visitation and recreational opportunities
- the regulation of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- the repatriation of Aboriginal remains and collections of cultural materials of Aboriginal communities.

The CACC also receives regular updates on the progress of the three-year Plan of Management Program for national parks and reserves that commenced in 2009–10, to ensure statutory plans of management are being implemented.

The above audits found that operational and administrative systems were largely sound. There were no areas identified with 'extreme' risk ratings. Some areas identified as having 'high risk' ratings were controlled by the acceptance of a range of recommendations.

The NSW Office of Water conducts auditing activities under a separate program, also overseen by the ARC. Significant audit engagements completed during the year included:

- a review of the Murray River Works Program and the Tumut and Upper Murray Rivers Works Program
- a review of the tender procedures for equipment hire.

These reviews indicate satisfactory compliance with internal controls.

Consistent with recommendations made by the NSW Ombudsman, the NSW Office of Water developed a control self-assessment template for water compliance officers' record keeping activities, and a Corruption Prevention Strategy.

During the year, the Office's internal audit staff helped operational managers identify and evaluate risks, and also provided probity advice on governance issues.

## External reviews

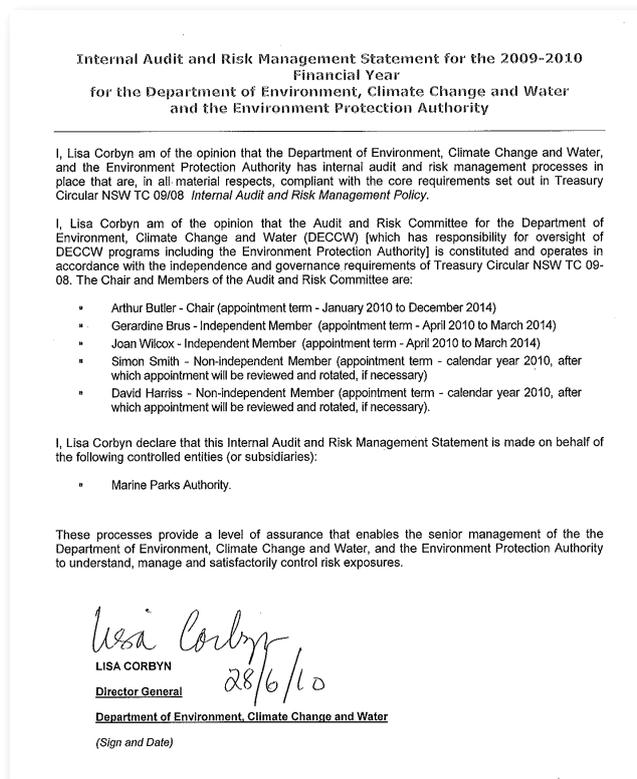
During 2009–10, the Audit Office of NSW carried out its annual program of comprehensive audits of DECCW's program performance, financial reporting, and accounting and financial systems.

In August 2009, the Auditor-General released a report on environmental grants administration. The report examined ten environmental grant programs managed by the Environmental Trust and DECCW, which together granted around \$200 million between 2002–03 and 2006–07 and will grant a further \$300 million over the next five years. The Auditor-General's report found many aspects of sound grants management. All programs investigated clearly aligned with the Government's objective to improve environmental outcomes, and many of the grants delivered tangible outcomes such as homes protected from floods, degraded waterways restored and endangered habitats protected. The audit recommended strategies to reduce red tape and delays, and improve transparency, objectivity, the monitoring of grants and the evaluation of funding programs.

In response to the report, DECCW reviewed the strategic direction, financial management and administration of its coastal, estuary and floodplain programs that provide grants to local councils (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grantsandfunding/CoastalEstuaryFloodplainManagementGrants.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grantsandfunding/CoastalEstuaryFloodplainManagementGrants.htm)). Improvements being implemented include:

- releasing funds to councils earlier in the year
- piloting a proposal to bring forward the submission and assessment of grant applications to better align with councils' funding cycles and project planning
- including independent experts in technical assessments of grant applications
- implementing extra systems for monitoring and evaluation
- introducing new grant guidelines and formal funding agreements, in line with the Premier's guidelines on grants administration
- carrying out an audit of all outstanding grant projects
- making better use of electronic technology and council distribution networks to promote grants.

The Audit Office of NSW is carrying out an audit to assess how well DECCW manages pollution incidents. This audit report is expected to be completed in 2010–11.



DECCW's internal audit risk statement 2009–10.

## Ethical behaviour

DECCW's ethical framework is detailed in policies and guidelines relating to ethical conduct, managing complaints and allegations, preventing fraud and corruption and making a protected disclosure under the *Protected Disclosures Act 1994*.

The Code of Ethical Conduct (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/ethics.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/ethics.htm)) applies to everyone employed or engaged by DECCW and describes the ethical framework that should guide actions, decisions and behaviour.

DECCW works to ensure the privacy of staff and clients is protected. DECCW's Privacy Management Plan and Guidelines (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/privacy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/privacy.htm)) detail the privacy principles DECCW follows when dealing with personal information. During 2009–10, three applications for access to personal information were received. One complaint was received under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and no complaints were received under the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

Separately in 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water received one privacy application to amend a personal record, which was declined. On request, this decision is being reviewed, with the outcome expected in early 2010–11.

Corporate governance activities relating to financial management, consumer response and freedom of information are reported elsewhere in this chapter. Other corporate governance activities reported in the annual report appendices include:

- Senior Executive Service staff performance statements (see Appendix 2)
- statutory boards and committees (see Appendix 5)
- legislation and legal changes (see Appendix 7)
- Statement of Affairs (see Appendix 10)
- freedom of information (see Appendix 11)
- overseas visits by staff (see Appendix 15)
- consultancies (see Appendix 16)
- grants to community organisations (see Appendix 17).

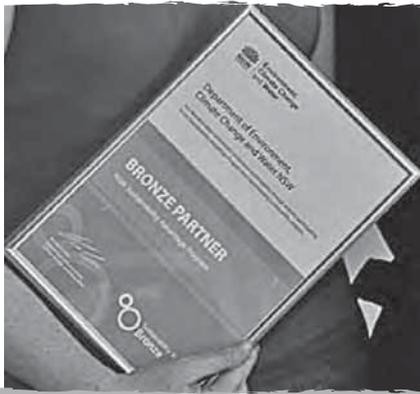


Photo: DECCW

# A leader in sustainability and environmental performance

## Sustainability policy

As the leading environmental agency in NSW, DECCW is committed to meeting, and wherever possible exceeding, the targets set out for government agencies in the NSW Government Sustainability Policy (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm)).

Since 2008, DECCW has had in place an internal Sustainability Action Plan that details activities to ensure it uses resources efficiently, minimises greenhouse gas emissions and increases sustainable purchasing. During 2009–10, DECCW commenced a review of the plan and its key sustainability performance indicators that assess and monitor progress. In addition, a staff sustainability engagement plan was prepared.

In 2008, DECCW also joined the Sustainability Advantage program and, in June 2010, was formally recognised as a Bronze Partner. DECCW's activities under the program continue to focus on resource efficiency and staff engagement.

The following sections highlight areas where DECCW is working to achieve better sustainability outcomes.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW is the first government agency to be recognised as a Bronze Partner under the Sustainability Advantage program.

## Carbon management

In recent years, DECCW has grown in size as various responsibilities, staff and facilities of former agencies have been transferred to it. The focus for action is energy efficiency to reduce emissions from its expanded portfolio of buildings and vehicles. Electricity and diesel fuel are the principle sources of emissions.

Total energy use for DECCW in 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available) was 179,723 gigajoules, with 25,641 tonnes of greenhouse gas emitted (net of GreenPower purchased). Compared to the previous year, this represented a 4% decrease in energy consumption and a 6% decrease in tonnes of greenhouse gas emitted, an excellent result given staff numbers increased by 3%. Data for 2009–10 will be reported in the 2010–11 annual report.

DECCW has more than 2,000 premises, some leased and some owned, comprising offices, laboratories, equipment depots and buildings in national parks. In 2008–09, DECCW's building use generated around 16,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions as a result of 16.7 million kilowatt hours of electricity consumed. More than 11% of the electricity purchased by DECCW was GreenPower (this is better than the minimum standard of 6% set out in the NSW Government Sustainability Policy).

During 2008–09, DECCW sites also generated at least 62,700 kilowatt hours of green power using solar panels, which allowed more than 11,000 kilowatt hours to be fed back to the grid, thereby further decreasing electricity-related greenhouse gas emissions.

DECCW's Far West Solar Project, under which solar power has been installed at six national park buildings in western NSW – including the Tibooburra Visitor Centre, Mungo Visitor Centre and Broken Hill office – won the 'Leading Change' category in the 2009 Premier's Public Sector Awards. In 2010–2011, this project will generate approximately \$96,072 of energy, covering all current energy costs plus generating revenue.

In 2009–10, DECCW continued its energy efficiency initiatives, including:

- a program of staff engagement (e.g. a computer desktop reminder to switch off monitors)
- upgrading various facilities and leased tenancies to energy efficient lighting
- reducing the number of items of IT equipment and reviewing the energy efficiency of existing equipment and ways in which it is used (e.g. stand-by times, power saving modes).

DECCW participated in Earth Hour in Sydney for the fourth time on 27 March 2010.

During 2009–10, DECCW staff travelled 3.91 million air miles, which is a reduction of about 2% over the previous year.



Photo: DECCW

*The Shearer's Quarters at Mungo have been fitted with solar panels, helping national parks in the far west of NSW to cover energy costs and generate revenue.*

## Water use

In 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available), DECCW used around 321 megalitres of potable water in its operations, an increase of 7% from 2007–08. This increase was mainly due to greater consumption at the botanic gardens due to a lack of rainfall over the growing season (see the separate annual report of the Botanic Gardens Trust). Work is continuing to improve water efficiency in gardens and across DECCW.

## Sustainable DECCW buildings

Under the NSW Government Sustainability Policy, office buildings over 1000 m<sup>2</sup> owned or leased by agencies must:

- obtain a NABERS energy and water rating by 31 December 2008
- achieve and maintain a NABERS rating of 4.5 stars for energy and water by 1 July 2011, where cost effective
- where new or refurbished, achieve and maintain 2011 targets from 18 months of the first occupancy, where cost effective.

By working closely with building management in DECCW's Sydney head office, DECCW helped to increase the building's NABERS rating from 3.5 stars to 4.5 stars in 2009–10. In the same period, DECCW achieved a 4.5 star rating for its tenancies at Hurstville and Parramatta (both Fitzwilliam Street and Valentine Avenue), and a 5-star rating for its tenancies at Coffs Harbour (Moonee Street) and Jindabyne.

Whenever office accommodation refurbishments are planned, sustainable workplace initiatives, such as energy and water efficiency and recycling systems, are incorporated into the fit-out plans. Where possible, DECCW arranges for outmoded fluorescent tubes to be replaced with energy efficient tubes, and wherever practical has old tubes collected so their mercury, alloy, glass and phosphor powder content are separated, refined and recycled. Dedicated fluorescent tube recycling programs are in place in both the Sydney head office and Hurstville tenancies.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Recycling of office chairs

Over several years of staff relocations and office refurbishments, DECCW had accumulated almost 150 office chairs that were no longer serviceable. These chairs were taking up valuable office and storage space in both the Hurstville and Sydney offices. DECCW negotiated with Corrective Services Industries (CSI), administered by the Department of Corrective Services at Long Bay Correctional Centre at Malabar, to dismantle the chairs into their recyclable components.

All metal and plastic components were sent to facilities for re-use or recycling, while a number of chairs were rebuilt using parts from other chairs, and are being used at the prison.

The Malabar Special Programs Centre appreciated the opportunity for inmates to engage in this work, and for incorporating best practice techniques to help the environment.

In 2009–10, DECCW undertook accommodation fit-outs at offices at Parramatta, Nelson Bay, Newcastle, Hurstville and Wollongong, as well as in parts of the Sydney head office. DECCW reused and recycled the serviceable workstations and furniture at each site, which greatly reduced both waste and overall project costs.

Wherever possible, DECCW either recycles existing office furniture or selects new furniture that has positive environmental attributes and meets international environmental labelling standards.

By working closely with the building management of the Hurstville tenancy, DECCW has upgraded the car park lighting to LED light tube technology. It is anticipated that savings of up to 50% of electricity costs will be achieved. Lighting in the lift foyer and toilets in the Sydney head office have also been upgraded to include movement sensors, with new energy efficient lights switching on and off automatically when needed.

The NSW Office of Water undertook accommodation fit-outs at its Wollongong, Bega and Dubbo offices, and relocated staff in other offices to improve the efficiency of the layout. Surplus furniture and equipment are being relocated, recycled or removed. The result is improved utilisation of office space, cost savings by reallocating surplus equipment to other offices and reducing waste.

## Vehicle fleet

DECCW's Fleet Improvement Plan is helping DECCW meet performance targets set by the Cleaner NSW Government Fleet Program. Progress is measured by calculating an average 'environmental performance score' for the fleet, which measures greenhouse gas emissions (as CO<sub>2</sub>) and air quality impacts (as noxious emissions). The June 2011 targets are 13.5 out of 20 for passenger vehicles, and 9.0 for light commercial vehicles.

As at June 2010, DECCW operated 889 vehicles that are subject to environmental performance reporting, with trucks and specialist vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, such as those used for fire management, being exempt. DECCW's fleet of 478 passenger vehicles recorded an environmental performance score of 12.2 as at June 2010. The score for DECCW's fleet of 411 light commercial vehicles was 8.4.

In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, DECCW's fleet generated about 6,600 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent in 2009–10. DECCW is reducing greenhouse gas emissions through its increasing use of hybrid vehicles. The number of hybrid vehicles increased from 38 to 49 during 2009–10.

DECCW also trialled a Mitsubishi iMiEV, an innovative electric vehicle with zero-emissions technology, with a view to being one of the first NSW Government agencies to include this technology in its fleet. The iMiEV is expected to become available in the second half of 2010.

DECCW faces challenges in limiting the size of its overall fleet. Almost 60% of DECCW vehicles are used in park management, and with an expanding area of parks and reserves to be managed – the area increased in 2009–10 by a further 38,500 hectares – staff must travel further to patrol and manage these lands. Parks staff also undertook a record number of bushfire hazard reduction burns over a record number of hectares in 2009–10, and attended more wildfires than in the previous year. As most park vehicles need to be available for fire fighting and associated support, occupational health and safety considerations mean diesel fuel must be used in these vehicles as it is less likely to ignite.

In 2009–10, 32% of all unleaded fuel purchased across the agency was E10, which is better than the government target of 20%.

Staff in the Sydney metropolitan area are strongly encouraged to use public transport rather than departmental vehicles, and among head office staff the Government's free CBD shuttle bus service has been popular. Staff are also encouraged to cycle to work. DECCW provides secure bicycle storage space in its head office building in Sydney, as well as the metropolitan offices in Hurstville and Parramatta.

## Video conferencing

DECCW is continuing to expand and improve video conferencing and other in-house communication technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be produced by travelling for meetings, training and other activities. In the first six months since establishing five video conferencing rooms in August 2009, it is estimated that the combined participants' saving in travel distance was more than 300,000 kilometres.

As at June 2010, DECCW had eight video conference rooms established across the state and more than 200 staff had access to desk-based audio and video conferencing. During 2010–11, DECCW intends to introduce video conferencing facilities at five more locations, focusing on regional offices.



Carol Lee, Public Affairs Officer, tries out DECCW's video conferencing facilities.

## Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy

Since 1997 (and 1999 for state-owned corporations), the NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) has required all state government agencies to have a plan to reduce waste in paper products, office equipment, vegetation material and construction and demolition material. WRAPP also requires that materials with recycled content are bought when they are cost and performance competitive. DECCW is responsible for coordinating WRAPP, and publishing the results in a whole-of-government report every two years. During 2009–10, DECCW commenced collecting and compiling WRAPP data from all NSW agencies for inclusion in the WRAPP Progress Report 2007–2009.

DECCW must also report every two years on its own performance against WRAPP. In 2008–09 (the latest year for which figures are available), DECCW continued to improve its waste management practices. Achievements included recycling:

- 100% of computer central processing units, laptops, computer monitors and used toner cartridges
- 97.3% of copy paper and all other office paper
- 94.5% of cardboard
- 75% of co-mingled containers.

A comprehensive waste management system that was introduced into DECCW's Sydney head office in 2008 has been extended to tenancies at Parramatta (Fitzwilliam Street) and Queanbeyan. In the Sydney head office, this system halved the overall amount of waste being generated, improved recycling by 30% and introduced organic waste recycling for the first time. It is expected to produce similar results in the Parramatta and Queanbeyan tenancies.

Other highlights in 2009–10 included:

- establishing worm farms at the Blue Mountains (Kanangra) office, the Lane Cove Tourist Park and the Queanbeyan office to recycle organic material
- recarpeting parts of the Hurstville and Parramatta (Valentine Avenue) tenancies with carpet tiles made from recycled car tyres.



Photo: S. Cohen, DECCW

# External connections and customer satisfaction with DECCW services

## Client response

DECCW continues to meet State Plan objectives by measuring customer satisfaction and using the results to improve its services. Throughout 2009–10, DECCW continued to enhance community awareness through its websites, targeted community education programs and the Environment Line telephone information service.

DECCW values its relationships with external organisations and individuals, and recognises their valuable role in supporting environmental initiatives. DECCW's Guarantee of Service (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/gos.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/gos.htm)) covers four main service principles: respect, helpfulness, responsiveness and continuous improvement. The guarantee reinforces DECCW's corporate values about acting with integrity and being accessible and accountable to the community and other staff.

DECCW seeks feedback from stakeholders and customers through:

- the DECCW Information Centre and Environment Line (and other telephone information services)
- national parks information and visitor centres
- public forums and consultations
- stakeholder surveys
- consultation and advisory committees
- submissions and email correspondence.

The Information Centre is DECCW's main information and advice service. It includes Environment Line, where staff receive calls from business, industry and the public when they are seeking assistance and advice on environment protection, climate change issues, rebates for water and energy saving initiatives, native plants and animals, visiting national parks and reserves, native vegetation or reporting pollution incidents. The centre also provides over-the-counter services, sells and distributes publications and manages an increasing number of email requests for information.

In 2009–10, the centre received 306,942 requests. Demand was particularly high this year due to public interest in household and business rebates for water and energy saving measures, which accounted for 35% of information requests. More details about requests made to the Information Centre are provided in Appendix 12.

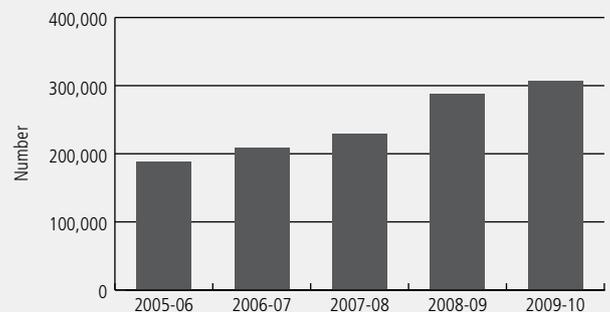
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Requests handled by DECCW's Information Centre

**Definition:** The Information Centre provides information through the Environment Line telephone service and switchboards, by email, face-to-face through reception services, and through websites, fax and mail. From 2008–09, these statistics include all pollution incident and motor vehicle reports. (See also details about incident reports in the Performance indicator 'Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises' in Chapter 3, and more detailed statistics on the Information Centre and Environment Line in Appendix 12.)

This indicator does not include details from NSW Office of Water, which has a separate information line.

#### Requests handled by DECCW's Information Centre



**Interpretation:** Since 2005–06, requests handled by the Information Centre have risen steadily by about 10% each year. This trend has continued in 2009–10, with the number of requests handled increasing to 306,942. These include 7,475 pollution incidents and 9,507 motor vehicle-related reports. The Climate Change Fund Home Saver rebate program for water savings and energy efficiency in residential households continues to attract a high volume of enquiries and applicants. Email enquiries account for almost 13% of all enquiries received, due in part to additional websites being established and an expanding range of topics being integrated into the DECCW website.

This year there were 7,475 reports of pollution (up by 5% on the previous year) and another 9,507 reports about noise, littering and smoke from vehicles, which represented an increase of 6% from the previous year, mainly comprising an increase in reports of littering from vehicles. Reports of smoky vehicles, by comparison, have been declining steadily for some years, possibly due to improvements in vehicle maintenance, the age of vehicles on NSW roads and the NSW Diesel Retrofit Program which has helped

reduce emissions from trucks (see the performance indicator 'Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises' in Chapter 3).

The NSW Office of Water's Licensing Information Line assisted with more than 3,800 queries in 2009–10, mainly relating to water licensing requirements and basic landowner rights. There was also an increase in calls about water sharing plans.

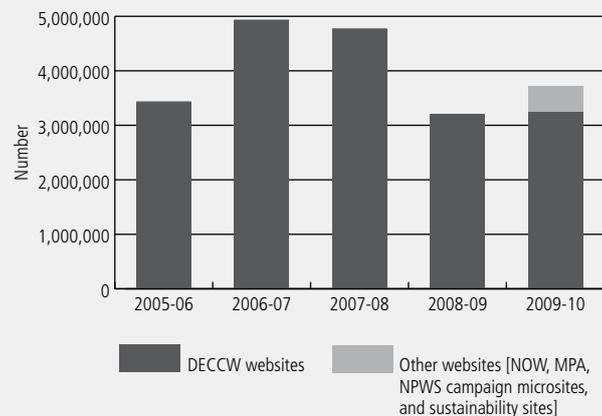
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Visits to DECCW websites

**Definition:** This indicator measures the total number of visits to DECCW's corporate website. From 2009–10, it also shows numbers of visits to other websites managed by DECCW, including those for the NSW Office of Water ([www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)), the Marine Parks Authority ([www.mpa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au)) and various campaigns associated with parks, conservation, air quality and sustainability. It does not include visits to the Botanic Gardens Trust website (which is reported in the trust's own annual report). A 'visit' consists of one or more page views by a single visitor.

Use related to campaign newsletters, subscriptions and other online user engagement is not included in these statistics.

### Visits to DECCW websites



**Interpretation:** Use of the DECCW corporate website ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)) continues to be strong with more than 3.2 million visits in 2009–10. This website consistently features in the top 15 NSW Government websites as measured by numbers of visits. The noticeable drop in visits after 2006–07 followed a project to integrate a number of websites into the corporate website, meaning that visits to multiple DECCW websites were subsequently counted only once.

Campaign sites represented in the figure for 'other' sites managed by DECCW on behalf of the NSW government include *Our environment – it's a living thing* ([www.livingthing.net.au](http://www.livingthing.net.au)), the *Save Power* energy efficiency program ([www.savepower.nsw.gov.au](http://www.savepower.nsw.gov.au)), 'Clear the Air' ([www.cleartheair.com.au](http://www.cleartheair.com.au)), 'Love Food Hate Waste' ([www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.au](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.au)), 'Wild about Whales' ([www.wildaboutwhales.com.au](http://www.wildaboutwhales.com.au)) and 'Wild Wild World' ([www.wildwildworld.com.au](http://www.wildwildworld.com.au)). In 2009–10, a combined 416,638 visits were made to these websites. Some of these sites operated for only part of the financial year.

Various reporting tools have been used to assess web usage – these will be standardised in 2010–11.

## Dealing with complaints

DECCW is committed to handling public feedback and complaints courteously, efficiently and equitably (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/complaint.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/complaint.htm)).

In 2009–10, DECCW (excluding the NSW Office of Water) received 33 significant complaints. These included allegations of unethical conduct, corrupt conduct and other complaints referred by the NSW Ombudsman's office. Twenty-nine of the 33 complaints were finalised during the year, together with six additional complaints that had been received in 2008–09 and had not been finalised by the end of that year. Evidence of improper conduct was found in eight cases and appropriate action was taken. In dealing with complaints, changes to some management systems, procedures and programs were implemented.

The NSW Office of Water commenced central recording of service delivery complaints (and compliments) in September 2009. Its complaints handling procedure aims to resolve customer dissatisfaction by identifying problems and changing procedures to improve service delivery. Informal complaints are defined as those that are received verbally and can be dealt with within five days. All others are regarded as formal. Allegations of serious misconduct or corruption are dealt with separately. During 2009–10, 15 informal and 5 formal complaints were received. At 30 June, 19 complaints had been resolved, and action to resolve the remaining complaint was under way.

## Improvements to the DECCW website

DECCW informs the public of its activities through the DECCW website ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)). The website increasingly provides online services that make it easier for people to access publications, apply and pay for licences, find accommodation in a national park, or record sightings of native species.

Developments in 2009–10 included:

- a publicly accessible image library – DECCW holds a large collection of environmental photographs and images, but to date finding an image has only been possible through manual searching. Images have now been catalogued, subject tagged and organised, which will result in more than 5,000 of them being made available to the public online in the fourth quarter of 2010.
- improved information for park visitors – the website is heavily used by people planning visits to national parks.
- social media – the website now includes social media features for sharing content, such as media releases which are available as an RSS feed and on Twitter.
- Dustwatch – a new website that reports on dust conditions and wind erosion (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/dustwatch/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/dustwatch/index.htm)).

DECCW manages other websites, some of which are listed in the performance indicator on this page.

Many staff are located outside metropolitan areas, which means the internal (intranet) site, known as DECCWnet, is an important way to communicate and provide staff with

tools and resources for their work. DECCWnet continues to grow, and now hosts audio and video files on topics of internal interest.

## Communication and partnerships

DECCW continues to issue e-newsletters to organisations, interested groups and the public to keep them up-to-date with the latest environmental issues. Newsletters issued in 2009–10 included:

- *Climate of Change*, which highlights the latest environmental news and events
- *Environmental Trust Connections*, which provides information on Environmental Trust programs and showcases some projects
- *Explore*, which showcases sustainable tourism and conservation activities in parks, profiles successful experiences and partnerships, and communicates events, visitor trends and tourism industry news
- *Living Sustainably*, which is the e-newsletter for *Our environment – it's a living thing* and aims to help NSW residents live more sustainably at home, work and play
- *Naturescapes*, which features visitor activities, events, experiences, destinations and accommodation around NSW national parks
- *Resort Roundup*, which contains general interest articles for the ski resorts community in Kosciuszko National Park
- *Working with Local Government*, which keeps local councils informed of DECCW initiatives, activities and programs.

DECCW produced a large number of publications during the year, including corporate publications, guidelines and other advisory documents, research and technical reports, discussion papers, plans, brochures and environmental campaign material. The three-yearly *New South Wales State of the Environment 2009* report was released in December 2009 (see 'State of the Environment' section in Chapter 1).

Many publications comprised draft papers or plans for the purposes of public consultation, including 18 draft plans of management for national parks and reserves. Other major documents released for public comment during 2009–10 included:

- draft codes of practice, such as the one for archaeological investigations
- draft floodplain management plans, such as the one for the Edward and Wakool rivers
- draft environmental management plans, such as the plan for the Gwydir Wetlands
- draft regional conservation plans, such as the plans for the south coast and far north coast
- draft policies, such as the NSW Road Noise Policy
- draft regulations, such as the Fisheries Management (Aquatic Reserve) Regulation 2009 for Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve.

The NSW Office of Water produces an extensive range of publications, including fact sheets, project reports, and water science and policy papers, which are available via its website ([www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)). The Office actively participated in targeted conferences, events and field days to interact with stakeholders and the community.

The NSW Office of Water has conducted a customer satisfaction survey for each of the past three years, web usability research and an irrigators' survey. As a result of the survey, various changes have been made to payment options, administrative procedures and resource management.

During 2009–10, the NSW Office of Water consulted with the community on a range of policy and planning matters, such as water sharing plans, a draft floodplain harvesting policy and reform of the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*. Consultation involved targeted advertising, public meetings and the website.

A detailed list of DECCW publications produced during the year is provided in Appendix 13.

## Freedom of information

DECCW is committed to transparent and accountable decision making. Members of the public can access many documents held by DECCW through its website, on request or by purchasing them. Other documents were available in 2009–10 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

In 2009–10, DECCW received 188 new freedom of information requests and processed 194 applications. These included 41 applications to the NSW Office of Water.

DECCW (excluding the NSW Office of Water) received 147 new freedom of information requests this year, 56 more than in 2008–09, and processed 148 applications. Many applications were from members of parliament, solicitors, journalists, businesses and community organisations. Only three applications were from people seeking information about their personal affairs.



Photo: R. Nicola

A draft regional conservation plan for the far north coast was released for public comment in 2009–10.

Although 26% of these applications were subject to some exemptions from release, around 93% of requested documents were either partly or fully released. Except when ongoing investigations and cabinet-related documents were involved, very few documents created by DECCW were exempted.

There were nine internal review decisions made in relation to freedom of information determinations during 2009–10. Eight decisions were affirmed and one application was withdrawn.

There were no decisions proceeding to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal. Two complaints were made to the NSW Ombudsman about DECCW decisions.

Due to the large scope and complexity of many freedom of information applications and a 61% increase in the total number of applications, 18 applications were not completed within the statutory timeframe. Some applications involved hundreds of documents, or required obtaining documents from regional locations, or required extensive consultation with many affected third parties, which contributed to delays in these cases.

In the NSW Office of Water there were two internal review decisions made in relation to freedom of information determinations during 2009–10. The original decision was upheld in each case. There were no decisions proceeding to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and no complaints were made to the NSW Ombudsman about NSW Office of Water decisions.

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* will replace the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, commencing on 1 July 2010. The new Act creates additional rights to information which are designed to meet community expectations of more open and transparent government. The legislation strongly encourages the routine and proactive release of information by government agencies. Guidance is being provided to DECCW staff to ensure compliance with the new legislation.

## Connections with Aboriginal communities

Enhancing Aboriginal people's connection to Country and increasing their involvement in managing natural resources helps DECCW to conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage and has positive health, education and social benefits. DECCW participates in both state and national initiatives to improve the health, education and social outcomes of Aboriginal people.

DECCW is a significant partner in the NSW State Plan priority to help strengthen Aboriginal communities. DECCW is also a partner agency in *Two Ways Together*, the NSW Government's 10-year plan to improve the lives of Aboriginal people and their communities, and the Australian Government's Closing the Gap Strategy.

In May 2010, DECCW established an Executive Subcommittee on Aboriginal Affairs to direct and monitor DECCW's Aboriginal affairs activities. By the end of 2010, this subcommittee will have developed DECCW's Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan to guide activities over the coming years.

DECCW activities to help strengthen Aboriginal communities during 2009–10 included:

- contributing to a mid-term review of *Two Ways Together* and the revised priorities set out in the NSW State Plan, the Making it Our Business Strategy for improving Aboriginal employment in the NSW public sector, and the Two Ways Together Partnership Community Program
- leading the collection of data and information about improvements in Aboriginal culture and heritage to assist the development of indicators for a two-yearly report on implementation of *Two Ways Together*, published by Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- developing, in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs NSW, a discussion paper about developing ways to measure Indigenous community wellbeing for consideration by the national Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
- participating in a Joint Working Group for Advancing Indigenous Reconciliation in Natural Resource Management and Primary Industries

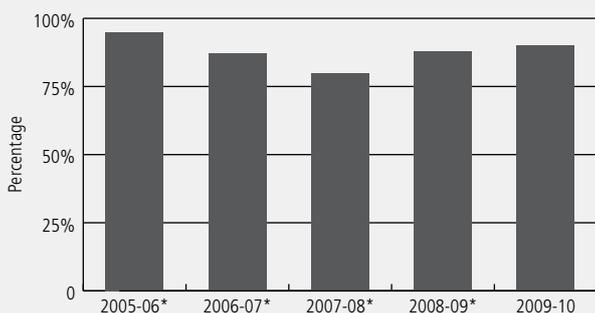
### ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

#### Freedom of information requests

**Definition:** This indicator measures the percentage of freedom of information applications that DECCW (and its predecessors the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Environment and Conservation) processed where 80% or more of the requested documents were released.

The figures do not include the NSW Office of Water. Comparative data for 2008–09 is not available as the NSW Office of Water was part of the former Department of Water and Energy until 30 June 2009.

#### Percentage of FOI requests granted by DECCW that provide 80% or more of requested information



\* DEC and DECC data for these years.

**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, DECCW provided 80% or more of the requested information for 90% of freedom of information requests. In general, DECCW exempts very few of its documents from release. Documents received by DECCW in confidence from third parties or in response to regulatory requirements may be exempted, as release of information on personal or business affairs may have an adverse effect on them. The *Freedom of Information Act 1989* provides protection in these circumstances.

For more information on freedom of information applications, including NSW Office of Water statistics, see Appendix 11.

- working with other NSW agencies to finalise the National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy, which aims to improve service delivery and overcome disadvantage in urban and regional areas
- continuing to fund and support the DECCW Aboriginal Staff Network, including the network's annual conference held at Bourke in March 2010
- conducting clean-up programs on Aboriginal-owned lands in partnership with local Aboriginal communities, local Aboriginal land councils and local councils.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW protects Aboriginal heritage through Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) and other mechanisms. These objects were recovered under an AHIP.

## Strengthening Aboriginal community wellbeing

In 2009–10, DECCW continued to work on the Strengthening Community Wellbeing Framework, an information package which identifies the different material and intangible elements that contribute to a community's wellbeing.

DECCW, in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs NSW, is developing the Strengthening Community Wellbeing Toolkit to assist Aboriginal community governance bodies to develop plans and strategies to improve outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

The draft framework and toolkit have benefited from advice from the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee and individuals working in Aboriginal affairs. The work also draws on Canadian insights and perspectives on community resilience obtained through a SGE Credit Union Travelling Fellowship to Canada.

Following further consultation and design in early 2010–11, the toolkit will be piloted in selected communities.

## NAIDOC celebrations

DECCW celebrated NAIDOC week in July 2009 with the theme *Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth*. This theme encouraged people to acknowledge Elders as inspirational leaders and role models for young people.

Highlights of DECCW's involvement in NAIDOC activities included:

- the Director General hosted a morning tea at the Sydney head office, including a Welcome to Country and a performance of Indigenous song and dance
- DECCW offices at Hurstville and Parramatta held events that included Welcome to Country, awarding 'Aboriginal champion' certificates and performances of traditional and contemporary music and dance
- helicopter tours were conducted to the Solitary Island lighthouse as part of the Aboriginal Discovery program
- on the south coast, celebrations included bush tucker and medicine, walks, women's and men's business, dance, art and music
- along the north coast, community events and celebrations included a barbecue lunch with the Bundjalung People of Byron Bay (Arakwal), an open day by the Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management, and a Saltwater community day at Saltwater National Park.



Photo: DECCW

## Healthy staff and productive workplaces

### Occupational health and safety

In September 2009, DECCW began implementing its Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Injury Management Strategic Objectives 2009–10, which included:

- a comprehensive safety culture review program that was introduced to national parks staff after a successful pilot in botanic gardens
- a review of the Manual Tasks Injury Prevention Project which was undertaken to improve risk management and decrease soft tissue injury frequency and costs
- improving the online management of accident investigations, forms completion, audits, risk assessment and record keeping
- new safety incident investigation protocols, supported by a training program to ensure incidents were managed effectively and remedial actions followed all workplace incidents
- a program to improve the proactive management of risks associated with slips, trips and falls
- a review of the OHS Risk Management System and the endorsement of a field-based checklist
- completion of an internal audit program, supported by manager coaching, to ensure systematic OHS and injury management across DECCW
- a review of key hazard management policies, procedures and guidelines for working with flying foxes, alcohol and other drugs; and managing asbestos, personal protective equipment, volunteer safety, tree risk management and aviation safety.

A development program was delivered to managers to reduce workplace conflict and associated psychological injuries. This was supported by programs to assist staff with work issues such as dealing with threatening and aggressive behaviour.

The NSW Office of Water has continually updated its OHS Management Plan to take into account new standards and practices. Major programs implemented in 2009–10 included:

- a formal OHS review of the water drilling unit which resulted in upgrading major drill equipment, developing and implementing a mechanical maintenance plan, and employing a full-time OHS officer
- a formal OHS audit and review of Riverworks units including two quarries operated by the NSW Office of Water
- implementation of *Tracertrack* allowing managers to track and monitor the safety of remote and lone workers engaged in field and compliance activities.

### Occupational health and safety statistics for 2009–10

Incidents reported	762
Claims	308
Cost of claims	\$2,542,414

### Bicycle working group

With growing staff interest and participation in cycling, a DECCW Bicycle Working Group was formed to promote and support the safe use of bicycles by staff when commuting to work, travelling for official DECCW business, and participating in public cycling events (e.g. Ride to Work Day, MS Gong Ride and Spring Cycle).

Bicycle user groups are very active in the Sydney head office and the DECCW offices at Gosford, Newcastle, Queanbeyan, Wollongong, Hurstville and Parramatta. The Parramatta office won a National Workplace Challenge for staff participation as part of the 2009 Ride to Work Day.

Key cycling issues for DECCW's business systems and programs include:

- occupational health and safety
- facilities and infrastructure
- promoting safe cycling as healthy, sustainable transport.

In view of the growing use of cycling, bicycle storage space in the Sydney head office tenancy was further expanded in 2009–10.

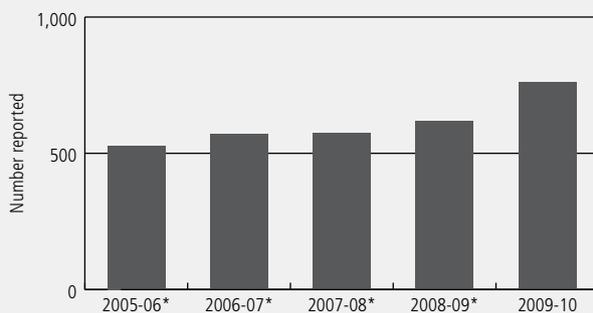
## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### DECCW staff accidents and workers compensation claims

**Definition:** This indicator measures work-related incidents and accidents, and any resulting claim for compensation. The number of reported accidents and incidents indicates staff-reported events that could have led to, or did cause, an injury. The number and dollar value indicators measure the number and cost of injuries for which a claim was made. Claims are usually lodged and recorded immediately after an incident, although claims may be lodged and costs incurred for several years after. These costs and claims are reported in the year in which the incident occurred, which means historical trend data may vary from year to year. Costs are not adjusted for inflation.

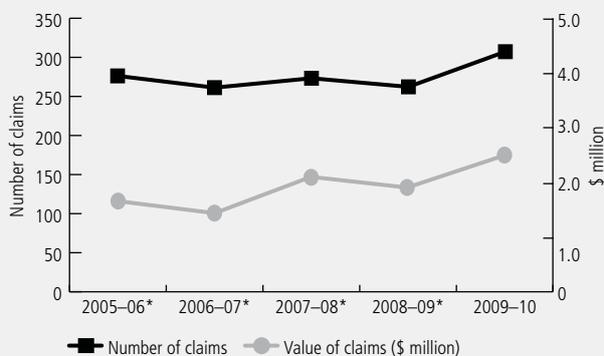
Note that data for the years before 2009–10 relate to the former Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

#### Accidents and incidents reported



\* DEC and DECC data for these years.

#### Workers' compensation claims and their value



\* DEC and DECC data for these years.

**Interpretation:** In 2009–10, the number of incidents reported, including near misses, increased to 762. This increase is attributed to increased staff numbers, the introduction of a more effective online reporting system and other ongoing programs to improve the reporting and management of safety incidents. An improving total reported incidents to claims ratio generally indicates an improving safety culture.

The number of claims increased to 308 for 2009–10 compared with 263 for the previous year, which corresponds directly with the inclusion of the NSW Office of Water as part of the department. The injury rate per 100 employees remains unchanged at 7.1.

Total claims costs increased for the period, compared with the same time last year, largely due to an increased number of full-time staff. An increase in the average cost of claims is attributed to a single major incident from which a third party cost recovery is expected.

## An adaptive organisation

DECCW has in place a suite of strategies to support organisational adaptability and staff skills development in a rapidly changing operating environment. These include:

- Leadership and Management Development Strategy
- Learning and Organisational Development Strategy
- Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- Reward and Recognition Guidelines
- Conduct and Performance Strategy
- Respectful Workplace Policy
- Talent Development Program
- Knowledge Continuity Program (for retirement).



Photo: DECCW

*Rangers Lucy Gibson and Greg Watts manage a job share arrangement that suits them and their colleagues.*

## Work and development scheme

DECCW utilises a Work and Development Scheme to enable all staff to annually plan and align their work with DECCW's overall strategic directions and organisational goals. The system also enables staff to manage workloads, enhance their professional development, increase motivation and improve job satisfaction.

The system, introduced in 2008, was reviewed in 2009–10 and an update is planned for 2010–11 that will allow greater online functionality, such as scheduling key dates for staff discussions about individual plans.

## Learning and development framework

Learning and development opportunities available to staff during 2009–10 focused on seven major areas:

- management and leadership
- occupational health and safety
- policy, writing and communication skills
- financial and project management
- operational skills
- personal development
- Aboriginal culture and heritage.

The programs offered in each area are based on training needs analysis, formal evaluation of past programs and feedback from staff. A key focus for 2009–10 was a training program for managers to develop capabilities in leadership, coaching, and identifying and resolving conflicts. Other programs included:

- depression and mental health issues in the workplace: a program for managers
- dealing with contentious issues
- dealing with conflict
- negotiations skills
- a powerful communications skills workshop
- personal influence skills.

The average number of training days per staff member increased in 2009–10 (2.45 days, as shown in the table below) compared to the previous year (2.25 days).

### Summary of formal staff training 2009–10<sup>1</sup>

Total number of formal training days	Average number of formal training days per staff member <sup>2</sup>
10,415	2.25

#### Notes:

1. Includes full-time and part-time, permanent and temporary staff.
2. Does not include inductions and other external studies subsidised by DECCW.

Given DECCW's key role in the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW, its extensive employment of Aboriginal people and its close connections with Aboriginal communities, DECCW has an ongoing program of Aboriginal cultural awareness training (see under 'Equal employment opportunity' in this chapter).

## Industrial relations

In 2009–10, negotiations between DECCW, the Public Service Association (PSA) and the greater NSW branch of the Australian Workers Union continued regarding proposed changes to the Crown Employees (Department of Environment and Climate Change – Parks and Wildlife Group) Field Officers and Skilled Trades Salaries and Conditions 2009 Award and the Crown Employees (Department of Environment and Climate Change – Parks and Wildlife Group) Conditions of Employment Award, as well as the associated memoranda of understanding resulting from the 2008 public sector wage agreements. Negotiations between the parties will resume in the latter half of 2010, as these awards are due for review in June 2011.

## Graduate development program

Following the successful completion of the graduate program in 2009, DECCW commenced a further two-year program in January 2010. The 2010 intake consisted of 18 graduates, including two Aboriginal graduates, who were placed in various positions across DECCW.

The NSW Office of Water commenced a graduate program in 2008. Eleven graduates were appointed to a variety of core business areas located across the state. The program has been extremely successful and a number of graduates have since been appointed to positions in the Office.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW's graduate intake for 2009–10.

## Aboriginal cadetship program

In 2009–10, 10 Aboriginal cadet rangers, one Aboriginal cadet project officer, and one Aboriginal cadet policy officer were employed by DECCW. Cadets participated in structured work placements and were provided with a workplace mentor. While they were undertaking tertiary studies, they were paid a weekly study allowance. Two cadets successfully completed their cadetships during 2009–10, and were appointed to permanent positions.

## Aboriginal traineeships

Nine Aboriginal trainee field officers and one Aboriginal trainee interpretive assistant were employed in 2010 in DECCW offices at Bourke, Lachlan, Ulladulla, Dubbo, Nelson Bay, Hay, Queanbeyan, Mutawintji National Park and Tumut. Training is conducted with TAFE NSW – Western Institute and combines enrolment in a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management with on- and off-the-job training over 12 months. In 2009, seven Aboriginal trainee field officers and one Aboriginal trainee interpretive assistant completed the traineeship program.

## JumpStart cadetships

In 2009–10, 20 Jump Start cadets were employed by DECCW in entry-level positions. The JumpStart Cadet Program is an initiative of the NSW Government to boost jobs for young people who have a HSC or vocational qualification at Certificate IV level or above.

## Workforce planning – NSW Office of Water

A critical issue for the NSW Office of Water is the age of its workforce. The average age of staff is 46 years, with 23% of staff aged 55 years and over. This means that many staff will be leaving over the next five or more years, which risks significant loss of corporate and technical knowledge.

A knowledge continuity program called Water Wise Ones has been developed with an external provider to address this risk. The program has identified and transferred critical knowledge between workforce generations. Seven key staff participated in the program as mentors and 60 staff participated in knowledge transfer workshops. The program has been very successful, and is being extended to a further 20 senior staff and technical specialists over 2010–11.

In addition, a retirement transition program has been developed to provide a framework to re-engage some staff in specific capacities after they retire, to transfer skills and knowledge to other staff.

## Equal employment opportunity

Each year, DECCW develops and implements strategies to eliminate and ensure the absence of discrimination in its workplaces, and to promote equal employment opportunity across the organisation. DECCW policies and programs during 2009–10 included:

- continuing and promoting the Spokeswomen's Program
- conducting Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training, with 33 courses held during the year attended by 683 staff members
- drafting a DECCW Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2010–2015 that will be implemented during 2010–11
- continuing implementation of the Disability Action Plan 2009–2012
- researching strategies to help increase the proportion of women in senior management, in alignment with the NSW Government strategic plan: 'Making the public sector work better for women'
- continuing actions under the department's Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement 2006–2010.

DECCW will continue to focus on improving employment opportunities and conditions for people with disabilities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and improving access to services for all members of the public. Major activities and outcomes planned for 2010–11 include:

- conducting respectful workplace training throughout DECCW
- piloting a program to capture the knowledge and experience of employees approaching retirement
- finalising the DECCW Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2010–2015 and implementing it throughout the department
- preparing a DECCW Multicultural Policies and Services Plan to replace the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement 2006–2010.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### DECCW staff representation in equal employment opportunity groups

**Definition:** DECCW tracks its performance in terms of employing people from the equal employment opportunity (EEO) target groups against NSW Government benchmarks.

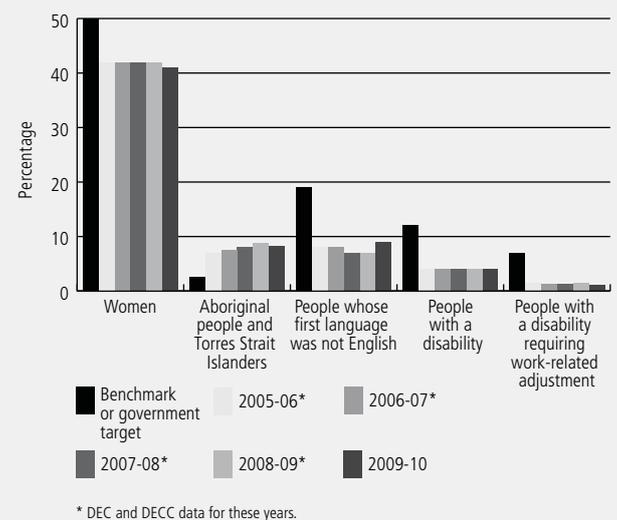
This indicator measures staff statistics according to five EEO groups: women, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, people whose first language is not English, people with a disability, and people with a disability requiring work-related adjustment.

EEO figures below are provided by the Department of Premier and Cabinet following lodgement by DECCW of its Annual Workforce Profile Return. These EEO figures include staff from the Botanic Gardens Trust and the NSW Office of Water. The figures exclude casual staff and contractors.

DECCW does not report on staff attached to catchment management authorities and board and committee members.

DECCW is an amalgamation of former agencies and has been known over the reporting period as Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

### Percentage of DECCW staff representation for EEO Groups



**Interpretation:** DECCW's employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff during 2009–10 was significantly higher at 8.3% than the NSW Government benchmark of 2.6%.

DECCW did not reach the NSW Government benchmarks for employment in the other target groups, although:

- there has been increased representation of women at the executive levels
- there has been an increase in the concentration of people whose first language is not English in the higher salary levels.

DECCW continues to build the profile of target groups across the organisation and improve representation. DECCW is committed to continuing to provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to study, increase their skills, gain work experience and secure temporary and permanent employment; and actively engages to improve under-representation in other target groups through workforce strategy.

## Multicultural policies and services

DECCW's Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement 2006–2010 (EAPS) (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/eaps.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/eaps.htm)) outlines key strategies and actions that have been pursued by DECCW to assist in achieving the government's ethnic affairs policies and the principles of cultural diversity, as set out in the *NSW Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*.

The NSW Government-wide EAPS program was replaced during 2009–10 with the Multicultural Policies and Services Program. Final evaluation of DECCW's EAPS 2006–2010 commenced in 2009–10, with a view to preparing a DECCW Multicultural Policies and Services Plan by the end of 2010.

DECCW engages with multicultural communities through the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project to promote more efficient use of water and energy and to encourage more waste recycling. Under the project, DECCW works in partnership with the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW to employ 18 bilingual educators. In 2009–10, DECCW delivered workshops and field trips in nine community languages to 2,645 participants. Information stalls and interactive activities were featured at 20 community and cultural festivals, reaching a further 6,500 people. These activities will continue in 2010–11.

The high-profile Save Power energy efficiency campaign (see [www.savepower.nsw.gov.au](http://www.savepower.nsw.gov.au)) targets speakers of Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Greek, Spanish, Korean, Macedonian and Italian through radio and print media and the campaign website. During 2009–10, 7.6 per cent of the campaign's press activity and 4.6 per cent



Photo: A. Burton

*Through the Protected Area Workers Association NSW, DECCW staff train South American rangers in using specialist equipment.*

of electronic media activity were directed at non-English speakers. In 2010–11, DECCW plans to increase these non-English components of the campaign to 10% of press and 5% of electronic media to meet the NSW Government's targets.

DECCW runs extensive volunteer programs involving almost 5,000 people in bush regeneration and clean-ups; as tour guides; in maintaining historic places and working on tracks and trails; and in education and scientific surveys and research. Historically, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities have had little participation in volunteering. In recognition of this, several initiatives in 2009–10 aimed to engage volunteers from across the community:

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Multicultural approach to pesticide use

Since the introduction of the *Pesticides Act 1999*, DECCW has recognised the need for support programs for growers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are involved in food production. In particular, many people from Arabic, Chinese, Khmer and Vietnamese backgrounds manage and work in horticultural food industries in the Sydney basin.

In 2009–10, DECCW and the NSW Department of Primary Industries began a new program of bilingual extension officer services, aiming to:

- increase participation in training courses for the safe use of pesticides, which are mandatory under the Pesticides Regulation
- promote best-practice chemical use methods
- reduce chemical risks to human health and the environment.

From past experience, DECCW has found that take-up of training can be constrained by language differences, time pressures and a degree of suspicion about the



Photo: DECCW

*DECCW trains farmers from culturally diverse backgrounds in the safe use of pesticides.*

role of governments. Bilingual liaison officers (known as BiLOs) play a valuable role in addressing these issues by liaising directly with the growers and generating the trust required to ensure growers attend training. The officers also follow up with farms to encourage ongoing compliance and best-practice use of pesticides.

The results have been encouraging, with strong attendances at bilingual courses in safe pesticide use.

- at Bents Basin State Conservation Area near Wallacia, which is a culturally diverse part of western Sydney, tree-planting and other activities run in association with Conservation Volunteers Australia have, since March 2010, been taking place on Saturdays in prominent locations and been accompanied by large signs inviting locals to enquire or become volunteers
- DECCW's corporate volunteer program in parks is involving people who might not otherwise have been drawn to conservation-related activities, including many people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Proposed actions in 2010–11 to foster greater multicultural engagement include:

- developing and promoting guidelines for staff about when and how to use accredited interpreters when dealing with people from non-English speaking backgrounds, either in-house or through the telephone interpreting service run by the Federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- developing policies and processes to ensure that safety messages in national parks are communicated effectively to all visitors, such as through signs and publications
- considering a new project under the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project to provide opportunities for multicultural community groups to participate in activities focusing on Aboriginal culture and Australian plants
- continuing to actively identify people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to strengthen DECCW advisory boards and committees.

## Disability action plan

In October 2009, DECCW finalised a new Disability Action Plan 2009–2012, that lays out practical and achievable actions to be undertaken over three years to improve DECCW's services, employment practices, workplace conditions and consultation to make them more accessible to people with a disability and their carers. Such services include information, environmental education, tourism and recreation in parks and gardens, volunteering opportunities, project grants, residential rebates and various licensing systems.

In December 2010, staff presented a workshop at a conference for special purpose schools. As an outcome of the conference, DECCW agreed to develop teaching resources for special purpose schools, guided by a project planning group that includes two school representatives. These teaching resources are expected to be in use later in 2010–11.

Work in national parks is continuously improving accessibility. In Budderoo National Park, south of Wollongong, a full renovation of the Minnamurra Rainforest Visitor Centre was completed in 2009–10, with many aspects of the new design providing enhanced accessibility for visitors with a disability. At the popular Burratorang State Conservation Area, south-west of Sydney, the popular Burratorang Lookout was upgraded

(see the case study 'Upgrading Burratorang Lookout' in Chapter 4, under 'Contribute to sustainable visitation and tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves').

Parks Eco Pass, the new online system for commercial recreation and tour operator licensing, was introduced in 2009–10. As part of the new system, tour operators provide information on their capacity to take customers with a disability. This information is conveyed to the public on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touroperators.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/touroperators.aspx).

During 2009–10, DECCW investigated recruiting trainees through the NSW Traineeships for People with a Disability program, which is run by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Three national park field officer trainees were appointed. DECCW received external funding to cover part of the cost of workplace adjustments. One officer, for instance, used an interpreter during TAFE sessions, while all trainees were entitled to tutoring assistance. Appointing further trainees under this program will be considered.

## Spokeswomen program

DECCW's active Spokeswomen program in 2009–10 supported women's career development with three separate courses aimed at women in non-traditional roles, in non-managerial positions and in senior positions. Sixty-three women attended these courses held across both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

Contributions to developing policy, procedures and facilities for breastfeeding mothers, and flexible work practices, were major achievements in 2009–10.

This year presented challenges for staff, including departmental structural changes and external environmental pressures such as record-breaking droughts, floods and storms. Spokeswomen developed and promoted events, attended by around 350 staff, which included mental health workshops, talks on healthy living, and the celebration of guest speakers and staff championing these ideals at the annual Spokeswomen Awards.



Spokeswomen champions Michelle Weight, left, and Janelle Randall-Court, right, with Lisa Corbyn, Director General.

## Public recognition for our staff and programs

This year, many DECCW staff and programs received awards for their outstanding contributions to public service and environment protection in NSW.

Phil Hahn, DECCW's manager of concessions and leasing at the Nowra national parks office, received the Public Service Medal for outstanding service to the NSW Government. Phil manages tourism operator licensing and commercial and community activities throughout the south coast region.

Tim Rogers, who in April 2010 retired as Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication, received the NSW Service Medallion in May 2010. This award is presented to public servants who have given 40 or more years of service to the people of NSW.

Former NPWS ranger Mike Dodkin was named on the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours List and received a Public Service Medal in recognition of his years of outstanding service to the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns NSW program. Mike has benefited more than 80 communities across regional and rural NSW, for more than ten years, as an assessor for the program.

Simon Loschiavo, a national parks field officer based at Merimbula, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his services to sport for people with a disability. Simon has for many years worked with skiers with a disability on the slopes of Thredbo and Perisher within Kosciuszko National Park.

The Carol Kendall Award is presented each year to an Aboriginal female employee in DECCW who has demonstrated outstanding skills and achievement. This year, the award was presented to Deidre Martin, who leads a team of Aboriginal Discovery Rangers on the south coast, and interprets the female role in Aboriginal culture through interactive demonstrations, talks and hands-on activities. Deidre has earned enormous respect from her team and colleagues for her knowledge of her culture and her excellent leadership skills.



Sally Barnes, Deputy Director General Parks and Wildlife Group, with Deidre Martin, the recipient of the Carol Kendall Award.

Jenny McAllister, DECCW's Director of Climate Change, Air and Noise, was nominated as Australian Eisenhower Fellow for 2009. The fellowship is awarded to professionals who show outstanding leadership qualities, and enables them to travel in the United States for six weeks to research the issue of their choice. Jenny's research identified government best practice methods to promote innovation in low-carbon goods and services.

Dr Caroline Ford, a DECCW Cultural Heritage Researcher, was awarded the NSW Archival Research Fellowship at the 2009 Premier's History Awards in October 2009.

Dr Denis Byrne, DECCW's manager of cultural heritage research, was awarded the 2009 John Mulvaney Book Award for his book *Surface Collection: Archaeological Travels in Southeast Asia*. His book is about an archaeological tour, and is also a personal investigation and critique of heritage conservation. It comprises studies of south-east Asian histories and cultures, and critiques how western conceptualisation of heritage often undermines local accounts.

Steve Brown, a DECCW Cultural Heritage Researcher, was engaged to evaluate the worthiness of the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands for inscription on the World Heritage list. Steve travelled at the request of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites, which is an advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Steve Brereton, a DECCW Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer, received the North Coast Region Aboriginal Education Award for Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by a Community Member from the NSW Department of Education and Training, for his continued work and dedication to promoting cultural heritage issues on the mid-north coast.

Gunther Theischinger, a DECCW scientist, was awarded a full professorship by the President of Austria in recognition of his work on the taxonomy of insects. His work was assessed as being internationally significant by the Austrian Government and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Gunther has been working on river health programs since 1997 and specialises in the taxonomy of dragonflies.

At the thirteenth annual Premier's Public Sector Awards presented in November 2009, DECCW staff and programs received several awards:

- Jeff Thomas, a DECCW Pest Management Officer based at the Grafton national parks office, won the Premier's Award for Individual Excellence for his role in delivering community conservation in northern NSW
- DECCW's Far West Solar Project, under which solar power capacity has been installed in six DECCW buildings, won the Leading Change category (see also 'Carbon management' section)
- Managing Water Quality in Large Reservoirs, a joint DECCW and Sydney Catchment Authority project, won a commendation in the Delivering Services category



Photo: DECCW

*Tallowa Dam Fishway, showing fish passage provisions including the entrance, lift structure and hoist tower.*

- The Tallowa Dam Environmental Flows and Fishway Project, jointly run by the Department of Services, Technology and Administration, NSW Public Works, DECCW and the Sydney Catchment Authority, won a commendation in the Project Delivery – Making it Happen (Large Agencies) category.

DECCW's *Lighthouses of Northern NSW Oral History Project* received a High Commendation award at the 2009 Energy Australia National Heritage Trust Awards. NSW lighthouses are regarded for their history, their fine architecture and the contribution they have made to safe navigation of the difficult coastline.

The Sculptures in the Scrub Project also received a High Commendation award at the 2009 Energy Australia National Heritage Trust Awards. The sculptures are bronze, stone, and stainless steel figures set amongst Pilliga scrub in the Dandry Gorge Community Conservation Area near Baradine. This culturally significant area for the local Gamilaroi people, and the sculptures, will be the subject of an ABC documentary.

The Aboriginal Tour Guide Training Program developed by DECCW and TAFE NSW was honoured at the annual TAFE NSW Gili Awards in July 2009, winning the Industry Partnership Award. The training program helps Aboriginal communities to develop tourism opportunities and engage visitors with Country. More than 160 people from 10 Aboriginal communities across NSW have been trained so far.

The restored Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse Cottages in Myall Lakes National Park, north of Newcastle, won the New Tourism Development Award at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards in 2009. The award recognised DECCW's commitment to protecting and conserving the historical character of the lighthouse while providing accommodation for visitors.

Five national parks in far western NSW – Mutawintji, Mungo, Kinchega, Paroo–Darling and Sturt – won a Broken Hill Tourism Award for the Natural Attraction category. While tourist numbers to NSW declined in the past year due to global economic conditions, outback NSW has seen a growth in tourism of around 18%.

The team that operates the ski resorts in Kosciuszko National Park received a merit award in the Local Government category at the 2009 National Environmental Management System Awards for their work in establishing an environmental management system for the Perisher Range resorts.

Blue Mountains National Park was awarded the 2009 NSW Tourism Gold Award for Ecotourism. The award recognised the contribution of the park's World Heritage natural and cultural values to tourism, and recognised the value of the park in fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of ecotourism.

The Canopy Café at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre won Best New Restaurant in the Restaurant and Catering NSW 2009 Northern Awards for Excellence.



Photo: DECCW

*DECCW held a celebration for Warren Burke, Administration Officer, who in November 2009 had served 50 years with the NSW Public Service. Warren is pictured here with Lisa Corbyn, Director General.*



Photo: DECCW

## Good knowledge, information and systems to make decisions

### Information management and communications technology

During the year, DECCW continued improvements under its 2007–2010 Information Management and Communications Technology Strategic Plan. Significant achievements included:

- continuing the DECCW Information Technology Infrastructure Replacement Program, replacing around 600 desktop computers and 100 laptops
- implementing new technology to support the upgrade of DECCW's spatial applications
- continuing the upgrade of the DECCW data centre's infrastructure for improved data storage capacity and virtualisation technology that will provide enhanced disaster recovery capability and significantly reduce energy costs
- improved data security technology to ensure DECCW's critical data assets are protected
- continued upgrading of the DECCW telecommunications network, including a dark fibre network connecting DECCW's major offices and data centres, and continued expansion of wireless technology connecting DECCW offices in regional NSW

- supporting various business initiatives including the asset maintenance system for parks management, the SAP financial system, a new Aboriginal Heritage Information Management system, an Executive Dashboard and enhancements to an application used by catchment management authorities to manage property vegetation plans
- developing a new DECCW Information Management and Communications Technology Strategic Plan for 2010–2015.

### Natural resources and environment information

DECCW manages an enormous, and increasing, volume of data relating to natural resources and the environment, much of which has come from former agencies that are now part of DECCW. Accordingly, DECCW has commenced improving the quality, consistency and accessibility of this data.

DECCW's spatial data and systems across the organisation are being consolidated. This work includes publishing metadata statements that provide descriptive information about specific data sets.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Improving library services

During 2009–10, the DECCW library improved desktop access to online bibliographic databases and journals, which reflects a continuing move away from print based resources. Holdings catalogues inherited from the libraries of the various former agencies that are now part of DECCW were also integrated.

These developments significantly improve access to information for staff, especially those based outside metropolitan areas. Library officers also trained other staff in searching and selecting from the wide range of information sources available, and in using the databases effectively.



Photo: DECCW

DECCW library staff. Left to right: Fang Zhao, Louise Mahon, Christine Davie and Jason Davidson.

DECCW has been a major contributor to the development of the NSW Remote Sensing Strategy, developed in collaboration with several other agencies. The strategy is being implemented under the Common Spatial Information Initiative and guided by the NSW Spatial Council.

## Internal communications

Within DECCW, stronger relationships are being built across a large and dispersed department. A monthly *onDECCW* newsletter is sent to staff to highlight news and events, and a quarterly Director General's e-newsletter keeps staff informed about the organisation's achievements, staff achievements and key directions.

Most work areas also produce their own newsletters, while key parts of DECCW, such as those involved in scientific work and park management, hold regular staff forums and presentations. The NSW Office of Water, for example, has 'team briefs' and an online platform that enables all staff to contribute through weblogs, image galleries and surveys.

## Financial management

Financial policies and systems were further enhanced across DECCW during 2009–10. Key financial projects and activities included:

- participating in government reforms, including super-agency amalgamations, transition arrangements and plans to meet required efficiency and offset savings through the Better Services and Value Plan, ICT review, corporate services consolidations, efficiency dividends and the Savings Improvement Plan
- completing statutory financial statements for 21 entities, including the first combined accounts for an expanded DECCW (including NSW Office of Water), and the first accounts for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) and the Office of Hawkesbury–Nepean. Other accounts included the Environmental Trust, the Environment Protection Authority, the Marine Parks Authority, the Dams Safety Committee, the Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission, and 13 catchment management authorities
- commencing a business intelligence project to improve efficiency and access to critical departmental performance information, including key performance indicators for finance, human resources and operations
- upgrading the SAP financial system, online petty cash management and travel allowance management
- introducing an integrated asset maintenance system across national parks
- continued review and enhancement of financial reporting and the business warehouse data analysis system
- providing strategic financial support to the 13 catchment management authorities in close liaison with NSW Treasury
- completing a DECCW finance manual and updated policies and procedures, including delegations, accessible through an enhanced finance intranet site

- training senior staff in net cost of services principles and processes to strengthen budget management and compliance with NSW Treasury requirements
- other financial management training across DECCW, including courses in the use of the SAP financial system.

Financial improvement initiatives planned for 2010–11 included:

- transition arrangements associated with the NSW Government's super-agency reform program and corporate services consolidations
- progress on DECCW's business intelligence capabilities, focusing on key performance indicators and core operations management
- the continued rollout and development of the asset management system.

## Insurance cover

As part of its approach to risk management, DECCW obtained insurance cover in 2009–10 through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund, which used Allianz Australia Pty Ltd for workers' compensation and GIO General Ltd for other risk areas.

### Areas of risk and related insurance costs

	2008-09 (\$'000)	2009-10 (\$'000)
Workers compensation*	5,722	1,862
Public liability	3,477	3,624
Property	2,124	2,009
Motor vehicles*	1,258	1,617
Miscellaneous (Fire Fighting Fund)	10,339	8,000
Miscellaneous (Other)	32	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,952</b>	<b>17,154</b>

\* Includes hindsight adjustments relating to prior year premiums.

Premiums are based on claims history and reflect DECCW's risk management approach to managing claims. The 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years are not strictly comparable, as the total premium for 2009–10 includes insurance for the NSW Office of Water, which was established as a division of DECCW in July 2009.

### Employee liabilities

Liability as at 30 June 2010	(\$'000)
Long service leave*	111,243
On-cost long service leave	13,492
Recreation leave	44,936
On-cost recreation leave	2,636

\* DECCW liabilities for long service leave are assumed by the Crown Entity. Long service leave is measured using the present value basis.

## ■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

### Payment of accounts

**Definition:** This indicator shows the value and timing of trade creditor accounts paid in each quarter during the reporting year, which is an important measure of the way DECCW manages its business and treats its partners and clients.

#### Trade creditor 'accounts payable' balances at the end of each quarter for the financial year 2009–10

Quarter	Current (i.e. within due date) \$	Fewer than 30 days \$	Between 30 and 60 days \$	Between 60 and 90 days \$	More than 90 days \$
September	15,036,258	459,525	480,042	1,198	476,588
December	1,858,702	50,568	119,679	2,338	31,922
March	5,040,423	600,868	46,310	33,503	10,934
June	3,448,501	709,833	2,488	29,926	2,942

The main reasons for accounts being paid outside the due date period were:

- invoices raised for large capital works are only paid on satisfactory review of the work
- invoices raised for large capital purchases may include items not yet received but expected to be received in the near future
- some short payment terms are not necessarily appropriate in more remote settings where the documentation may take time to be collected and matched for payment.

#### Value of accounts paid on time for each quarter

Quarter	Target %	Actual %	\$	Total amount paid \$
September	85	82.28	233,604,136	283,899,506
December	85	89.27	265,697,773	297,639,029
March	85	81.23	235,548,036	289,968,971
June	85	93.61	389,350,416	415,943,675

**Interpretation:** DECCW was not required to pay interest to creditors due to the late payment of accounts during the year.

#### Credit card certification

In accordance with Treasurer's Direction 205.01, it is certified that credit card usage by officers of the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water has been in accordance with the appropriate government policy, Premier's Memoranda and Treasurer's Directions.

# Finance

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# Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water



GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (the Department), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, service group statements and a summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- are in accordance with section 45E of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

#### Department Head's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Department Head is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Department's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Department Head, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Department
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls
- about the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial statements.

#### Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



Steven Martin CA  
Director, Financial Audit

1 October 2010  
SYDNEY

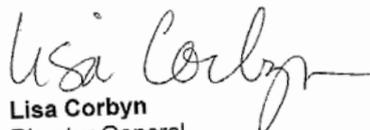
## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

# Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2010

Pursuant to section 45F of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, I state that:

- (a) the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Department
- (b) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:
  - the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies, the applicable clauses of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010 and the Treasurer's Directions
  - the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations and other mandatory professional reporting requirements
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Lisa Corbyn  
Director General  
30 September 2010

## Beginning of audited financial report

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – PRIMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Actual 2010 \$'000	Budget 2010 \$'000	Actual 2009 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>				
Operating expenses				
Employee related	2(a)	500,527	487,851	413,497
Other operating expenses	2(b)	286,136	233,620	302,178
Depreciation and amortisation	2(c)	87,502	77,968	63,935
Grants and subsidies	2(d)	576,118	603,552	271,046
Finance costs	2(e)	1,994	2,478	2,053
Other expenses	2(f)	342	2,650	201
<b>Total expenses excluding losses</b>		<b>1,452,619</b>	<b>1,408,119</b>	<b>1,052,910</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Sale of goods and services	3(a)	89,493	82,074	34,922
Investment revenue	3(b)	32,312	24,621	27,372
Retained fees and fines	3(c)	3,142	3,069	3,592
Grants and contributions	3(d)	347,083	306,962	274,251
Personnel services	3(e)	73,544	66,931	71,963
Other revenue	3(f)	33,568	17,106	20,633
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>579,142</b>	<b>500,763</b>	<b>432,733</b>
Gain/(loss) on disposal	4	(551)	(2,750)	(3,636)
Share of operating result of joint ventures accounted for under the equity accounting method	17	(1,376)	–	–
Increase in share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	23	45,176	69,043	–
<b>Net cost of services</b>	27	<b>830,228</b>	<b>841,063</b>	<b>623,813</b>
<b>Government contributions</b>				
Recurrent appropriation	6	782,666	794,519	604,144
Capital appropriation	6	45,865	47,461	54,151
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	7	36,431	51,392	28,005
<b>Total government contributions</b>		<b>864,962</b>	<b>893,372</b>	<b>686,300</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>34,734</b>	<b>52,309</b>	<b>62,487</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>				
Net increase/(decrease) in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation reserve	14	192,125	–	251,081
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of investments accounted for under the equity method	17	74	–	–
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	23	25,146	–	–
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>217,345</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>251,081</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>252,079</b>	<b>52,309</b>	<b>313,568</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – PRIMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Statement of financial position**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Actual 2010 \$'000	Budget 2010 \$'000	Actual 2009 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	10	218,183	223,166	184,649
Receivables	11	81,409	80,977	49,849
Inventories	12	736	731	731
Other financial assets	13	16	666	16
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>300,344</b>	<b>305,540</b>	<b>235,245</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Other financial assets	13	5	5	–
Property, plant and equipment	14			
Land and buildings		2,183,384	2,077,667	2,094,727
Plant and equipment		71,071	80,858	59,699
Infrastructure systems		1,609,786	1,653,890	1,064,194
Total property, plant and equipment		3,864,241	3,812,415	3,218,620
Intangible assets	15	310,669	258,743	154,859
Investments accounted for under the equity method	17	36,218	37,516	–
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>4,211,133</b>	<b>4,108,679</b>	<b>3,373,479</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>4,511,477</b>	<b>4,414,219</b>	<b>3,608,724</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Payables	18	51,579	44,403	26,712
Borrowings	19	–	666	–
Provisions	20	61,064	58,200	49,972
Other	21	4,615	3,324	2,721
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>117,258</b>	<b>106,593</b>	<b>79,405</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				
Borrowings	19	48,120	50,152	42,852
Provisions	20	6,557	3,416	504
Other	21	134	402	402
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>54,811</b>	<b>53,970</b>	<b>43,758</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>172,069</b>	<b>160,563</b>	<b>123,163</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>4,339,408</b>	<b>4,253,656</b>	<b>3,485,561</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Reserves	22	1,581,320	1,363,975	1,363,975
Accumulated funds		2,758,088	2,889,681	2,121,586
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>4,339,408</b>	<b>4,253,656</b>	<b>3,485,561</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – PRIMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of changes in equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Accumulated funds \$'000	Asset revaluation surplus \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2009</b>		<b>2,121,586</b>	<b>1,363,975</b>	<b>3,485,561</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>34,734</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>34,734</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>				
Net increase/(decrease) in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation reserve	14	–	192,125	192,125
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of investments accounted for under the equity method	17	–	74	74
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	23	–	25,146	25,146
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>217,345</b>	<b>217,345</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>34,734</b>	<b>217,345</b>	<b>252,079</b>
<b>Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners</b>				
Increase/(decrease) in net assets from equity transfers	22	601,768	–	601,768
<b>Balance at 30 June 2010</b>		<b>2,758,088</b>	<b>1,581,320</b>	<b>4,339,408</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2008</b>		<b>2,057,125</b>	<b>1,112,894</b>	<b>3,170,019</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>62,487</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>62,487</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>				
Net increase/(decrease) in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation reserve	14	–	251,081	251,081
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>251,081</b>	<b>251,081</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>62,487</b>	<b>251,081</b>	<b>313,568</b>
<b>Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners</b>				
Increase/(decrease) in net assets from equity transfers	22	1,974	–	1,974
<b>Balance at 30 June 2009</b>		<b>2,121,586</b>	<b>1,363,975</b>	<b>3,485,561</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – PRIMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Actual 2010 \$'000	Budget 2010 \$'000	Actual 2009 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Employee related		(475,738)	(436,273)	(383,029)
Grants and subsidies		(576,118)	(603,552)	(267,588)
Finance costs		–	(2,478)	–
Other		(337,342)	(255,163)	(354,151)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(1,389,198)</b>	<b>(1,297,466)</b>	<b>(1,004,768)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Sale of goods and services		87,510	95,537	34,172
Personnel services		73,544	66,931	71,963
Retained fees and fines		3,142	–	3,592
Interest received		8,242	11,058	14,434
Other		465,272	344,122	345,600
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>637,710</b>	<b>517,648</b>	<b>469,761</b>
<b>Cash flows from government</b>				
Recurrent appropriation	6, 22	775,891	794,519	604,662
Capital appropriation (excluding equity appropriations)	6	45,865	47,461	54,151
Cash reimbursements from the Crown Entity		9,300	–	5,231
<b>Net cash flows from government</b>		<b>831,056</b>	<b>841,980</b>	<b>664,044</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	27	<b>79,568</b>	<b>62,162</b>	<b>129,037</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		1,080	1,835	5,078
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		(66,832)	(64,529)	(95,892)
Purchases of intangible assets		(31,386)	(17,197)	(63,463)
Purchases of investments accounted for under the equity method		(1,100)	–	–
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(98,238)</b>	<b>(79,891)</b>	<b>(154,277)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		3,938	7,300	1,692
Repayment of borrowings and advances		(680)	–	–
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>3,258</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>1,692</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>		<b>(15,412)</b>	<b>(10,429)</b>	<b>(23,548)</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents		184,649	184,649	208,197
Cash transferred in (out) as a result of administrative restructuring	22 (a)	48,946	48,946	–
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	10	<b>218,183</b>	<b>223,166</b>	<b>184,649</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Service group statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Service Group 1 Climate Change, Policy and Programs		Service Group 2 Environment Protection and Regulation		Service Group 3 Parks and Wildlife		Service Group 4 Country, Culture and Heritage		Service Group 5 Scientific Services		Service Group 6 Urban Water Utilities*		Service Group 7 Water Management*		Not attributable		Total
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	
<b>EXPENSES AND INCOME</b>																	
Gain/(loss) on disposal	(78)	–	(69)	–	(106)	(3,636)	(12)	–	10	–	(17)	–	(279)	–	–	(551)	(3,636)
Share of operating result of joint ventures accounted for under the equity accounting method	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(1,376)	–	–	(1,376)	–
Increase in share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	45,176	–	–	45,176	–
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>183,234</b>	<b>210,661</b>	<b>89,311</b>	<b>82,633</b>	<b>259,578</b>	<b>266,604</b>	<b>12,238</b>	<b>15,079</b>	<b>39,580</b>	<b>43,611</b>	<b>215,737</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>26,155</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>830,228</b>	<b>623,813</b>
Government contributions**	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	864,962	864,962	686,300
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(183,234)</b>	<b>(210,661)</b>	<b>(89,311)</b>	<b>(82,633)</b>	<b>(259,578)</b>	<b>(266,604)</b>	<b>(12,238)</b>	<b>(15,079)</b>	<b>(39,580)</b>	<b>(43,611)</b>	<b>(215,737)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(26,155)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>860,567</b>	<b>34,734</b>	<b>62,487</b>

\* Service groups 6 and 7 comprise the water functions, which were transferred from the former Department of Water and Energy (DWE) on 1 July 2009 as a result of the administrative restructure.

\*\* Appropriations are made on an agency wide basis and not to service groups. Consequently, government contributions must be included in the 'Not attributable' column.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Service group statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Service Group 1 Climate Change, Policy and Programs		Service Group 2 Environment Protection and Regulation		Service Group 3 Parks and Wildlife		Service Group 4 Country, Culture and Heritage		Service Group 5 Scientific Services		Service Group 6 Urban Water Utilities*		Service Group 7 Water Management*		Not attributable		Total		
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	
<b>EXPENSES AND INCOME</b>																			
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>																			
Net increase/(decrease) in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation reserve	–	–	–	–	187,535	–	–	–	520	–	–	–	4,070	–	–	251,081	192,125	251,081	
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of investments accounted for under the equity method	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	74	–	–	–	74	–	
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25,146	–	–	–	25,146	–	
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	–	–	–	–	187,535	–	–	–	520	–	–	–	29,290	–	–	251,081	217,345	251,081	
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>(183,234)</b>	<b>(210,661)</b>	<b>(89,311)</b>	<b>(82,633)</b>	<b>(72,043)</b>	<b>(266,604)</b>	<b>(12,238)</b>	<b>(15,079)</b>	<b>(39,060)</b>	<b>(43,611)</b>	<b>(215,737)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,134</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>860,567</b>	<b>932,156</b>	<b>252,079</b>	<b>313,568</b>	

\* Service groups 6 and 7 comprise the water functions, which were transferred from the former Department of Water and Energy (DWE) on 1 July 2009 as a result of the administrative restructure.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Service group statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Service Group 1 Climate Change, Policy and Programs		Service Group 2 Environment Protection and Regulation		Service Group 3 Parks and Wildlife		Service Group 4 Country, Culture and Heritage		Service Group 5 Scientific Services		Service Group 6 Urban Water Utilities*		Service Group 7 Water Management*		Not attributable		Total	
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000		
<b>Current assets</b>																		
Cash and cash equivalents	107,592	132,956	6,532	2,564	47,570	47,141	1,169	481	3,563	1,507	6,504	–	45,253	–	–	–	184,649	
Receivables	17,173	23,351	1,736	1,002	25,265	21,214	264	268	1,265	1,623	874	–	32,424	–	2,408	2,391	49,849	
Inventories	82	102	–	–	654	629	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	731	
Other financial assets	–	–	–	–	16	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>124,847</b>	<b>156,409</b>	<b>8,268</b>	<b>3,566</b>	<b>73,505</b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>4,828</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>7,378</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>77,677</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>300,344</b>	<b>235,245</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>																		
Other financial assets	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	5	–
Property, plant and equipment	3,400	18,812	3,016	7,274	3,250,654	3,171,287	461	407	41,919	20,840	12,341	–	552,450	–	–	–	3,864,241	3,218,620
Intangible assets	140,745	136,063	1,795	1,034	16,400	3,116	948	672	12,996	13,974	3,011	–	134,774	–	–	–	310,669	154,859
Investments accounted for under the equity method	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	36,218	–	–	–	36,218	–
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>144,145</b>	<b>154,875</b>	<b>4,811</b>	<b>8,308</b>	<b>3,267,054</b>	<b>3,174,403</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>54,915</b>	<b>34,814</b>	<b>15,352</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>723,447</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,211,133</b>	<b>3,373,479</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>268,992</b>	<b>311,284</b>	<b>13,079</b>	<b>11,874</b>	<b>3,340,559</b>	<b>3,243,403</b>	<b>2,842</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>59,743</b>	<b>37,944</b>	<b>22,730</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>801,124</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>4,511,477</b>	<b>3,608,724</b>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Service group statements (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Service Group 1 Climate Change, Policy and Programs		Service Group 2 Environment Protection and Regulation		Service Group 3 Parks and Wildlife		Service Group 4 Country, Culture and Heritage		Service Group 5 Scientific Services		Service Group 6 Urban Water Utilities*		Service Group 7 Water Management*		Not attributable		Total	
	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000		
<b>Current liabilities</b>																		
Payables	20,765	13,737	1,846	2,501	10,318	8,195	427	403	1,101	1,509	1,008	–	15,818	–	296	367	51,579	26,712
Provisions	12,838	14,157	6,807	6,409	22,983	21,444	1,067	1,073	4,793	4,889	1,319	–	9,171	–	2,086	2,000	61,064	49,972
Other	2,756	2,414	22	–	203	307	4	–	12	–	203	–	1,415	–	–	–	4,615	2,721
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>36,359</b>	<b>30,308</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>8,910</b>	<b>33,504</b>	<b>29,946</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>6,398</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>26,404</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>117,258</b>	<b>79,405</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>																		
Borrowings	–	–	–	–	48,120	42,852	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	48,120	42,852
Provisions	1,078	138	852	68	2,679	204	149	9	486	61	162	–	1,125	–	26	24	6,557	504
Other	27	61	22	69	69	219	4	13	12	40	–	–	–	–	–	–	134	402
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>50,868</b>	<b>43,275</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>54,811</b>	<b>43,758</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>37,463</b>	<b>30,507</b>	<b>9,549</b>	<b>9,047</b>	<b>84,372</b>	<b>73,221</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>6,404</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>2,692</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>27,529</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>172,069</b>	<b>123,163</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>231,529</b>	<b>280,777</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>3,256,186</b>	<b>3,170,182</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>53,339</b>	<b>31,445</b>	<b>20,038</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>773,595</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,339,408</b>	<b>3,485,561</b>

\* Service groups 6 and 7 comprise the water functions, which were transferred from the former Department of Water and Energy (DWE) on 1 July 2009 as a result of the administrative restructure.



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Summary of compliance with financial directives

	2010			2009			
	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION/EXPENDITURE</b>							
Appropriation Act	570,220	567,661	41,562	39,938	635,945	81,923	54,151
Section 24 of the <i>Public Finance and Audit Act 1983</i> (PF&A Act) – transfers of functions between departments	307,037	295,857	5,899	5,899	1,031	–	–
Section 26 of the PF&A Act – Commonwealth-specific purpose payments	14,169	10,780	28	28	7,549	–	–
<b>OTHER APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURE</b>							
Treasurer's advance	21,826	21,576	–	–	3,240	–	–
Transfers to/from another agency (section 28 of the Appropriation Act)	9,050	8,504	–	–	27,445	–	–
Treasurer's approved adjustment	–	–	–	–	–	(455)	–
<b>Total appropriations/expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund (includes transfer payments)</b>	<b>922,302</b>	<b>904,378</b>	<b>47,489</b>	<b>45,865</b>	<b>675,210</b>	<b>81,923</b>	<b>54,151</b>
<b>Amount drawn down against appropriation</b>	–	<b>883,524</b>	–	<b>45,865</b>	–	–	<b>54,151</b>
<b>LIABILITY TO CONSOLIDATED FUND*</b>	–	–	–	–	–	<b>518</b>	–

The summary of compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund monies are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed).

\* The 'Liability to Consolidated Fund' represents the difference between the 'Amount drawn down against appropriation' and the 'Total expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund'. Where the 'Total expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund' exceeds the 'Amount drawn down against appropriation', there is no 'Liability to Consolidated Fund'.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

**Notes to the financial statements**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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## 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

### (a) Reporting entity

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), as a reporting entity, includes the New South Wales Office of Water (NOW).

On 1 July 2009, DECCW was created as a result of the *Public Sector Employment and Management (Departmental Amalgamations) Order 2009*. The order combined responsibilities of the former Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) with the water management responsibilities of the former Department of Water and Energy (DWE). As part of this reform, the Administrative Orders set up the new NOW within the Department.

In the process of preparing the consolidated financial statements, all inter-entity transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Because this is the first financial year that the Department amalgamated with NOW, comparative figures only relate to the former DECC. Note 22 details separately comparative statements of comprehensive income and assets and liabilities of the water management functions transferred from the former DWE to DECCW.

DECCW is a NSW government department. DECCW is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not the principal objective) and it has no cash generating units. The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

The entity holds assets and funds which are restricted for specific uses by the grantor donor. These funds and assets are controlled by DECCW.

The DECCW reporting entity includes employee related expenses and provisions for the Catchment Management Authorities, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Dams Safety Committee and the Lord Howe Island Board. These are offset by income and receivables.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is a statutory body and is required to prepare separate financial statements. The activities of the EPA are fully integrated within DECCW operations. The expenditure relating to the EPA has been determined as \$82,742,000 (2009: \$84,804,000).

The Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) was constituted under the *Water Management Act 2000*. Under Section 372 of the Act, a specific instrument of delegation exists covering the delegation of functions to the officers of NOW. While the activities of the Corporation are fully integrated within DECCW operations, as a statutory body, the Corporation is required to produce a separate financial report. The expenditure relating to WAMC, which is included in DECCW's statement of comprehensive income, has been determined as \$39,544,000.

The Marine Parks Authority (MPA) is a reporting entity established under the *Marine Parks Act 1997*, whose activities are administered by DECCW. The operating costs incurred by DECCW in administering these assets, which are included in its statement of comprehensive income, were \$5,390,254 (2009: \$4,839,363).

The Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean (OHN) is a statutory corporation, established under the *Hawkesbury Nepean River Act 2009*. The Act was proclaimed in February 2010. The activities of OHN are administered by DECCW. The operating results of the OHN, included in DECCW's statement of comprehensive income, were \$9,764,000.

DECCW's capital equipment used for maintaining day-to-day operations of the MPA and OHN have been recognised and reported by DECCW in accordance with DECCW's Asset Acquisition and Valuation Policy – note 1(j)(i).

### (b) Basis of preparation

DECCW's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulation
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies or issued by the Treasurer.

Property, plant and equipment, assets held for sale and financial assets at 'fair value through profit or loss', are measured at fair value. Other financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Judgements, key assumptions and estimates made by management are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

### (c) Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

**(d) Administered activities**

DECCW administers, but does not control, certain activities on behalf of the Crown Entity. It is accountable for the transactions relating to those administered activities but does not have the discretion, for example, to deploy the resources for the achievement of DECCW's own objectives.

Transactions and balances relating to the administered activities are not recognised as DECCW's revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, but are disclosed in the accompanying schedules as 'Administered income', 'Administered expenses', 'Administered assets' and 'Administered liabilities'.

The accrual basis of accounting and applicable accounting standards have been adopted.

**(e) Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred, in accordance with Treasury's mandate to general government sector agencies.

**(f) Insurance**

DECCW's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) scheme of self insurance for government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past claim experience.

**(g) Accounting for interests in joint ventures**

As at the financial year ended 30 June 2010, the Department had an interest in the following joint ventures:

- 50% (2009: 50%) share in the joint venture entity Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission
- 26.67% (2009: 26.67%) share in the jointly controlled assets of the Living Murray Initiative and the River Murray Operations. These assets are administered by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority.

The Department's investment in jointly controlled entities is accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the Department's share of the joint venture's accumulated results is recognised as revenue or expense in the statement of comprehensive income and the share of movements in reserves is recognised in the Department's reserves. Contributions made by the Department to the joint ventures are charged directly to the investment.

In respect of its interest in jointly controlled assets, the Department recognises in its financial statements: its share of the jointly controlled assets, classified according to the nature of the assets; any liabilities that it has incurred; any expenses incurred by the joint venture, and any expenses that it has incurred in respect of its interest in the joint ventures.

The Department assesses impairment of its assets attributed to interests in joint ventures on an annual basis.

**(h) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except that:

- the amount of GST incurred by DECCW as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office are classified as operating cash flows.

**(i) Income recognition**

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

**(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions**

Except as specified below, parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies (including grants and donations) are generally recognised as income when DECCW obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations and contributions. Control over appropriations and contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

An exception to the above is when appropriations are unspent at year end. In this case, the authority to spend the money lapses and generally the unspent amount must be repaid to the Consolidated Fund in the following financial year. As a result, unspent appropriations are accounted for as liabilities rather than revenue (refer note 6).

Where there is a liability, it is disclosed in note 21 as part of 'Current liabilities – other'. The amount would be repaid and the liability would be extinguished next financial year.

**(ii) Sale of goods and services**

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised as revenue when DECCW transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets.

**(iii) Rendering of services**

Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).

**(iv) Investment revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*. Rental revenue is recognised in accordance with AASB 117 *Leases* on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**(v) Taxes, fines, regulatory fees and contributions**

Taxes, fines, regulatory fees and contributions collected by DECCW on behalf of the Crown are not recognised as revenues of DECCW and are disclosed in the financial statements by way of a note only. Waste-related levies and fees are shown net of rebates (refer note 28).

**(vi) Personnel services revenue**

Reimbursement of employee benefits and related on-costs for the Catchment Management Authorities, Royal Botanic Garden and the Domain Trust, Dams Safety Committee and the Lord Howe Island Board is recognised as revenue. The Department recovers these expenses in full when they are incurred.

**(j) Assets****(i) Acquisition of assets**

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisition of assets controlled by DECCW. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to the asset when initially recognised in accordance with the requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration during the year, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition (see contributed assets – refer notes 3(d) and 14). Refer also to assets transferred as a result of an administrative restructure – refer note 22.

Land transferred from other agencies at no cost, awaiting gazettal, is reported at fair value.

Fair value means the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Infrastructure assets and property previously under construction, which were completed and brought to account during the year, have been valued at cost until that class of assets is revalued.

**(ii) Capitalisation thresholds**

All assets valued at more than \$5,000 are capitalised. Items below \$5,000 are expensed except where they form an integral part of a network or facility (e.g. DECCW radio network or wide area network). Plant and equipment comprises aircraft, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings and other plant and equipment.

**(iii) Revaluation of property, plant and equipment**

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the *Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value* Treasury Policy and Guidelines Paper (TPP 07-01). This policy adopts fair value in accordance with AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*.

Property, plant and equipment is measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. However, in the limited circumstances where there are feasible alternative uses, assets are valued at their higher and best use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined based on the best available market evidence, including current market selling prices for the same or similar assets. Where there is no available market evidence, the asset's fair value is measured at its market buying price, the best indicator of which is depreciated replacement cost.

As a result of the size and nature of its assets (land, buildings, roads and other access, utilities and other infrastructure), DECCW revalues its physical non-current assets on a five-year cycle or with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of each asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value reporting date.

Asset category	Date of valuation	By whom
Land – dedicated	30 June 2010	Land and Property Management Authority*
Land – non-dedicated	30 June 2010	Land and Property Management Authority*
Buildings	1 July 2006	Australian Valuation Office
Other amenities and facilities	30 June 2010	Sheldon Consulting Pty Ltd
Roads	30 June 2009	Sheldon Consulting Pty Ltd
Wharves	30 June 2009	Sheldon Consulting Pty Ltd
Utilities and other Infrastructure	1 July 2006	DECCW engineers**
Aircraft	1 July 2006	Aircraft Sales Australia
Historical furniture and fittings	1 July 2006	Jonathan Alford Pty Ltd

\* Land dedicated and non-dedicated valuations are in accordance with the *Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value* Treasury Policy and Guidelines Paper (TPP 07-01) and AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*.

\*\* Utilities and other Infrastructure valuations are based on state-wide standard costs derived by DECCW engineers.

The Department's share of the jointly controlled water infrastructure assets, recognised from its interest in the River Murray Operations joint venture, has been disclosed at their fair value at 30 June 2010. The Commonwealth Government's Murray-Darling Basin Authority is responsible for preparing the financial statements for the River Murray Operations joint venture and had engaged independent valuers to undertake valuation of these assets as at 30 June 2010.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historical cost, as a surrogate for fair value.

When revaluing non-current assets by reference to current prices for assets newer than those being revalued (adjusted to reflect the present condition of the assets), the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation are separately restated.

For other assets, any balances of accumulated depreciation existing at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net asset accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in the surplus/deficit, the increment is recognised immediately as revenue in the surplus/deficit.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as expenses in the surplus/deficit, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset, they are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

As a not-for-profit entity, revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current assets, but not otherwise.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is disposed of, any balance remaining in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

#### (iv) Impairment of property, plant and equipment

As a not-for-profit entity with no cash generating units, DECCW is effectively exempted from AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* and impairment testing. This is because AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test to the higher of fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost. This means that, for an asset already measured at fair value, impairment can only arise if selling costs are material. Selling costs are regarded as immaterial.

#### (v) Assets not able to be reliably measured

DECCW holds certain assets, which have not been recognised in the statement of financial position because the value of these assets cannot be measured reliably. These assets include a range of cultural artefacts and historic infrastructure.

**(vi) Depreciation of property, plant and equipment**

Except for certain heritage assets, depreciation is provided for on a straight-line basis for all depreciable assets so as to write-off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to DECCW.

All material separately identifiable components of assets are depreciated over their shorter useful lives.

Certain *heritage assets* (in use) with an extremely long useful life are not depreciated. Depreciation for these cannot be reliably measured because the useful life and the net amount to be recovered at the end of the useful life cannot be reliably ascertained. In these cases, depreciation is not recognised. The decision not to recognise depreciation for these assets is reviewed annually.

*Land* is not a depreciated asset.

*Buildings and improvement*

The construction type of DECCW buildings is used to determine the asset's useful life (from which a depreciation rate is derived). For example, historic buildings in use are deemed to have useful lives of between 40 and 100 years; visitors centres and staff residences 40 to 80 years, etc.

*Roads and other access; utilities and other infrastructure*

The following depreciation rates have been adopted:

Roads; car parks, fire trails, management trails and walking tracks:	
earthworks	0%
pavement	5%
Bridges	2%
Boat ramps and wharves, utilities and other infrastructure	5%
Water infrastructure	1–5%

Except where bridges, boat ramps, wharves and utilities have been independently valued, an assessment of the useful life of each asset was carried out and the depreciation rate was derived accordingly.

*Plant and equipment* 6–50%

*Amortisation of intangible assets*

The following amortisation rates have been adopted:

Software	10–25%
Water licences	Nil

**(vii) Major inspection costs**

When each major inspection is performed, the labour cost of performing major inspections for faults is recognised in the carrying amount of an asset as a replacement of a part, if the recognition criteria is satisfied.

**(viii) Restoration costs**

The estimated cost of dismantling and removing an asset and restoring the site is included in the cost of an asset, to the extent it is recognised as a liability.

**(ix) Maintenance**

Day-to-day servicing costs or maintenance are charged as expenses incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a significant part or component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

**(x) Leased assets**

Under certain leases granted by DECCW, the lessee will maintain or improve the leased property, which, at the expiry of the lease, reverts to the ownership of DECCW. Alternatively, where land is leased, property may be built on the land by the lessee and at the expiry of the lease, ownership of the property transfers to DECCW.

Assets and improvements are brought to account by DECCW upon expiry of the lease, when actual ownership and control reverts to DECCW. Upon assumption of ownership, the asset will be included in the DECCW asset register. Examples of such prospective assets include commercial buildings and infrastructure such as marinas and ski lifts (excluding associated plant and machinery) built by lessees on DECCW property.

Operating lease payments are charged to the statement of comprehensive income in the periods in which they are incurred.

**(xi) Intangible assets**

DECCW recognises intangible assets only if it is probable that future economic benefit will flow to DECCW and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired at no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

All research costs are expensed. Development costs are only capitalised when certain criteria are met.

**Software**

The useful lives of intangible software assets are assessed to be finite. Intangible assets are subsequently measured at fair value only if there is an active market. As there is no active market for DECCW's intangible software assets, the assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation. DECCW's intangible software assets are amortised using the straight line method over a period of 10 years in the case of specialist water monitoring software and four years for other software.

**Others**

*Water Licences:* The Department recognises water licences issued under the *Water Management Act 2000* and the *Water Act 1912*. Licences purchased are reported at cost which equates to fair value. DECCW's intangible water licence assets are not amortised.

*Department's share of jointly controlled intangible assets:* The Department's share of jointly controlled intangible assets recognised from its interest in the Living Murray Initiative joint venture, comprising water entitlements and flooding easements, are not amortised.

Intangible assets are tested for impairment where an indicator of impairment exists. If the recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to recoverable amount and the reduction is recognised as an impairment loss.

**(xii) Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are recognised in the surplus/(deficit) for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short-term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

**(xiii) Inventories**

Inventories held for distribution are stated at cost, adjusted when applicable, for any loss of service potential. A loss of service potential is identified and measured based on the existence of a current replacement cost that is lower than the carrying amount. Inventories (other than those held for distribution) are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated using the weighted average cost.

The cost of inventories acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration is the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition. Current replacement cost is the cost DECCW would incur to acquire the asset. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Shop stocks held for 12 months or more and considered to be unsaleable are regarded as obsolete and are expensed.

Generally, the quantum of inventory held is small. DECCW relies on end-of-year stock takes to identify shop stocks and inventory held for distribution for reporting purposes.

**(xiv) Investments**

Investments are initially recognised at fair value. DECCW determines the classification of its financial assets after initial recognition and, when allowed and appropriate, re-evaluates this at each financial year end.

The Hour-Glass Investment Facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss using the second leg of the fair value option; i.e. these financial assets are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented DECCW risk-management strategy, and information about these assets is provided internally on that basis to DECCW's key management personnel.

Designation at fair value through profit or loss is consistent with DECCW's Financial Arrangements and Investment Risk Policy.

The movement in the fair value of the Hour-Glass Investment Facilities incorporates distributions received as well as unrealised movements in fair value and is reported in the line item 'investment revenue'.

**(xv) Impairment of financial assets**

All financial assets except those measured at fair value through profit and loss are subject to an annual review for impairment. An allowance for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of the allowance is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Any reversals of impairment losses are reversed through the surplus/(deficit) for the year where there is objective evidence, except reversals of impairment losses on an investment in an equity instrument classified as 'available for sale' must be made through the reserve. Reversals of impairment losses of financial assets carried at amortised cost cannot result in a carrying amount that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had there not been an impairment loss.

**(xvi) De-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities**

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or if DECCW transfers the financial asset:

- where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred, or
- where DECCW has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, if DECCW has not retained control.

Where DECCW has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Department's continuing involvement in the asset.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

**(xvii) Other assets**

Other assets are recognised on a cost basis.

**(k) Liabilities****(i) Payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to DECCW and other amounts. Payables are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Short-term payables with no stated interest are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

**(ii) Borrowings**

Loans are not held for trading or designated at fair value through profit or loss and are recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains or losses are recognised in the surplus/(deficit) for the year on de-recognition.

**(iii) Employee benefits and other provisions****(a) Salaries and wages, annual leave, sick leave and on-costs**

Liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and paid sick leave that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the service are recognised and measured in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date at undiscounted amounts based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

**(b) Long service leave and superannuation**

DECCW's liabilities for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation are assumed by the Crown Entity. DECCW accounts for the liability as having been extinguished resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as 'Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities' (see note 7).

Long service leave is measured using the present value basis in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*. This is based on the application of certain factors (specified in NSWTC 09/04) to employees with five or more years of service, using current rates of pay. These factors were determined on an actuarial review to approximate present value.

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes, (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employee's salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme) the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

**(iv) Other provisions**

Other provisions exist when: DECCW has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Any provisions for restructuring are recognised only when DECCW has a detailed formal plan and has raised a valid expectation in those affected by the restructuring that it will carry out the restructuring by starting to implement the plan or announcing its main features to those affected.

**(l) Equity and reserves**

**(i) Asset revaluation reserve**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets. This accords with DECCW's policy on the revaluation of property, plant and equipment as discussed in note 1(j)(iii).

**(ii) Accumulated funds**

The category accumulated funds includes all current and prior period retained funds.

**(iii) Separate reserve accounts are recognised in the financial statements only if such accounts are required by specific legislation or Australian Accounting Standards (e.g. asset revaluation reserve).**

**(m) Equity transfers**

The transfer of net assets between agencies as a result of an administrative restructure, transfer of programs/functions and parts thereof between NSW public sector agencies (refer note 1(j)(i)) is designated as a contribution by owners and recognised as an adjustment to 'Accumulated funds'. This treatment is consistent with AASB 1004 *Contributions by Owners* and Australian Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-owned Public Sector Entities*.

The administrative restructure of 1 July 2009, which created DECCW and set up the new NOW within the Department, is treated as a contribution by owners and recognised as an adjustment to 'Accumulated funds'. The transfers are recognised at the amount at which the assets and liabilities were recognised by the former DWE immediately prior to the restructure, which is at fair value.

Note 22 includes comparative statements of comprehensive income for the former Department and transferred functions and discloses the assets and liabilities transferred.

Transfers arising from an administrative restructure involving not-for-profit entities and for-profit government departments are recognised at the amount at which the asset was recognised by the transferor immediately prior to the restructure. Subject to below, in most instances this will approximate fair value.

All other equity transfers are recognised at fair value, except for intangibles. Where an intangible has been recognised at (amortised) cost by the transferor because there is no active market, DECCW recognises the asset at the transferor's carrying amount. Where the transferor is prohibited from recognising internally generated intangibles, DECCW does not recognise that asset.

**(n) Budgeted amounts**

The budgeted amounts are drawn from budgets as formulated at the beginning of the financial year and with any adjustments for the effects of additional appropriations under sections 21A, 24, and/or 26 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

The budgeted amounts in the statement of comprehensive income and the statement of cash flows are generally based on amounts disclosed in the NSW Budget Papers (as adjusted above). However, in the statement of financial position the amounts vary from the Budget Papers because the opening balances of the budgeted amounts are based on carried forward actual amounts; i.e. per the audited financial statements (rather than carried forward estimates).

**(o) Comparative information**

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, the comparative information disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements, is limited to that of the former DECC, given that this is the first financial year of the amalgamated Department.

**(p) New Australian Accounting Standards issued but not effective**

In the current year, DECCW has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are relevant to the operations and effective for the current reporting period. Details of the impact of the adoption of these new accounting standards are set out in the individual accounting policies notes in the financial statements.

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2010 reporting period. In accordance with the NSW Treasury mandate (TC 10/08), DECCW did not early adopt any of these accounting standards and interpretations that are not yet effective:

- AASB 9 and AASB 2009-11 regarding financial instruments
- AASB 2009-5 regarding annual improvements
- AASB 2009-8 regarding share based payments
- AASB 2009-9 regarding first time adoption
- AASB 2009-10 regarding classification of rights
- AASB 124 and AASB 2009-12 regarding related party transactions
- Interpretation 19 and AASB 2009-13 regarding extinguishing financial liability with equity instruments
- AASB 2009-14 regarding prepayments of a minimum funding requirement
- AASB 2010-1 regarding AASB 7 comparatives for first time adopters.

**2. Expenses excluding losses****(a) Employee related expenses**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Salary and wages (including recreation leave)*	400,303	331,941
Superannuation – defined benefit plans	15,590	13,524
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	26,816	21,701
Long service leave	20,258	16,154
Workers' compensation insurance	6,635	6,591
Payroll tax and fringe benefits tax	27,060	23,012
Other	3,865	574
	<b>500,527</b>	<b>413,497</b>

The employee related expenses include \$26,319,078 (2009: \$24,846,531) for the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Domain Trust and Lord Howe Island Board, \$1,222,294 for the Dams Safety Committee and \$50,455,408 (2009: \$52,341,732) for the Catchment Management Authorities. Refer also to notes 1(a) and 3(e).

\* Salaries and wages amounting to \$2,780,958 (2009: \$1,935,114) have been capitalised and therefore excluded from the above.

**(b) Other operating expenses**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Fees and services	59,314	78,485
Contractor – projects	57,520	35,282
Maintenance*	35,529	28,053
Fleet costs	28,326	21,549
Stores and minor assets	20,402	15,208
Operating lease rental expenses (minimum lease payments)	19,252	15,105
Insurance	15,283	17,230
Other occupancy costs	10,819	8,265
Information dissemination	10,391	6,628
Travel costs	10,190	7,657
Communication costs	7,581	6,219
Purchase of water licences under the control of other entities	5,403	57,533
Legal costs	2,418	2,594
Fees for water metering and billing	2,238	–
Cost of sales	1,294	1,289
Energy costs	516	488
Auditor's remuneration (audit of the financial statements)	462	311
Maintenance undertaken free of charge (refer note 3(d))	454	468
Other	273	756
Impairment of assets and bad debts	117	133
Expenses capitalised	(1,646)	(1,075)
	<b>286,136</b>	<b>302,178</b>
<i>*Reconciliation – total maintenance</i>		
Maintenance expense – contracted labour and other (non-employee related), as above	35,529	28,053
Employee related maintenance expense included in note 2(a)	28,131	25,977
<b>Total maintenance expenses included in notes 2(a) and 2(b)</b>	<b>63,660</b>	<b>54,030</b>

**(c) Depreciation and amortisation expense**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Depreciation:		
Buildings and improvements	10,828	10,041
Roads and other access	31,920	21,070
Utilities and other infrastructure	16,809	9,712
Plant and equipment	14,472	14,152
Furniture and fittings	3,023	1,630
	77,052	56,605
Amortisation of intangibles	10,450	7,330
	<b>87,502</b>	<b>63,935</b>

**(d) Grants and subsidies**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Federal Government	9,588	4,474
NSW Government	301,297	167,744
Local Government	27,246	24,598
Waste performance improvement payments	20,664	12,340
Energy Savings Fund	72,332	25,313
Water Savings Fund	6,815	5,776
Non-government organisations	43,759	30,791
Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements Program	2,217	–
Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme Program	58,736	–
Other	33,464	10
	<b>576,118</b>	<b>271,046</b>

**(e) Finance costs**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Interest expense from financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss	1,994	2,053
	<b>1,994</b>	<b>2,053</b>

**(f) Other expenses**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Bank charges	233	199
Miscellaneous	109	2
	<b>342</b>	<b>201</b>

### 3. Revenue

#### (a) Sale of goods and services

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Sale of goods:		
Annual and day entry	15,340	15,450
Camping fees	9,163	8,198
Sale of assets under \$5,000	69	94
Sale of publications and stock	2,214	2,258
	<b>26,786</b>	<b>26,000</b>
Rendering of services:		
Community service	3,182	3,065
Hire of facilities	1,185	1,100
Miscellaneous park service	3,232	2,412
Income from water operations	25,864	–
Minor user charges	29,244	2,345
	62,707	8,922
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,493</b>	<b>34,922</b>

#### (b) Investment revenue

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Interest revenue from financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	7,363	8,284
TCorp Hour-Glass Investment Facilities designated at fair value through profit and loss	1,929	2,476
Lease and rental of premises*	23,020	16,612
	<b>32,312</b>	<b>27,372</b>

\* Lease and rental revenue is derived by DECCW from commercial leases and licences with private operators within the national parks.

#### (c) Retained fees and fines

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Fees:		
Licences and permits	803	914
Kangaroo and other royalties	1,099	947
	1,902	1,861
Fines:		
Parking, court and other	1,240	1,731
	1,240	1,731
	<b>3,142</b>	<b>3,592</b>

**(d) Grants and contributions**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Funding was provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments together with private and corporate sponsorship as follows (refer note 5):		
Federal Government	89,426	60,246
NSW Government	248,346	151,643
Other state governments	103	57,306
Local Government	4,394	376
Non-government organisations	2,038	2,406
Contributed assets (refer note 14)	2,322	1,806
Services free of charge (refer note 2(b))	454	468
	<b>347,083</b>	<b>274,251</b>

**(e) Personnel services**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Personnel services income	73,544	71,963
	<b>73,544</b>	<b>71,963</b>

**(f) Other revenue**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Insurance recoveries	28,756	14,860
Miscellaneous	4,812	5,773
	<b>33,568</b>	<b>20,633</b>

**(g) Revenue forgone**

DECCW's revenue does not include park use fees which DECCW forgoes through concessions such as free and discounted park-use permits provided to certain groups, including pensioners, volunteer fire-fighters, etc.

**4. Gain/(loss) on disposal**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Proceeds from disposal of current/non-current assets:		
Land and buildings	211	4,519
Plant and equipment	869	551
Infrastructure	–	7
Written down value of current/non-current assets disposed of:		
Land and buildings	(580)	(4,621)
Plant and equipment	(877)	(3,951)
Infrastructure	(91)	(141)
Intangibles	(83)	–
<b>Net (loss) on disposal</b>	<b>(551)</b>	<b>(3,636)</b>

## 5. Conditions on contributions

DECCW received contributions for specific purposes, e.g. restoration works or scientific research projects. The amount received during the year was \$333,014,957 (2009: \$272,444,673). Contributions received during the year include climate change funds of \$179,331,929 (2009: \$82,937,668).

Usually the conditions imposed upon DECCW stipulate that grants provided are required to be spent on the specific project for which the funds are provided. Usually any funds that are not used on the specific project must be refunded to the donor body.

DECCW also conducts research projects on behalf of a wide range of donor bodies. These bodies provide funds that are restricted to use on projects specified by the donor body. Strict terms and conditions can apply to the use of these funds. Any unspent funds can be returned to the donor bodies.

No externally imposed financial restrictions are operable in respect of DECCW's assets (except cash) as a result of such contributions. In the case of research grants, assets of an intangible nature (e.g. intellectual property) may ensue. Due to the immateriality, all costs incurred are expensed.

The contributions which were unexpended as at 30 June 2010 were \$126,637,432 (2009: \$162,694,897). Contributions which are unexpended at the balance date are considered to be restricted assets (refer note 16).

## 6. Appropriations

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Recurrent appropriation</b>		
Total recurrent draw-downs from NSW Treasury*	883,524	670,955
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund* (refer note 21)	–	(518)
	<b>883,524</b>	<b>670,437</b>
Comprising:		
Recurrent appropriation**	782,666	604,144
Transfer payments (see note 8)	100,858	66,293
	<b>883,524</b>	<b>670,437</b>
<b>Capital appropriation</b>		
Total capital draw-downs from NSW Treasury*	45,865	54,151
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund*	–	–
	<b>45,865</b>	<b>54,151</b>
Comprising:		
Capital appropriation**	45,865	54,151
	<b>45,865</b>	<b>54,151</b>

\* As per summary of compliance

\*\* As per statement of comprehensive income

## 7. Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
The following liabilities and/or expenses have been assumed by the Crown Entity:		
Superannuation – defined benefit	15,591	13,524
Long service leave	19,960	13,808
Payroll tax on superannuation	880	673
	<b>36,431</b>	<b>28,005</b>

## 8. Transfer payments

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife	50	50
Lord Howe Island Board	1,407	1,378
Zoological Parks Board	37,166	25,735
Nature Conservation Trust	–	1,000
State Water Corporation	23,624	–
Catchment Management Authorities	38,611	38,130
	<b>100,858</b>	<b>66,293</b>

## 9. Service groups of the Department

### Service Group 1: Climate Change, Policy and Programs

Objective(s): This service group covers the State's climate change policy response. It delivers water and energy conservation and waste sustainability programs. It develops, implements and reviews strategic policies, programs and procedures pertaining to native vegetation, biodiversity, landscape conservation, environment protection and coastal protection. This service group also develops and manages private land conservation programs including the Biobanking Scheme, NSW Riverbank and other environmental water recovery programs, as well as supporting Catchment Management Authorities.

### Service Group 2: Environment Protection and Regulation

Objective(s): This service group delivers credible, targeted and cost-effective regulation and enforcement across a range of environment protection, conservation, native vegetation and Aboriginal heritage areas. It implements market-based and regulatory programs for industry and local government to reduce environmental impacts.

### Service Group 3: Parks and Wildlife

Objective(s): This service group covers managing and acquiring parks and protected areas. Within the reserve system, the service group conserves and manages nature and cultural heritage, provides a range of opportunities and experiences for visitors to enjoy parks and other protected areas, controls pests and weeds, and suppresses and manages fires. The service group also partners with Aboriginal communities and private landholders for conservation outcomes. The service group manages on-park Aboriginal and historic heritage sites and areas, and buildings of significance, as well as protecting, managing and licensing native wildlife.

### Service Group 4: Country, Culture and Heritage

Objective(s): This service group works with Aboriginal communities and private and public landholders to conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage. It develops policies, strategies, programs and systems that support Aboriginal participation in the management of their traditional lands, waters and natural resources. The service group also provides technical services for the conservation of cultural heritage within parks, reserves and botanic gardens, and leads the development of the 'Strengthening Community Wellbeing' strategy.

### Service Group 5: Scientific Services

Objective(s): This service group covers scientific research, investigation, monitoring, analysis, evaluation and reporting on a range of climate change, natural resource, and environmental and cultural heritage matters. The service group also interprets and communicates environmental data to inform internal and external decision making, as well as providing laboratory and analytical services to support environment protection, conservation and natural resource programs, and emergency services.

### Service Group 6: Urban Water Utilities

Objective(s): This service group covers the planning and policy development for urban water industries; coordination and review of the Metropolitan Water Plan; facilitation of water recycling across NSW; leadership, guidance and technical assistance in best practice management; operation and maintenance for non-metropolitan urban water utilities; overseeing and monitoring utility performance; funding backlog water and sewerage infrastructure and providing emergency drought assistance.

**Service Group 7: Water Management**

Objective(s): This service group covers the sharing of water to provide stimulus for businesses and social benefits, and to improve the condition of NSW rivers, wetlands and aquifers. Key services include: interstate water management; statutory water sharing planning; licence administration and compliance; water quantity and quality assessment; allocation of available water; development and implementation of water trading rules; and advice on ecosystem protection strategies and plans.

**10. Current assets – cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include all of the following:		
Cash at bank	180,816	135,730
Cash on hand	170	162
Cash at TCorp	37,197	48,757
Closing cash and cash equivalents (as per statement of cash flows)	<b>218,183</b>	<b>184,649</b>

Refer note 16 for details on restricted cash balances.

Refer note 31 for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

**11. Current assets – receivables**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Sale of goods and services	24,776	26,521
Retained fees and fines	196	285
Less: Allowance for impairment	(3,696)	(122)
Accrued income	43,293	10,122
Prepayments	1,383	1,435
GST	12,722	11,545
Other receivables	2,735	63
	<b>81,409</b>	<b>49,849</b>

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Debts written off during the year	<b>110</b>	<b>153</b>
Movement in the allowance for impairment		
Balance at 1 July	122	142
Carrying amount transferred in as a result of administrative restructure	3,657	–
Amounts written off during the year	(49)	(26)
Amounts recovered during the year	(1,345)	(84)
Amounts adjusted in equity as a result of administrative restructure	(90)	–
Increase in allowance recognised in profit or loss	1,401	90
Balance at 30 June	<b>3,696</b>	<b>122</b>

Details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk, including financial assets that are either past due or impaired, are disclosed in note 31.

**12. Current assets – inventories**

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Held for resale</b>		
Finished goods – shop stocks at cost	736	731
	<b>736</b>	<b>731</b>

**13. Current/non-current assets – other financial assets**

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Current</b>		
Other loans and deposits	16	16
	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Other loans and deposits	5	–
	<b>5</b>	<b>–</b>

Refer note 31 for further information regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

**14. Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment**

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>At 1 July 2009 – fair value</b>				
Gross carrying amount	2,288,771	133,822	1,463,320	3,885,913
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(194,044)	(74,123)	(399,126)	(667,293)
Net carrying amount	<b>2,094,727</b>	<b>59,699</b>	<b>1,064,194</b>	<b>3,218,620</b>
<b>At 30 June 2010 – fair value</b>				
Gross carrying amount	2,409,021	157,767	2,053,603	4,620,391
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(225,637)	(86,696)	(443,817)	(756,150)
Net carrying amount	<b>2,183,384</b>	<b>71,071</b>	<b>1,609,786</b>	<b>3,864,241</b>

## Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Year ended 30 June 2010</b>				
Net carrying amount at start of year	2,094,727	59,699	1,064,194	3,218,620
Additions	29,202	24,382	17,982	71,566
Disposals	(580)	(877)	(91)	(1,548)
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	(83,100)	4,880	505,415	427,195
Net revaluation increment less revaluation decrements	155,288	–	36,837	192,125
Share of jointly controlled assets in the River Murray Operations joint venture (note 23)	613	260	30,139	31,012
Depreciation expense	(10,826)	(17,495)	(48,730)	(77,051)
Transfers in/(out)	(4,065)	25	4,040	–
Other movements – free of cost	2,125	197	–	2,322
<b>Net carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>2,183,384</b>	<b>71,071</b>	<b>1,609,786</b>	<b>3,864,241</b>
	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>At 1 July 2008 – fair value</b>				
Gross carrying amount	2,337,306	131,517	1,039,329	3,508,152
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(184,229)	(68,621)	(326,592)	(579,442)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>2,153,077</b>	<b>62,896</b>	<b>712,737</b>	<b>2,928,710</b>
<b>At 30 June 2009 – fair value</b>				
Gross carrying amount	2,288,771	133,822	1,463,320	3,885,913
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(194,044)	(74,123)	(399,126)	(667,293)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>2,094,727</b>	<b>59,699</b>	<b>1,064,194</b>	<b>3,218,620</b>

## Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Year ended 30 June 2009</b>				
Net carrying amount at start of year	2,153,077	62,896	712,737	2,928,710
Additions	63,395	16,481	16,016	95,892
Disposals	(146)	(3,951)	(141)	(4,238)
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	1,926	48	–	1,974
Net revaluation increment less revaluation decrements	(115,290)	7	366,364	251,081
Depreciation expense	(10,041)	(15,782)	(30,782)	(56,605)
Other movements – free of cost	1,806	–	–	1,806
Net carrying amount at end of year	<b>2,094,727</b>	<b>59,699</b>	<b>1,064,194</b>	<b>3,218,620</b>

DECCW also continues to derive service potential and economic benefit from some fully depreciated assets that have not been revalued this financial year. The impact of valuation is likely to be minimal as most fully depreciated assets are likely to be in poor condition and therefore may or may not have zero value.

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Buildings	13,102	11,938
Plant and equipment	13,945	5,735
Infrastructure	11,625	7,687
<b>Gross carrying amount</b>	<b>38,672</b>	<b>25,360</b>

## 15. Intangible assets

	Software \$'000	Water licences \$'000	Water entitlements \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>At 1 July 2009</b>				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	49,749	130,095	–	179,844
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(24,985)	–	–	(24,985)
Net carrying amount	<b>24,764</b>	<b>130,095</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>154,859</b>
<b>At 30 June 2010</b>				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	70,822	150,035	123,773	344,630
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(33,961)	–	–	(33,961)
Net carrying amount	<b>36,861</b>	<b>150,035</b>	<b>123,773</b>	<b>310,669</b>
<b>Year ended 30 June 2010</b>				
Net carrying amount at start of year	24,764	130,095	–	154,859
Additions	12,532	18,854	–	31,386
Disposals	(83)	–	–	(83)
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	10,098	1,086	84,463	95,647
Share of jointly controlled assets in the River Murray Operations and the Living Murray Initiative joint ventures (note 23)	–	–	39,310	39,310
Amortisation (recognised in 'Depreciation and amortisation')	(10,450)	–	–	(10,450)
Net carrying amount at end of year	<b>36,861</b>	<b>150,035</b>	<b>123,773</b>	<b>310,669</b>
<b>At 1 July 2008</b>				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	38,047	78,335	–	116,382
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(17,655)	–	–	(17,655)
Net carrying amount	<b>20,392</b>	<b>78,335</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>98,727</b>
<b>At 30 June 2009</b>				
Cost (gross carrying amount)	49,749	130,095	–	179,844
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(24,985)	–	–	(24,985)
Net carrying amount	<b>24,764</b>	<b>130,095</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>154,859</b>
<b>Year ended 30 June 2009</b>				
Net carrying amount at start of year	20,392	78,335	–	98,727
Additions	11,702	51,760	–	63,462
Disposals	–	–	–	–
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	–	–	–	–
Amortisation (recognised in 'Depreciation and amortisation')	(7,330)	–	–	(7,330)
Net carrying amount at end of year	<b>24,764</b>	<b>130,095</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>154,859</b>
DECCW also continues to derive service potential and economic benefit from some fully amortised assets that have not been revalued this financial year. The impact of valuation is likely to be minimal as most fully amortised assets are likely to be obsolete and therefore may or may not have zero value.				
			<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Software			12,235	9,771
Gross carrying amount			<b>12,235</b>	<b>9,771</b>

## 16. Restricted assets

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Current</b>		
Cash as TCorp	26,872	38,873
Climate Change Fund	91,473	121,665
Other contributions	8,292	2,157
	<b>126,637</b>	<b>162,695</b>

The above amounts are recognised as restricted assets as there are specific legislative or contractual conditions associated with the use of these funds.

Cash at TCorp was provided by Snowy Hydro Ltd to assist with the remediation of sites formerly occupied by that organisation.

DECCW has a wide range of assets under its control, such as historic buildings, dedicated land and specified sites, which are subject to restrictions on their use by virtue of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. These restrictions include disposal of the asset or, under certain circumstances, exploitation for financial or economic gain. Additional restrictions may be brought to bear by DECCW's stakeholders as well as other legislation governing the use of historic sites and buildings.

DECCW also has a bank account that facilitates the payment of employee entitlements for Catchment Management Authority staff. This account is controlled by the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

## 17. Investments accounted for under the equity method

	2010 \$'000
<b>Share of operating result of joint ventures accounted for under the equity method</b>	
Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission	(1,376)
	<b>(1,376)</b>
<b>Non-current investments accounted for under the equity method</b>	
Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission	36,218
	<b>36,218</b>
	<b>2010 \$'000</b>
Joint venture entity: Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission	36,218

The Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission was established by the NSW–Queensland Border Rivers Agreement and is responsible for sharing the waters of the rivers and streams that form or intersect the boundary between the two states and the associated groundwater resources. The Commission undertakes the investigation, construction and operation of works to conserve and regulate those waters where considered desirable.

	2010 \$'000
Ownership interest	50%
Dumaresq–Barwon Border Rivers Commission reporting date	30 June
	<b>2010 \$'000</b>
Net assets audited	72,436

	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
<i>Summarised financial information as at 30 June 2010</i>	
Statement of financial position	
Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	3,007
Receivables	67
Non-current assets	
Property, plant and equipment	69,641
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>72,715</b>
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	
Payables	279
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>279</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>72,436</b>
Statement of comprehensive income	
Revenues	2,376
Expenses	(2,969)
Loss on disposal	–
Loss for the year	(593)
Aggregate asset revaluation increment for the financial year	<b>147</b>
Share of operating loss	(297)
Prior period error adjustment	21
Contribution for the financial year	(1,100)
<b>Share of operating result</b>	<b>(1,376)</b>

## 18. Current liabilities – payables

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	7,945	8,701
Creditors	39,500	17,289
Unearned revenue	3,710	603
Voluntary redundancies	424	119
	<b>51,579</b>	<b>26,712</b>

Details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk, including a maturity analysis of the above payables, are disclosed in note 31.

## 19. Current/non-current liabilities – borrowings

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Non-current</b>		
Treasury advances repayable	48,120	42,852
	<b>48,120</b>	<b>42,852</b>

Details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk, including a maturity analysis of the above borrowings, are disclosed in note 31.

The repayable schedule of the interest-bearing Treasury repayable advances has been determined in the context of the State Infrastructure Strategy. No repayments are scheduled to commence within the next 12 months.

Although DECCW did not have the power to borrow funds (i.e. loans) under the *Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987*, specific approval was given by the NSW Treasurer for these advances.

## 20. Current/non-current liabilities – provisions

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Current</b>		
<b>Employee benefits and related on-costs<sup>1</sup></b>		
Recreation leave <sup>2</sup>	44,936	38,003
Recreation leave on-costs <sup>2</sup>	2,636	1,822
Long service leave on-costs <sup>2,3</sup>	13,492	10,147
	<b>61,064</b>	<b>49,972</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
<b>Employee benefits and related on-costs<sup>1</sup></b>		
Long service leave on-costs <sup>3</sup>	685	504
	<b>685</b>	<b>504</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Restoration costs	5,872	–
	<b>5,872</b>	<b>–</b>
	<b>6,557</b>	<b>504</b>
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>67,621</b>	<b>50,476</b>
<b>Aggregate employee benefits and related on-costs</b>		
Provisions – current	61,064	49,972
Provisions – non-current	685	504
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs (note 18)	7,945	8,701
	<b>69,694</b>	<b>59,177</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes employee benefits and related on-costs for the Catchment Management Authorities, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Dams Safety Committee and the Lord Howe Island Board (refer note 1(a)).

<sup>2</sup> The value of employee benefits and related on-costs expected to be paid after 12 months is \$6,486,154 (2008–09: \$4,707,484).

<sup>3</sup> DECCW's liabilities for long service leave are assumed by the Crown Entity. However, DECCW has an obligation to meet the long service leave related on-costs.

**Movements in provisions (other than employee benefits)**

Movements in the restoration costs provision during the financial year are set out below.

<b>2010</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Carrying amount at the beginning of the financial year	–
Carrying amount transferred in as result of administrative restructure	1,146
Additional provisions recognised	4,749
Unwinding/change in the discount rate	(23)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>5,872</b>

**21. Current/non-current liabilities – other**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Security deposits	1,752	307
Funds and interest held in trust (Catchment Management Authorities)	2,729	1,896
Unamortised discount	134	–
Liability to Consolidated Fund (refer note 6)	–	518
	<b>4,615</b>	<b>2,721</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Unamortised discount	134	402
	<b>134</b>	<b>402</b>
<b>Total other liabilities</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>3,123</b>

**22. Increase/decrease in net assets from equity transfers**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>Administrative restructures transferred since the formation of the Department are:</b>		
Increase in assets and liabilities from 1 July 2009 administrative restructure (below (a))	712,320	–
Increase in assets and liabilities from 27 April 2007 administrative restructure	–	1,974
(Decrease)/increase in assets and liabilities – other administrative restructures (below (b))	(110,552)	–
	<b>601,768</b>	<b>1,974</b>

**(a) Administrative restructure – 1 July 2009**

On 27 July 2009, DECCW was created as a result of the *Public Sector Employment and Management (Departmental Amalgamations) Order 2009*. This note includes comparative information for the statements of comprehensive income of former DECC and transferred water functions from the former DWE for the year ended 30 June 2009, and discloses the assets and liabilities transferred on 1 July 2009.

**Statements of comprehensive income for former DECC and transferred water functions from DWE for the year ended 30 June 2009**

	DECC	Water functions transferred from former DWE
	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>		
Operating expenses		
Employee related	413,497	68,236
Other operating expenses	302,178	45,798
Depreciation and amortisation	63,935	6,957
Grants and subsidies	271,046	198,214
Finance costs	2,053	147
Other expenses	201	28,030
<b>Total expenses excluding losses</b>	<b>1,052,910</b>	<b>347,382</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Sale of goods and services	34,922	42,855
Investment revenue	27,372	2,030
Retained fees and fines	3,592	–
Grants and contributions	274,251	9,433
Personnel services	71,963	–
Other revenue	20,633	9,625
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>432,733</b>	<b>63,943</b>
Loss on disposal	(3,636)	(15)
Other gains/(losses)	–	(2,121)
Share of operating result of joint ventures accounted for under the equity accounting method	–	23,915
Loss on transition of joint venture from jointly controlled entity to jointly controlled assets	–	(114,758)
Increase in share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	–	17,471
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>623,813</b>	<b>358,947</b>
<b>Government contributions</b>		
Recurrent appropriation	604,144	264,602
Capital appropriation	54,151	8,348
Asset sale proceeds transferred to the Crown Entity	–	(449)
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	28,005	6,681
<b>Total government contributions</b>	<b>686,300</b>	<b>279,182</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>62,487</b>	<b>(79,765)</b>

	DECC	Water functions transferred from former DWE
	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Net increase in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation reserve	251,081	60,142
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of investments accounted for under the equity method	–	11,662
Net increase/(decrease) on revaluation of share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	–	10,108
Re-instatement of current liabilities (Payables-other) written off against accumulated funds in prior year	–	(1,509)
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>251,081</b>	<b>80,403</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>313,568</b>	<b>638</b>

**Assets and liabilities for former DECC and transferred from water functions from former DWE as at 1 July 2009**

	DECC	Water functions transferred from former DWE
	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	184,649	48,946
Receivables	49,849	31,219
Inventories	731	–
Other financial assets	16	634
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>235,245</b>	<b>80,799</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Other financial assets	–	5
Property, plant and equipment		
Land and buildings	2,094,727	15,049
Plant and equipment	59,699	5,620
Infrastructure systems	1,064,194	516,072
Intangibles	154,859	96,906
Investments accounted for under the equity method	–	36,420
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>3,373,479</b>	<b>670,072</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3,608,724</b>	<b>750,871</b>

table continues over page

	DECC	Water functions transferred from former DWE
	2009 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payables	26,712	18,084
Borrowings	–	650
Provisions	49,972	8,755
Liability to Consolidated Fund (refer note 6)	518	6,258
Other	2,203	1,731
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>79,405</b>	<b>35,478</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Borrowings	42,852	–
Provisions	504	3,073
Other	402	–
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>43,758</b>	<b>3,073</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>123,163</b>	<b>38,551</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>3,485,561</b>	<b>712,320</b>
<b>Increase in net assets from equity transfers</b>		<b>712,320</b>

**(b) Other administrative restructures**

Assets and liabilities transferred in 2009–10 due to other administrative restructures:

Department/Agency	Non-current assets				Current assets	
	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Intangibles \$'000	Receivables \$'000	Payables \$'000
Western Sydney Parklands Trust	(102,354)	–	(8,139)	–	–	–
Water Administration Ministerial Corporation	(3)	(740)	(2,518)	(1,259)	–	–
Land and Property Management Authority	3,722	–	–	–	–	–
State Property Authority	448	–	–	–	–	–
Department of Industry and Investment	–	–	–	–	258	(5)
Department of Planning	31	–	–	–	–	–
Roads and Traffic Authority	6	–	–	–	–	–
Sydney Catchment Authority	1	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net assets from other administrative restructures</b>	<b>(98,149)</b>	<b>(740)</b>	<b>(10,657)</b>	<b>(1,259)</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>(5)</b>

**Transfers of land and associated infrastructure from other agencies, which are treated as ‘administrative restructuring’ are detailed below (refer note 1(m)):**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>Department/Agency</b>		
State Forests of NSW	–	1,757
Western Sydney Parklands Trust	(110,493)	–
Water Administration Ministerial Corporation	(3)	–
Land & Property Management Authority	3,722	150
State Property Authority	448	–
Department of Planning	31	105
Roads and Traffic Authority	6	–
Department of Industry and Investment	–	(323)
Sydney Catchment Authority	1	237
	<b>(106,288)</b>	<b>1,926</b>
<b>Equity transfers (other than land and associated infrastructure)</b>		
Water Administration Ministerial Corporation	(4,517)	–
Department of Industry and Investment	253	
Lake Illawarra Authority	–	(15)
Department of Services, Technology and Administration – ServiceFirst	–	63
	<b>(4,264)</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>(110,552)</b>	<b>1,974</b>

### 23. Accounting for share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures

#### Reconciliation of movement in share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures

NOW has a 26.67% ownership interest in the jointly controlled assets of the Living Murray Initiative and the River Murray Operations joint ventures. The movement in NOW's share of these jointly controlled assets during the financial year is detailed below.

	Property, plant and equipment			Intangibles				
	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Subtotal \$'000	Water entitlements \$'000	Flooding easements \$'000	Subtotal \$'000	Grand total \$'000
Share of jointly controlled assets at beginning of the year	1,343	2,357	515,969	519,669	84,463	1,085	85,548	605,217
Share of additions	613	505	16,051	17,169	28,682	—	28,682	45,851
Share of disposals	—	(245)	(430)	(675)	—	—	—	(675)
	<b>613</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>15,621</b>	<b>16,494</b>	<b>28,682</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>28,682</b>	<b>45,176</b>
Depreciation expense	—	(354)	(7,013)	(7,367)	—	—	—	(7,367)
Share of net revaluation increment less revaluation decrements	—	—	14,518	14,518	10,628	—	10,628	25,146
Share of net carrying amount at end of year	<b>1,956</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>539,095</b>	<b>543,314</b>	<b>123,773</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>124,858</b>	<b>668,172</b>

The above disclosures are based upon the audited special purpose financial statements of the Living Murray Initiative and the River Murray Operations joint ventures for the financial year ended 30 June 2010.

## 24. Commitments for expenditure and revenue

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Commitments for expenditure</b>		
<b>(a) Capital commitments*</b>		
Aggregate capital expenditure contracted at balance date and not provided for:		
Not later than one year	2,990	1,848
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>1,848</b>
<b>(b) Other expenditure commitments*</b>		
Aggregate other expenditure contracted at balance date and not provided for:		
Not later than one year	105,140	5,245
Later than one year and not later than five years	57,677	–
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>162,817</b>	<b>5,245</b>
<b>(c) Operating lease** commitments*</b>		
Future non-cancellable operating lease rentals not provided for and payable:		
Not later than one year	32,717	26,303
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	52,984	32,132
Later than 5 years	6,164	1,142
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>91,865</b>	<b>59,577</b>

\* Commitments above include input tax credits of \$22,928,537 (2009: \$6,060,907) that are expected to be recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

\*\*Operating leases are for office accommodation, plant and equipment and motor vehicles.

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Commitments for revenue</b>		
<b>(a) Operating lease** commitments – receivables*</b>		
Further non-cancellable operating leases not provided for and receivable:		
Not later than one year	8,060	7,586
Later than one year and not later than five years	29,652	28,226
Later than five years	126,991	124,346
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>164,703</b>	<b>160,158</b>

\* Commitments above include GST payable of \$14,900,390 (2009: \$14,484,419) that are expected to be payable to the Australian Taxation Office.

\*\*DECCW's revenue commitments arise from a varied portfolio of commercial leases that enable private operators to provide visitor services and experiences in national parks for a specific period of time. These lease contracts are often complex. Many contain clauses that create difficulties in estimating, with any certainty, the quantum of future commitments because the revenue is subject to various contingent factors, such as future Consumer Price Index over extended periods, sales turnover (which is itself subject to the vagaries of weather) and/or taxable income. DECCW management considers that this category of leases cannot be reliably measured and has therefore excluded these leases from the above figures.

## 24. Commitments for expenditure and revenue (continued)

The lease commitments involving receivables reflected in this note relate solely to leases that specify a base rent component or receivables calculated as a percentage of land value which, in certain cases, is the minimum lease revenue that could be expected in future years.

## 25. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

### Contingent liabilities

#### (a) Claims on the Treasury Managed Fund

DECCW is a member of the NSW Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) self insurance scheme. The Fund manages a number of civil claims against DECCW in relation to issues such as negligence and public liability. As at 30 June 2010 these included:

- The Director General is a joint defendant in Supreme Court and Land and Environment Court proceedings that commenced in December 2008. The matter relates to advice given on clearing native vegetation and bore water licences on the plaintiffs' property.
- A civil law suit before the Supreme Court for a claim of losses arising from a failure to grant a water licence.
- Civil law suits against DECCW by property holders who sustained property damage during the fires across a large proportion of the State in December to January 2001–02 and 2002–03.
- Civil law suits arising in relation to the January 2003 bushfires in Canberra.
- Civil law suits by individuals that have sustained injuries and/or damage to their personal property.
- Civil law suits involving claims for incidents occurred within national parks.

It is not practical to estimate the financial effect of these claims. DECCW's insurable risk should adequately cover all these claims.

#### (b) Superannuation guarantee contributions

As at the balance date, DECCW has a contingent liability for superannuation guarantee contributions (SGC) on incident payments. These payments are related to fire and other extraordinary situations that arise and which are 'declared incidents'. It is not practical to reliably estimate the value of this liability due to uncertainty around the liability to pay additional SGC and the applicable timeframe.

#### (c) Other claims

There are presently no other unresolved disputes where legal action has been taken against DECCW.

Other than the above, DECCW is not aware of any significant or material-contingent liability in existence at 30 June 2010 or that has emerged subsequent to this date which may materially impact on the financial position of DECCW as shown in the financial statements.

### Contingent assets

#### (a) Treasury Managed Fund

Apart from the civil claims managed by the TMF disclosed above, there are no known contingent assets at balance date.

## 26. Budget review

### Net cost of services

Actual net cost of service: variation of \$10.835 million was primarily due to the following:

	\$m
(a) Additional revenue received for the capital expenditure, mainly from the Australian Government, such as old Dromana in the Gwydir wetlands, Riverbank, River Environmental Restoration Program and water licences for the Riverbank Program.	(22)
(b) Additional depreciation due to revaluation increments in 2008–09.	10
(c) Net increase in expenditure from the Climate Change Fund, primarily relating to the household rebates.	10
(d) Unspent external revenue for projects, including hydrometrics services to the Local Councils and to the State Water Corporation, and modernisation of hydrometrics network.	(8)

**Assets and liabilities**

Net assets: variation of \$85.752 million was primarily due to the following:

	<b>\$m</b>
(a) Net increment due to the revaluation of non-current assets – ‘land’ and ‘other amenities and facilities’.	192
(b) Net transfer of land and associated infrastructure, under administrative restructuring.	(111)

**Cash flows**

Net decrease in cash: variation of \$4.983 million was primarily due to the following:

- (a) Net increase in expenditure from the Climate Change Fund, primarily relating to the household rebates partly offset by additional external revenue.

**27. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to net cost of services**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Net cash used on operating activities	(79,568)	(129,037)
Cash flows from government/appropriations	821,756	658,813
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	36,431	28,005
Depreciation and amortisation	87,502	63,935
Contributed assets	(2,322)	(1,806)
Borrowings	1,994	2,053
Leasehold obligations	(9)	–
Joint venture operating result	1,376	–
Increase in share of jointly controlled assets in joint ventures	(45,176)	–
(Increase) in receivables	(100)	(12,873)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(5)	4
Increase in provisions	438	3,112
Increase in creditors	6,694	12,645
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	413	(4,674)
Net effect on accumulated funds from restructure	253	–
Net loss on sale of plant and equipment	551	3,636
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>830,228</b>	<b>623,813</b>

## 28. Administered assets, liabilities and income

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Administered assets</b>		
Receivables	2,511	2,056
Allowance for impairment	(112)	(364)
Cash	381	3,074
Remittance clearing	(381)	(3,074)
Accrued income	10,086	6,298
<b>Total administered assets</b>	<b>12,485</b>	<b>7,990</b>
<b>Administered liabilities</b>		
Creditors	9	70
<b>Total administered liabilities</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Administered income</b>		
Pollution licences and approvals	45,120	45,619
Radiation licences	891	1,464
Other fees and licences	1,542	1,416
Waste-related levies and fees	290,285	248,681
Coal wash levy	10,995	–
Waste levy rebates	(2,526)	(632)
Fines	777	806
<b>Total administered income</b>	<b>347,084</b>	<b>297,354</b>

Receipts collected on behalf of the Consolidated Fund are not included in DECCW's statement of comprehensive income. They are brought to account as revenue in the Treasurer's Public Accounts.

## 29. Administered income – debts written off

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Debts written off	–	600
	–	<b>600</b>

## 30. Administered income – schedule of uncollected amounts

### Schedule of uncollected amounts

	2010 \$'000
Waste audit levies	94
Pollution control licences	2,417
	<b>2,511</b>

2010	Waste audit levies			Pollution control licences		Radiation control licences	
	Total \$'000	Past due but not impaired \$'000	Considered impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired \$'000	Considered impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired \$'000	Considered impaired \$'000
< 3 months overdue	55	–	–	55	–	–	–
3–6 months overdue	93	–	–	93	–	–	–
> 6 months overdue	112	–	73	–	39	–	–

Note: The ageing analysis excludes receivables that are not past due and not impaired. Therefore, the total will not reconcile to the schedule of uncollected amounts.

### 31. Financial instruments

DECCW's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from DECCW's operations or are required to finance these operations. DECCW does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

DECCW's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with DECCW's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial report.

The Director General has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by DECCW, to set risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee/internal auditors on a continuous basis.

#### (a) Financial instrument categories

Financial assets	Note	Category	Carrying amount 2010 \$'000	Carrying amount 2009 \$'000
<b>Class:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	10	N/A	218,183	184,649
Receivables <sup>1</sup>	11	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	67,304	36,869
Other financial assets	13	Other loans and term deposit	21	16
Financial liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying amount 2010 \$'000	Carrying amount 2009 \$'000
<b>Class:</b>				
Payables <sup>2</sup>	18	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	39,500	17,289
Borrowings	19	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	48,120	42,852

Notes:

1. Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within the scope of AASB 7).
2. Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within the scope of AASB 7).

**(b) Credit risk**

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Department's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Department. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Department, including cash, receivables, loans and Department deposits. No collateral is held by the Department. The Department has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. The Department's deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

**Cash**

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the NSW Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11 am unofficial cash rate adjusted for a management fee to NSW Treasury. The TCorp Hour-Glass cash facility is discussed in paragraph (d) below.

**Receivables – trade debtors**

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectibility of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. This evidence includes past experience, and current and expected changes in economic conditions and debtor credit ratings. Interest is earned at 9% p.a. (2009: 9% p.a.) on some outstanding bulk water related trade debtors. Sales are made on 30-day terms.

The Department is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor, although it has a potential material exposure to the group of trade debtors comprising bulk water users during periods of prolonged and severe drought. Of the Department's total impairment provision for trade debtors, \$2,440,743 relates to these bulk water users being determined from past payment experience.

Based on past experience, debtors that are not past due (2010: \$7,504,741) and not less than one month past due (2010: \$4,054,332) are not considered impaired and together these represent 76% of the total trade debtors. Most of the Department's debtors have a good credit rating. There are no debtors which are currently not past due or impaired whose terms have been renegotiated.

All lease revenue falls due immediately after the issue of the customer invoice except where the lease rent schedule conditions stipulate otherwise.

The only financial assets that are past due or impaired are 'sales of goods and services' in the 'receivables' category of the statement of financial position.

	\$'000		
	Total <sup>1,2</sup>	Past due but not impaired <sup>1,2</sup>	Considered impaired <sup>1,2</sup>
<b>2010</b>			
< 3 months overdue	1,774	1,714	60
3–6 months overdue	2,493	2,140	353
> 6 months overdue	3,948	665	3,283
<b>2009</b>			
< 3 months overdue	8,071	8,071	–
3–6 months overdue	60	60	–
> 6 months overdue	162	40	122

Notes:

- Each column in the table reports 'gross receivables'.
- The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7, and excludes receivables that are not past due and not impaired. Therefore, the 'total' will not reconcile to the receivables total recognised in the statement of financial position.

**Other financial assets**

As at 30 June 2010, DECCW held two fixed-term interest-bearing deposits to the value of \$15,500 (2009: \$15,500) with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The deposits at 30 June 2010 were earning an interest rate of 4.4% (2009: 7.4%) while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 4.4% (2009: 7.4%).

**(c) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Department will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due.

The Department continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of overdrafts, loans and other advances.

DECCW does not have any bank overdraft facility. However, it does have a number of operational activities/limits with the bank that have the potential to be a liability. These include cheque cashing authorities, purchase card limits and a payroll agreement.

During the current and prior years, there were no defaults or breaches on any payables. No assets have been pledged as collateral. The Department's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. There was no penalty interest paid during this financial year (2009: \$Nil).

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Department's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

**Maturity analysis and interest rate exposure of financial assets and liabilities**

	Weighted average effective int. rate	Nominal amount <sup>1</sup>	\$'000			Maturity dates		
			Interest rate exposure			<1 year	1–5 years	>5 years
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing			
<b>2010</b>								
Payables		39,500	–	–	39,500	39,500	–	–
<i>Borrowings:</i>								
Advances repayable	5.61	48,120	48,120	–	–	–	10,274	37,846
		<b>87,620</b>	<b>48,120</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>10,274</b>	<b>37,846</b>
<b>2009</b>								
Payables		17,289	–	–	17,289	17,289	–	–
<i>Borrowings:</i>								
Advances repayable	5.25	42,852	42,852	–	–	–	6,565	36,287
		<b>60,141</b>	<b>42,852</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17,289</b>	<b>17,289</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>36,287</b>

Notes:

1. The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities and therefore will not reconcile to the statement of financial position.

**(d) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. DECCW's exposure to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk on DECCW's borrowings and other price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour-Glass Investment Facilities. DECCW has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which DECCW operates and the time-frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the statement of financial position date. The analysis was performed on the same basis as for 2009. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

### Interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through DECCW's interest bearing liabilities. This risk is minimised by undertaking mainly fixed rate borrowings, primarily with NSW TCorp. DECCW does not account for any fixed-rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available-for-sale. Therefore, for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of  $\pm 1\%$  is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. DECCW's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

	Carrying amount	\$'000			
		-1%		1%	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
<b>2010</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	218,183	(2,182)	–	2,182	–
Receivables	67,304	(673)	–	673	–
Other financial assets	21	–	–	–	–
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	39,500	395	–	(395)	–
Borrowings	48,120	481	–	(481)	–
<b>2009</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	184,649	(1,846)	–	1,846	–
Receivables	36,869	(369)	–	369	–
Other financial assets	16	–	–	–	–
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	17,289	173	–	(173)	–
Borrowings	42,852	429	–	(429)	–

### Other price risk – TCorp Hour-Glass facilities

Exposure to 'other price risk' primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour-Glass Investment Facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes. DECCW has no direct equity investments. DECCW holds units in the following Hour-Glass investment trusts:

Facility	Investment sectors	Investment horizon	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Cash facility	Cash, money market instruments	Up to 1.5 years	37,197	48,757

The unit price of each facility is equal to the total fair value of net assets held by the facility divided by the number of units on issue for that facility. Unit prices are calculated and published daily.

NSW TCorp, as trustee for the above facility, is required to act in the best interest of the unit holders and to administer the trusts in accordance with the trust deeds. As trustee, TCorp has appointed external managers to manage the performance and risks of each facility in accordance with a mandate agreed by the parties. However, TCorp acts as manager for part of the Cash Facility. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

Investment in the Hour-Glass facilities limits DECCW's exposure to risk, as it allows diversification across a pool of funds, with different investment horizons and a mix of investments.

NSW TCorp provides sensitivity analysis information for each of the investment facilities, using historically based volatility information collected over a ten year period, quoted at two standard deviations (i.e. 95% probability). The TCorp Hour-Glass Investment Facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss and therefore any change in unit price impacts directly on profit (rather than equity). A reasonably possible change is based on the percentage change in unit price (as advised by TCorp) multiplied by the redemption value as at 30 June each year for each facility (balance from Hour-Glass statement).

	Impact on profit/loss		
	Change in unit price	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Hour-Glass Investment Cash Facility	±4.46%	1,659	2,175

**(e) Fair value compared to carrying amount**

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour-Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. As discussed, the value of the Hour-Glass investments is based on DECCW's share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility, based on the market value. All of the Hour-Glass facilities are valued using 'redemption' pricing.

The amortised cost of financial instruments recognised in the statement of financial position approximates fair value because of the short-term nature of the financial instruments.

**(f) Fair value recognised in the statement of financial position**

The Department uses the following hierarchy for disclosing the fair value of financial instruments by valuation technique:

Level 1 – derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets/liabilities

Level 2 – derived from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable directly or indirectly

Level 3 – derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the asset/liability not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

	2010			
	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Financial assets at fair value</b>				
TCorp Hour-Glass Investment Facility	–	37,197	–	37,197

No financial liabilities were measured at fair value in the statement of financial position. There were no transfers between level 1 and 2 during the year ended 30 June 2010.

## 32. After balance date events

There are no significant events subsequent to the statement of financial position date.

### End of audited financial statements.

# Environment Protection Authority



GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT Environment Protection Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Environment Protection Authority (the Authority), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and a statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- are in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### The Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by members of the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

#### Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies, but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



Steven Martin  
Director, Financial Audit Services

20 October 2010  
SYDNEY

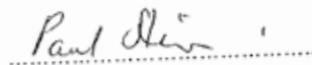
## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

# Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2010

Pursuant to section 41C (1B) and (1C) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, and clause 11(a) and (b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010*, we state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010* and the Treasurer's Directions;
- (b) the report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority; and
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.



Paul Stein  
Chair, EPA Board  
20 October 2010



Tony Wright  
Deputy Chair, EPA Board  
20 October 2010

## Environment Protection Authority

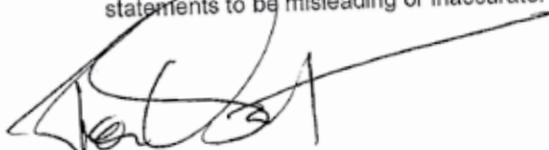
### ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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I hereby adopt the Financial Statements of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which have been prepared in accordance with the statute provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983, and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010 and the Treasurer's Directions.

Pursuant to section 41C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I recommend that:

two members of the EPA Board provide a statement to the effect that in their opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010 and the Treasurer's Directions; that the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority, and they are not aware of any circumstances, which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



**Frank Sartor**  
**Minister for Climate Change and the Environment**

19 October 2010

## Beginning of audited financial statements

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

**Statement of comprehensive income**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>			
Other revenue	2	82,742	84,804
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>82,742</b>	<b>84,804</b>
Less:			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operating expenses			
Board member fees and related costs	3(a)	351	356
Audit fees	3(a)	10	10
Other expenses	3(b)	82,381	84,438
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>82,742</b>	<b>84,804</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

**Statement of changes in equity**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Accumulated funds \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2009</b>		–	–
Surplus/deficit for the year		–	–
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2010</b>		–	–
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2008</b>		–	–
Surplus/deficit for the year		–	–
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2009</b>		–	–

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

**Statement of financial position**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	–	–
Receivables	–	–
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment		
Land and buildings	–	–
Plant and equipment	–	–
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payables	–	–
Provisions	–	–
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions	–	–
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	–	–
Accumulated funds	–	–
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

**Statement of cash flows**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Payments</b>		
Employment related	—	—
Grants and subsidies	—	—
Other	—	—
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Sale of goods and services	—	—
Retained fees and fines	—	—
Investment income	—	—
Other	—	—
Government contributions	—	—
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems	—	—
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems	—	—
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from borrowings and advances	—	—
Repayments of borrowings and advances	—	—
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		
Opening cash and cash equivalents	—	—
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

**1. Summary of significant accounting policies****(a) Reporting entity**

The *Public Sector Employment and Management (Environment and Conservation) Order 2003* (PSEM) made on 24 September 2003 established a new Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). This was partly achieved by the abolition of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as a department. As such, the EPA is no longer a separate department of the Crown. On the 27 April 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation became the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). On 1 July 2009, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) was created as a result of the *Public Sector Employment and Management (Departmental Amalgamations) Order 2009* by combining responsibilities of the former Department of Environment and Climate Change with the water management responsibilities of the former Department of Water and Energy (DWE).

A need was identified to retain an independent role for the statutory body corporate of the EPA in taking legal actions, including the possible prosecution of State Government authorities and for most serious prosecutions. As a result, the Government decided to retain a separate legal entity that could take this legal action. It is important to recognise that the surviving statutory body known as the EPA with its Board is a legal mechanism only that operates within the confines of the environment protection legislation, such as the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*, in order to facilitate certain activities of DECCW staff.

The EPA has no staff of its own, no material assets under its control and no material liabilities.

While the activities of the EPA are fully integrated within DECCW operations, as a statutory body the EPA is required to produce separate financial statements. The fair value of the expenditure of the EPA has been derived through an assessment by management of the resources consumed by DECCW to enable the EPA to discharge its obligations. A notional grant has been provided by DECCW as an offset.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Minister in October 2010.

**(b) Basis of preparation**

The EPA's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include accounting interpretations)
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and its Regulation.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimates made by management are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

**(c) Early adoption of standards**

At reporting date, a number of Australian Accounting Standards have been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board but are not yet operative. These have not been early adopted by the Authority. These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on the financial statements, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

**2. Revenue**

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Other revenue</b>		
Grant from DECCW	82,742	84,804
	<b>82,742</b>	<b>84,804</b>

### 3. Expenses

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>(a) Operating expenses</b>		
Board member fees and related costs	351	356
Audit fees	10	10
	<b>361</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>(b) Other expenses</b>		
Fees for service – DECCW	82,381	84,438
	<b>82,381</b>	<b>84,438</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>82,742</b>	<b>84,804</b>

### 4. Expenditure by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW)

Total expenses relating to the EPA have been spent by DECCW in a number of its service groups. This expenditure is reported in note 1(a) of DECCW's financial statements. A description of each program, its objectives and the amount expended follows.

#### Service Group: Climate Change, Policy and Programs

Objective(s): This service group covers the State's climate change policy response. It delivers water and energy conservation and waste sustainability programs. It develops, implements and reviews strategic policies, programs and procedures pertaining to native vegetation, biodiversity, landscape conservation, environment protection and coastal protection. This service group also develops and manages private land conservation programs including the Biobanking Scheme, NSW Riverbank and other environmental water recovery programs, as well as supporting Catchment Management Authorities.

#### Service Group: Environment Protection and Regulation

Objective(s): This service group covers delivering credible, targeted and cost-effective regulation and enforcement across a range of environment protection, conservation, native vegetation and Aboriginal heritage areas. It implements market-based and regulatory programs for industry and local government to reduce environmental impacts.

#### Service Group: Scientific Services

Objective(s): This service group covers scientific research, investigation, monitoring, analysis, evaluation and reporting on a range of climate change, natural resource, and environmental and cultural heritage matters. The service group also interprets and communicates environmental data to inform internal and external decision making, as well as providing laboratory and analytical services to support environment protection, conservation and natural resource programs, and emergency services.

Service Group	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Climate Change and Policy Programs	12,829	17,096
Environment Protection and Regulation	65,631	55,918
Scientific Services	3,921	11,424
	<b>82,381</b>	<b>84,438</b>

### 5. Contingent liabilities

There are no known contingent liabilities that would impact on the state of affairs of the EPA or have a material impact on the financial statements.

### 6. After balance date events

There are no known events that would impact on the state of affairs of the EPA or have a material impact on the financial statements.

**End of audited financial statements.**

# Marine Parks Authority



GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Marine Parks Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Marine Parks Authority (the Authority), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and a statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- are in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

#### Members' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The members of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by members of the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

#### Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies, but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



Steven Martin  
Director, Financial Audit Services

20 October 2010  
SYDNEY

#### STATEMENT BY MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

### Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2010

Pursuant to section 41C (1b) and (1c) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, and clause 11(a) and (b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010*, we state that:

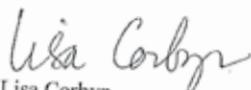
- (a) the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010* and the Treasurer's Directions;
- (b) the report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority; and
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.



Brendan O'Reilly  
Chair, Marine Parks Authority  
18 October 2010



Richard Sheldrake 18.10.10  
Member, Marine Parks Authority  
October 2010



Lisa Corbyn  
Member, Marine Parks Authority  
17 October 2010

Beginning of audited financial statements

MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

## Statement of comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>			
Retained fees and fines	2(a)	90	78
Government contributions	2(b)	5,536	5,116
Investment revenue	2(c)	11	10
Other revenue	2(d)	29	34
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>5,666</b>	<b>5,238</b>
Less:			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operating expenses			
Other operating expenses	3(a)	2,115	1,711
Personnel services	3(b)	3,709	3,402
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>5,824</b>	<b>5,113</b>
<b>Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(158)</b>	<b>125</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

**Statement of changes in equity**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Accumulated funds \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2009</b>		408	408
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(158)	(158)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2010</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2008</b>		283	283
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		125	125
<b>Balance at 30 June 2009</b>		<b>408</b>	<b>408</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

**Statement of financial position**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	250	408
Receivables		–	–
Other		–	–
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment		–	–
Land and buildings		–	–
Plant and equipment		–	–
Total property, plant and equipment		–	–
Intangible assets		–	–
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables		–	–
Borrowings		–	–
Provisions		–	–
Other		–	–
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings		–	–
Provisions		–	–
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves		–	–
Accumulated funds		250	408
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>408</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

**Statement of cash flows**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employment related		–	–
Other		(5,824)	(5,113)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(5,824)</b>	<b>(5,113)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Retained fees and fines		90	78
Government contributions		5,536	5,116
Interest received		11	10
Other		29	34
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>5,666</b>	<b>5,238</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	5	<b>(158)</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, and plant and equipment		–	–
Purchases of land and buildings, and plant and equipment		–	–
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		–	–
Repayments of borrowings and advances		–	–
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>(158)</b>	<b>125</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents		408	283
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>408</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

**1. Summary of significant accounting policies****(a) Reporting entity**

The Marine Parks Authority (MPA) is a reporting entity established under the *Marine Parks Act 1997*, whose activities are administered by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

The MPA has no staff of its own, no material assets under its control or liabilities.

Transactions relating to the operations of the MPA, as represented in the financial statements, are salaries and operational expenses, and any revenues identified by the administering agency.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Chair of the authority during October 2010.

**(b) Basis of preparation**

The Authority's financial statements are general purpose statements which have been prepared in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulations.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

**(c) Income recognition**

Income is recognised when DECCW has control of the income or right to receive. It is probable that the economic benefits will flow to DECCW and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

**(d) Employee benefits**

The MPA does not employ staff of its own. Staff from DECCW are used to perform various functions in relation to the activities of the MPA.

**(e) Capital charge**

The MPA does not own assets. It utilises assets controlled by DECCW for the undertaking of its functions. A charge-out cost has been included within operating expenses to reflect the use of these assets. The Marine Parks Authority utilises items such as marine craft, computers, buildings and general plant and equipment.

**(f) Marine Parks Act 1997**

The *Marine Parks Act 1997* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 1998. The objectives of the Act are to conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive system of marine parks; to maintain ecological processes in marine parks; to provide for the ecologically sustainable use of fish (including commercial and recreational fishing) and marine vegetation in marine parks; and to provide opportunities for public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of marine parks.

The Act provides for the establishment of a Marine Parks Fund in which all fees and charges under the Act and money received in connection with administration of the Act are paid. During 2009–10, the fund was administered by DECCW.

**(g) Early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards**

At reporting date, a number of Australian Accounting Standards have been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board but are not yet operative. These standards have not been early adopted by the Authority. These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on financial statements, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

## 2. Revenue

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
(a) Retained fees and fines		
Retained fees and fines	90	78
	90	78
(b) Grants and contributions		
Agency contributions	5,311	4,718
NSW Government	107	127
Federal Government	118	271
	5,536	5,116
(c) Investment revenue		
Interest on bank account	11	10
	11	10
(d) Other revenue		
Other	29	34
	29	34

## 3. Expenses

(a) Other operating expenses		
Fees – general	2,115	1,711
	2,115	1,711
(b) Personnel services		
Personnel services provided by DECCW staff	3,709	3,402
	3,709	3,402

## 4. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank (Marine Parks Fund)	250	408
	250	408

## 5. Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to surplus for the year

Net cash flows from operating activities	(158)	125
Surplus for year	(158)	125

## 6. Commitments

The MPA did not have any commitments at 30 June 2010.

## 7. Contingent liabilities

The MPA Board is not aware of any contingent liabilities at 30 June 2010.

**End of audited financial statements.**

# Office of the Hawkesbury–Nepean



GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean (the Office), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income for the period 26 February to 30 June 2010, the statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the period then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance for the period 26 February to 30 June 2010 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- are in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### The Director's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Director is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Office's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Office
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

#### Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies, but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



M T Spriggins  
Director, Financial Audit Services

20 October 2010  
SYDNEY

### Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean

#### Certificate under Section 41C (1B) and (1C) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and under clause 7 of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

Pursuant to the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and under clause 7 of the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010*, I declare that in my opinion:

- (a) The accompanying financial statements exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position of the Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean as at 30 June 2010, and transactions for the period 26 February 2010 to 30 June 2010.
- (b) The report has been prepared in accordance with :
  - applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations) and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standard Board; and
  - the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and under clause 7 of *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010*.
- (c) As at the date of this Certificate, there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Maree Abood  
A/g Director, Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean

Date: 20.10.10

Beginning of audited financial statements

OFFICE OF THE HAWKESBURY–NEPEAN

**Statement of comprehensive income**

FOR THE PERIOD 26 FEBRUARY TO 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	26/2/2010 to 30/6/2010 \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>		
Government contributions	2(a)	10,268
Investment revenue	2(b)	161
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>10,429</b>
Less:		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Other operating expenses	3(a)	175
Grants	3(b)	189
Personnel services	3(c)	374
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>738</b>
<b>Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets</b>		<b>–</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</b>	5	<b>9,691</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the period</b>		<b>–</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>9,691</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## OFFICE OF THE HAWKESBURY–NEPEAN

**Statement of financial position**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4	9,779
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>9,779</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		–
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>9,779</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payables		88
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>88</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		–
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>88</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>9,691</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated funds		9,691
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>9,691</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

OFFICE OF THE HAWKESBURY–NEPEAN

**Statement of changes in equity**

FOR THE PERIOD 26 FEBRUARY TO 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Accumulated funds \$'000	26/2/2010 to 30/6/2010 \$'000
<b>Balance as at 26 February 2010</b>		–	–
Surplus for the period	5	9,691	9,691
<b>Other comprehensive income for the period</b>		–	–
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2010</b>		<b>9,691</b>	<b>9,691</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## OFFICE OF THE HAWKESBURY–NEPEAN

**Statement of cash flows**

FOR THE PERIOD 26 FEBRUARY TO 30 JUNE 2010

Notes	26/2/2010 to 30/6/2010 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Payments</b>	
Employment related	(342)
Other	(278)
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>(620)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Government contributions	10,238
Interest received	161
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>10,399</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>9,779</b>
5	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, and plant and equipment	–
Purchases of land and buildings, and plant and equipment	–
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Proceeds from borrowings and advances	–
Repayments of borrowings and advances	–
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>	<b>9,779</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial period	–
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF FINANCIAL PERIOD</b>	<b>9,779</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## OFFICE OF THE HAWKESBURY–NEPEAN

**Notes to the financial statements**

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

**1. Summary of significant accounting policies****(a) Reporting entity**

The Office of Hawkesbury–Nepean (the Office), is a NSW Government agency established on 26 February 2010 under the *Hawkesbury–Nepean Rivers Act 2009*. The activities of the Office are administered by the NSW Office of Water, a division of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

The Office is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash generating units.

The Office is a Statutory Body.

The Office has no staff of its own.

Transactions relating to the operations of the Office as represented in the financial statements are salaries and operational expenses, and any revenues identified by the administering agency.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Acting Director of the Office on 20 October 2010.

**(b) Basis of preparation**

The Office's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulations.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimations management has made are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

**(c) Statement of compliance**

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

**(d) Income recognition**

Income is recognised when (a) the Office has control of, or right to receive, the income (b) it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Office and (c) the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

**(e) Employee benefits**

The Office does not employ staff of its own. Staff from DECCW are used to perform various functions in relation to the activities of the Office.

**(f) Assets**

The Office utilises DECCW assets, such as computers and general plant and equipment, for the undertaking of its functions.

Cash assets relating to unspent project funding are held within the bank account of DECCW as at the reporting date.

**(g) Hawkesbury–Nepean Rivers Act 2009**

The *Hawkesbury–Nepean Rivers Act 2009* (the Act) commenced on 26 February 2010. The objects of the Act are (a) to improve the coordination and implementation of management strategies in relation to the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean river system, (b) to improve public access to information about management strategies in relation to the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean river system, (c) to provide increased opportunities for public involvement in the development of management strategies in relation to the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean river system, (d) to improve the management of development in the Hawkesbury–Nepean waters.

**(h) Early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards**

At reporting date a number of Australian Accounting Standards have been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board but are not yet operative. These have not been early adopted by the Office. These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on the financial statements, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

**2. Revenue**

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>
(a) Government contributions	
NSW Government	30
Federal Government	10,238
	10,268
(b) Investment revenue	
Interest earned on funds held in DECCW bank account	161
	161

**3. Expenses**

(a) Other operating expenses	
Fees	139
Other	36
	175
(b) Grants	
Other grants and subsidies	189
	189
(c) Personnel services	
Personnel services provided by DECCW staff	374
	374

**4. Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank held in DECCW bank account	9,779
	9,779

**5. Reconciliation of surplus for the period to cash flows from operating activities**

Surplus for the period	9,691
Increase in payables	88
Net cash flows from operating activities	<b>9,779</b>

**6. Commitments**

The Office did not have any material commitments at 30 June 2010.

**7. Contingent liabilities**

The Office is not aware of any contingent liabilities at 30 June 2010.

## 8. Financial instruments

The principal financial instruments of the Office are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from operations, or are required to finance the operations, of the Office. The Office does not enter into or trade financial instruments for speculative purposes. The Office does not use financial derivatives.

The Office's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial statement.

The Office has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Office to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risk.

Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Office on a continuous basis.

### (a) Financial instrument categories

	Notes	Category	Carrying amount 2010 \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>			
<b>Class:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	N/A	9,779
			<b>9,779</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>			
<b>Class:</b>			
Payables <sup>1</sup>		Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	88
			<b>88</b>

Note:

1. Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

### (b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is a possibility of the Office's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss. Maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by carrying amount of financial assets. Credit risk arises from the financial assets including cash, receivables, and authority deposits. No collateral is held by the Office. The Office has not granted any financial guarantees.

#### *Cash*

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances held in DECCW's bank account. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the bank's annual effective rate.

### (c) Liquidity risk

The Office manages its liquidity risk as much as practicable through the effective application of cash management practices. These practices aim to reduce the exposure to liquidity risk by ensuring the Office has sufficient funds available to meet supplier obligations at all times.

This is achieved by ensuring that minimum levels of cash are held within the various bank accounts so as to match the expected duration of the various supplier liabilities.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. During the period there were no interest charges for late payment.

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Office of the Hawkesbury–Nepean’s financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Nominal amount <sup>1</sup> \$’000	Interest rate exposure			Maturity dates		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non- interest bearing \$’000	<1 year \$’000	1-5 years \$’000	>5 years \$’000
<b>30 June 2010</b>								
Payables	–	88	–	–	88	88	–	–
	–	<b>88</b>	–	–	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	–	–

Note:

1. The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities and therefore may not reconcile to the Statement of Financial Position.

#### (d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Office’s exposure to market risk is through interest rate risks in relation to its interest earning deposits. The Office has no exposure to market risk related to borrowings or foreign currency dealings and it does not enter into commodity contracts.

##### *Interest rate risk*

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through the Office’s interest earning deposits. The Office uses a reasonably possible change of +/- 1% to assess its exposure to interest rate risk, which is consistent with trends in interest rates. The Office’s exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

	Carrying amount \$’000	-1%		1%	
		Profit \$’000	Equity \$’000	Profit \$’000	Equity \$’000
<b>2010</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	9,779	(98)	(98)	98	98
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	88	–	–	–	–

**End of audited financial statements.**

# Appendices

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## 1. Statement of responsibility

As Director General, I have worked with other Executive members, principal officers and managers who are responsible for particular internal control processes, to provide reasonable assurance that DECCW is achieving its objectives and using its resources efficiently. These processes include:

- reporting to me and the Executive on aspects of organisational performance
- controlling how expenditure and staff resources are managed
- managing a program of internal audits that focuses on operational and financial risk
- contracting out various independent external assessments of aspects of our work.

I participate in an independently chaired statutory conservation audit and compliance committee established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* that reports to the Minister. DECCW also has an Audit and Risk Committee with an independent chair and members. Details of internal audits and external assessments are provided in Chapter 6 of this report. To the best of my knowledge, all these control processes have operated satisfactorily during the reporting year.



**LISA CORBYN**  
Director General

## 2. Performance of senior staff

For executive officers of DECCW at SES level 5 or above, the following performance for 2009–10 is recorded:

### Chief Executive

#### Chief Executive performance as reviewed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

**Name:** Ms Lisa Corbyn

**Position Title:** Director General

**Period:** 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 8

**Remuneration:** \$417,524

During the year, Ms Corbyn provided strong leadership, sound executive management and corporate team building to:

- establish and lead the Environment, Climate Change and Water superagency cluster, and incorporate the NSW Office of Water into DECCW
- deliver on priority environmental, climate change, water and natural resource programs, including those identified in the State Plan which include targets for clean air, greenhouse gas reduction, natural resource management, waste, building Aboriginal community wellbeing and increasing visitation to national parks.

Ms Corbyn is active in whole of-government and national processes including chairing the Climate Change and Natural Resource Management and Environment Chief Executive Officer clusters, and participating in the Director Generals Executives Committee and on standing committees for national Ministerial Councils in Natural Resource Management and Environment Protection and Heritage. She is also a member of the Marine Parks Authority.

### Results

- Delivered key climate change and sustainability programs including chairing the Climate Change Science Research Network comprising eminent NSW scientists, developing climate change research partnerships such as the funded Eastern Seaboard Climate Initiative, and delivering on the \$150 million NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy that includes supporting renewable solar and wind energy, education through the 'Save Power' campaign, the Home Power Savings Program for low-income households and DECCW's own Sustainability Advantage program – DECCW became a Bronze Partner in Sustainability Advantage this year.
- Arranged the release of the 2009 NSW State of the Environment report and the public reviews of air quality including the April 2010 regional Wagga Wagga workshop, and prepared for the three-yearly Clean Air Forum in August 2010.
- Delivered major regulatory and policy approaches including achieving red tape reductions, implementing the solar compliance campaign, consulting on two marine parks draft zoning plans, and consulting on new legislation including amendments relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage, tourism and visitation in national parks, biodiversity certification, and national parks in the Riverina red gum forests.

- Supported ongoing work with Aboriginal communities including programs for new joint management arrangements, a partnership manual and consultation requirements; continued DECCW's cultural awareness training and Aboriginal employment strategy; and supported NSW's Closing the Gap strategies through natural resource management and connections to Country.
- Worked collaboratively with catchment management authorities to progress natural resource management programs and to improve corporate governance frameworks through comprehensive guidance and manuals.
- Participated on the Metropolitan Water Chief Executive Officers' cluster to progress the 2010 Metropolitan Water Plan and a draft water sharing plan to secure Sydney's water supply, and contributed to the business plan submissions for federal funding of priority water projects.
- Progressed environmental water recovery targets through NSW RiverBank, building collaborative relationships with the Australian Government and developing environmental management plans for the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands.
- Added major new areas to the NSW protected area system including 100,000 hectares of Riverina red gum forests, completed the introduction of a new approach to park asset maintenance, and supported the largest hazard reduction burning program ever for NSW national parks.
- Delivered on a major agency-cluster restructure, contributed to the NSW Corporate Services Blueprint and met efficiencies and savings targets, promoted both performance management and a strong safety culture to improve on DECCW's occupational health and safety targets, and fostered strong financial management throughout DECCW including setting up the independent Audit and Risk Committee.
- Unfailingly gave regular and competent renditions of excerpts from 'Oklahoma'.
- Successfully delivered large sustainability programs including reaching the milestone of 250,000 rebates issued for water and energy savings.
- Revamped the natural resource management policy approach including building engagement with catchment management authorities and supporting their catchment action plans statewide.
- Progressed NSW's successful environmental water acquisition and application program with tangible results, watering key inland wetlands.
- Progressed national and state air quality strategies, taking over leadership of the national air quality working group,
- Effectively managed the Climate Change Policy and Programs Group through a strong budget and financial management.

**Name:** Ms Sally Barnes

**Position title:** Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group

**Period:** 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 6

**Remuneration:** \$300,800

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Ms Barnes' performance during 2009–10. Ms Barnes has achieved the performance criteria in her performance agreement. As Head of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in DECCW, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to building the protected area system and managing it to an excellent standard.

#### Results

- Developed and implemented significant eco-tourism programs, including new visitation and tourism amendments to national parks legislation.
- Developed a major package of legislation and programs for the new national parks for the Riverina red gum forests.
- Implemented major operational initiatives in national parks including achieving record hazard reduction burns and establishing a new asset maintenance system.
- Progressed a systematic land acquisition program for the protected area system.
- Progressed a strong Aboriginal joint management program and partnerships including the new Joint Management Partnership Manual.
- Effectively managed the Parks and Wildlife Group, including implementing a significant restructure and instituting careful budget management.

**Name:** Mr Greg Sullivan

**Position Title:** Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group

**Period:** 10 May–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 6

**Remuneration:** \$300,800

Recruitment for the position of Deputy Director General Environment Protection and Regulation Group was undertaken following the retirement of Mr Joe Woodward on 19 April 2010. The position was filled permanently on 10 May 2010 by Mr Greg Sullivan. In the interim period, Mr Gary Whytcross acted in the position.

The Director General expressed her satisfaction with Mr Sullivan's performance for seven weeks of 2009–10, following his appointment on 10 May 2010.

#### Senior Executive Officers

##### Senior Executive Officers performance as reviewed by Director General.

**Name:** Mr Simon A Y Smith

**Position Title:** Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group

**Period:** 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 7

**Remuneration:** \$368,019

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Mr Smith's performance throughout 2009–10. Mr Smith has achieved the performance criteria in his performance agreement. He has been a strong leader, driving development and implementation of reforms using innovative approaches to meet Government priorities and community expectations.

#### Results

- Developed new policy and legislatively based programs to protect biodiversity including managing biodiversity certification and NSW's first non-government biobanking site.
- Progressed important climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and guidelines including sea level rise and coastal erosion management, supported renewable energy through solar flagships and wind precincts and commenced the Home Power Savings Program for low income households.

## Results

- Maintained a strong regulatory focus at both national and state level including chairing the regulatory harmonisation project participating in law enforcement through the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulatory Network.
- Assumed the chair of State Emergency Management Committees, and Environmental Services and Climate Change working groups.
- Led DECCW's Executive Coal Taskforce.

**Name:** Mr Joe Woodward

**Position Title:** Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group

**Period:** 1 July 2009–19 April 2010

**SES Level:** SES 6

**Remuneration:** \$300,800

The Director General expressed satisfaction with Mr Woodward's performance during 2009–10. Mr Woodward has achieved the criteria in his performance agreement. He has driven better regulation and has sought to achieve a high level of regulatory credibility with a reduction in unnecessary and duplicative red tape.

## Results

- Developed risk-based regulatory programs involving investigations, audits and enforcement, with 2009–10 having the highest number of completed prosecutions in the past five years.
- Effectively implemented the native vegetation compliance framework improving the linkages with science and satellite imagery.
- Oversaw regulatory reforms including the review of the Radiation Control Act and streamlining linkages to the planning system.
- Implemented a solaria compliance campaign which resulted in an improvement in compliance across the industry.
- Improved protection of Aboriginal heritage through new internal and external guidance material.

**Name:** Mr David Harriss

**Position Title:** Deputy Director General and Commissioner NSW Office of Water

**Period:** 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 6

**Remuneration:** \$311,950

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Mr Harriss's performance in 2009–10. Mr Harriss has achieved the criteria in his performance agreement. He has established the NSW Office of Water to ensure continued delivery of rural and urban water management policy and reform at both state and national levels, during an unprecedented time of drought across NSW.

## Results

- Led the successful delivery of milestones and targets for the State Plan priority: 'Secure sustainable supplies of water and use our water more wisely' including achieving increased water recycling and water efficiency measures.
- Represented NSW interests in national water reforms under the Murray-Darling Basin Inter-Government Agreements and through the Basin Officials Committee; and in negotiating a

memorandum of understanding and funding business cases with the Australian Government.

- Drove the development of systems to enhance water trading, including lodgement of online applications; water monitoring networks, flood prediction and management; online real-time water data reporting; and streamlining of water licence assessments.
- Chaired the Metropolitan Water Chief Executive Officers cluster for strategic coordination of the Metropolitan Water Plan and a draft water sharing plan to secure Sydney's water supply to at least 2025, and to help protect river health through environmental flows.
- Oversaw the preparation and lodging with IPART of the NSW Office of Water's submission on future water management charges to ensure an appropriate contribution by water users to the state's water management services.
- Oversaw the ongoing management of the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program that delivered \$64.9 million in assistance in 2009–10 to country towns affected by drought throughout regional NSW, and improved water supply and sewerage services to Aboriginal communities.
- Directed the continuous improvement of occupational health and safety programs to maintain safe working conditions, and implemented targeted staff programs to ensure and expand the NSW Office of Water's specialised water expertise.

**Name:** Ms Stephanie Cross

**Position Title:** Executive Director Corporate Services

**Period:** 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 5

**Remuneration:** \$ 255,234

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Ms Cross' performance throughout 2009–10. Ms Cross has achieved the performance criteria in her performance agreement. She has focused on corporate service amalgamation issues arising from the creation of DECCW and improved efficiency and delivery of service while strengthening business systems.

## Results

- Led the DECCW public sector corporate and shared services reform agenda.
- Strengthened DECCW's financial and occupational health and safety management and monitoring controls through innovative tools and timely and comprehensive reporting, policy revision and system improvements, and business intelligence.
- Implemented Phase 1 of the video conferencing project following its successful trial, to improve communication and reduce travel costs.
- Developed an integrated suite of adaptive organisational strategies to meet various human resource requirements.
- Worked in partnership with catchment management authorities to strengthen financial management controls and to improve service level standards from a third party shared service provider.
- Effectively managed the Corporate Services Division within budgetary and occupational health and safety requirements.

**Name:** Dr Kate Wilson

**Position Title:** Executive Director Scientific Services

**Period:** 23 November 2009–30 June 2010

**SES Level:** SES 5

**Remuneration:** \$287,650

Recruitment for the position of Executive Director Scientific Services was undertaken following the retirement of Mr Len Banks on 1 July 2010. The position was filled permanently on 23 November 2010 by Dr Kate Wilson. In the interim period, Mr Ross Williams and Dr Klaus Koop acted in the position for four months and three weeks respectively.

The Director General expressed her satisfaction with Dr Wilson's performance over the seven months of 2009–10 since her appointment on 23 November 2010.

### Results

- Developed and promoted DECCW's overall Science Strategy including science communication, and piloted Water and Wetlands as a test case for a new knowledge strategy approach.
- Reinvigorated DECCW's Science Executive Subcommittee, through new membership and new action-oriented terms of reference.
- Strengthened academic and research partnerships, particularly with the University of New England, University of Technology Sydney, University of New South Wales and CSIRO, through a combination of joint appointments, memoranda of understanding, and participation in review and advisory panels.
- Finalised the Natural Resource Management Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy and the 13 state of the catchment reports for consideration in July 2010, and consolidated the vegetation information system.
- Prepared a new marine science research strategy following the marine science review, and further developed the information management framework and spatial imagery strategy for DECCW.
- Effectively managed the Scientific Services Division including ensuring delivery of sophisticated complex scientific services within DECCW and to other clients, and adhering to budgetary and occupational health and safety requirements.

## 3. Principal officers

The DECCW Executive comprises 13 principal officers. Following is a list of Executive members during 2009–10:

### Director General

Ms Lisa Corbyn, BA, MPA, FIPAA

### Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs

Mr Simon Smith, BA (Hons)

### Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation

Mr Joe Woodward, BSc, ME (Hons) (on leave, retirement date 14 February 2011)

Mr Greg Sullivan, LLB, LLM, MPA (commenced 10 May 2010)

### Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife

Ms Sally Barnes, BA, DipEd, GradDip Information Sciences (Teacher Librarianship)

### Commissioner, NSW Office of Water

Mr David Harriss, B App.Sc. Grad Dip (Res Mgt)

### Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust

Dr Tim Entwisle, BSc (Hons), PhD (Botany)

### Executive Director, Corporate Services

Ms Stephanie Cross, BSocSc, MBA

### Executive Director, Country, Culture and Heritage

Mr Reece McDougall, BSc (Forestry), MEnvSc (acting to 8 January 2010)

Mr Norman Laing, LLB, GradCertLegP (commenced 11 January 2010)

### Executive Director, Scientific Services

Mr Ross Williams (acting to 20 November 2009)  
Dr Kate Wilson, PhD (commenced 23 November 2009)

### Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication

Mr Tim Rogers, BEc, MAd (retired 1 April 2010)  
Ms Zoe de Saram, BAgEc (acting from 2 April 2010)

### Executive Director, Legal Services

Mr Steve Garrett, BEc, LLB

### Executive Director, Park Management

Mr Bob Conroy, BA, Grad Dip Env.Studies, MMgt

### Director, Executive Services

Mr Steve Beaman, BSc

## 4. EPA Board members' curricula vitae

The EPA functions as a statutory body corporate under whose power regulatory actions relating to environment protection legislation are taken. It is administered as a part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

Provisions for administering the EPA Board are detailed in the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*. Section 15(3) of the Act sets out appointment procedures for each part-time Board member. DECCW administers these procedures in line with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's *Guidelines for NSW Board and Committee Members 2005*. Members of the EPA Board are appointed for up to five years. The Minister makes final decisions on appointments for Cabinet approval. Of the appointed members, one is appointed by the Governor as the Chair of the Board and another is appointed by the Governor as Deputy Chair of the Board.

The EPA Board met ten times in 2009–10.

### Board Members

#### Chair and member with expertise in environment protection policy

**The Honourable Paul Stein AM, QC** (attended 9 meetings)

Paul Stein has over 25 years' experience in the Australian judicial system, serving as a Judge of the NSW Court of Appeal, the NSW Supreme Court, the NSW District Court, and the NSW Land and Environment Court. He has served on numerous boards and committees throughout his career, gaining extensive experience in environment protection policy. He is currently Chair of Macquarie University's Centre for Environmental Law Advisory Committee and Chair of Law and Justice Foundation's Board of Governors. He also sits on the Heritage Committee of the NSW Supreme Court and on advisory boards at the Australian Centre for Environmental Law.

#### Deputy Chair and member with experience in, or knowledge of, environmental aspects of agriculture, industry or commerce

**Mr Tony Wright, DipTech MBA** (attended 10 meetings)

Tony Wright is Managing Director of Wright Corporate Strategy Pty Ltd and Chair of the State Water Corporation. He is Chair of the State of the Environment Advisory Council of NSW and Chair of the Extended Producer Responsibility Expert Reference Group. He is a past Chair of Environment Business Australia and a past Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Waste Management and Pollution Control.

#### Director General, Department of Environment and Climate Change

**Ms Lisa Corbyn, BA MPA FIPAA** (attended 9 meetings)

Lisa Corbyn is the Director General of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW). Lisa also serves as the Director General of the broader Environment, Climate Change and Water agency cluster, is Chair of the Natural Resources and Environment CEO Cluster Group and is a member of the NSW public sector Director Generals' Executive Group.

Lisa Corbyn has had a varied career as a senior manager in both the public and private sectors in Australia. Lisa has also worked with AWA Limited, the Sydney Water Board and the Department of Planning and was a Commissioner of the Murray–Darling Basin Commission.

Before moving to Australia, Lisa Corbyn worked for over 10 years for the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

#### Members with experience in, or knowledge of, nature conservation or environment protection

**Professor Don White, FICHEM, CEng** (attended 10 meetings)

Don White is an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sydney. Don has thirty years' experience as a manager and engineer in the process and chemical industries, and since 1998 has provided private consulting services to chemical, petrochemical and magnesium metal industries, under the company name Don White and Co. During this time, he has also been involved in nature conservation, environment protection and community issues.

Don is the current Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and a member of several of its internal committees. He is a member of several government and liaison committees including the Load Based Licensing Technical Review Panel and Waste Committee of the Environmental Trust. He has also served on the Hazardous Chemicals Advisory Committee and the Homebush Bay Environment Reference Group.

#### Members with experience in, or knowledge of, nature conservation or environment protection

**Ms Beverley Smiles** (attended 10 meetings)

Beverley Smiles is an environmental consultant working with peak state environment groups including the National Parks Association of NSW.

She is convenor of various community-based groups including the Central West Environment Council and Northern Inland Council for the Environment. She is currently the local conservation representative on the Central West Community Conservation Advisory Committee and Cudgong Water Committee representative on the Environmental Flows Reference Group for the Macquarie–Cudgong Water Sharing Plan. She has held previous positions on natural resource management bodies including the Hunter Catchment Management Trust, Hunter River Management Committee and Macquarie–Cudgong River Management Committee.

Beverley Smiles is also a member of community consultative committees related to the coal mining industry.

### **Member with experience in, or knowledge of, environmental aspects of agriculture, industry or commerce**

**Dr John Keniry, AM BSc (Hons) PhD** (attended 9 meetings)

John Keniry is currently Chair of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science. He has chaired several other bodies, including Ridley Corporation Ltd, the Scientific Advisory Council to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, the Livestock Export Review, the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals and Unisearch Ltd. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003.

### **Member with experience in environmental science**

**Mr Robert Junor, HDA, BA** (attended 8 meetings)

Robert Junor is a former Commissioner and Chief Soil Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service of NSW, having served in a field-based career in the coastal, Murray and north-western regions of the state.

He has chaired the Community Advisory Committee of the Murray–Darling Basin Commission, Upper Parramatta River Catchment Management Trust, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, and Greening Australia (NSW). He is currently a natural resources management consultant, undertaking strategic planning, environmental audits and land management consultancies.

### **Member with expertise in regional environmental issues**

**Ms Yvonne Stewart** (attended 8 meetings)

Yvonne Stewart is the Chair of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, the Cape Byron Trust and the Arakwal National Park Board of Management. She is also a member of the Marine Parks Advisory Council.

Yvonne Stewart is Chief Executive Officer of the Arakwal Corporation and is actively involved with the Byron Shire Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee, in both environmental management issues and plans of management.

In the past, she was actively involved in the creation of the Arakwal National Park following the signing of a historic Indigenous Land Use Agreement, and was a member of the Department of Lands Water Sharing Committee. She received a NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award in 2004 for her work in promoting and protecting Aboriginal culture and involving Aboriginal people in the management of national parks.

### **Member with expertise in environmental law and an academic employed in a NSW tertiary institution**

**Professor Gerry Bates, LLB (Hons) PhD (Birm)**

(attended 9 meetings)

Gerry Bates teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in environmental law at the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law, University of Sydney; Australian National University, Canberra; and the University of New South Wales.

He has published extensively on environmental law, including the standard text *Environmental law in Australia*, and has been Editor-in-Chief of the *Environmental and Planning Law Journal* since its inception in 1983.

Gerry Bates is a Director of Kimbriki Environmental Enterprises, a waste recovery centre and landfill on Sydney's northern beaches, and was formerly leader of the Greens in the Tasmanian State Parliament.

### **Member with expertise in local government matters**

**Cr Genia McCaffery, BEc (Hons)** (attended 7 meetings)

Genia McCaffery has been Mayor of North Sydney Council since 1995, and a member of the Local Government Association Executive since 1998. She is on the Board of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority and the NSW Environmental Trust. She has worked for the Department of Labour and Immigration and as a researcher for the National Trust, and has undertaken work in youth issues, unemployment and public advocacy.

## 5. Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees

### Significant committees advising DECCW

#### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

This committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and consists of nominees of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Elders groups, as well as registered native title claimants and Aboriginal owners. It advises the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Director General of DECCW on any matter relating to identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. A new committee was re-constituted on 9 November 2009, with eleven members appointed by the Minister for two- and three-year terms.

Chair: Victor Perry  
 Deputy Chair: Glenda Chalker  
 Viola Brown  
 Craig Cromelin  
 Robin Heath  
 Larry Kelly  
 Steven Meredith  
 Maureen O'Donnell  
 Merle Williams  
 Olivia Williams  
 Ian Woods

#### Aboriginal Water Trust Advisory Committee

This committee provides strategic advice to the Minister for Water on Aboriginal Water Trust issues, and assesses and provides recommendations to the Minister on grant applications to the community under the Trust.

Michael Bell  
 Glenda Chalker  
 Craig Cromelin  
 Lionel Mongta  
 Merle Williams

#### Audit and Risk Committee

This committee provides independent assistance to the Director General by overseeing and monitoring DECCW's governance, risk and control frameworks, and external accountability requirements. It ensures that DECCW's internal audit activity focuses on areas of identified significant risk, internal audit recommendations properly address identified issues of risk and other issues requiring improvement, and implementation of recommendations is effective and complete. The committee is constituted to meet the core requirements of Treasury Circular NSW TC 09/08 *Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy*, and has replaced the Internal Audit Committee.

Chair: Arthur Butler  
 Gerardine Brus (from April 2010)  
 Lisa Corbyn (DECCW) (until March 2010)  
 Catherine Donnellan (DECCW) (until March 2010)  
 David Harriss (DECCW) (from April 2010)  
 John Keniry (until March 2010)  
 Simon Smith (DECCW)  
 Joan Wilcox (DECCW) (from April 2010)

#### BioBanking Ministerial Reference Group

This reference group was formed to assist in finalising the BioBanking assessment methodology and regulations for operating the BioBanking Scheme under Part 7A of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Chair: Simon Smith (DECCW)  
 Jeff Angel  
 Georgina Beattie  
 Rachelle Benhow  
 Richard Clarke  
 Sandy Halley  
 Geoff Hudson  
 Robert Humphries  
 WEJ Paradise  
 Jenny Rudolph  
 Rachel Walmsley  
 Robert Wilcher

#### Cape Byron State Conservation Area Trust

This trust, established in 1989, manages the Cape Byron State Conservation Area. The trust is a voluntary, not-for-profit community body empowered by the provisions of the *National Park and Wildlife Act 1974* with the care, control and management of the reserve.

Chair: Yvonne Stewart  
 Deputy Chair: Tony McCabe  
 Basil Camerson  
 Judy Conlan  
 Mark Johnston (DECCW)  
 Sean Kay  
 Dulcie Nicholls

#### Climate Change Fund Advisory Committee

This advisory committee advises the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and DECCW on strategy and priorities; reviews priorities to take account of changing conditions and the success of various activities; and monitors, reviews and reports to the Minister on the overall performance of the fund against the established objectives.

Chair: Simon Smith (DECCW)  
 Jeff Angel  
 Steven Beletich  
 Peter Birk  
 Roman Domanski  
 Gavin Gilchrist  
 Paul Hackney  
 Ben Hamilton  
 Andrew Kirkwood  
 Mark Ludbrooke  
 Genia McCaffrey  
 Angus Nardi  
 Tim Nelson  
 Paul Orton  
 Peter Szentel  
 Karen Waldman  
 Stephen White

## Climate Change Science Research Network

This network helps the Government to access the best available information on regional climatic changes and impacts, and adaptation to climate change. It informs and advises on coordinating climate change research in NSW, and integrating this research with other state, territory, national and international programs. The network also advises on research priorities for NSW.

Chair: Lisa Corbyn (DECCW)  
 Ross Bradstock  
 Helen Cleugh  
 Ron Cox  
 Ian Goodwin  
 Lesley Hughes  
 Stephen Leeder  
 Deirdre Lemerle  
 John McAneney  
 Andy Pitman  
 Perry Wiles  
 Gary Willgoose

## Community Conservation Advisory Committees

Three Community Conservation Advisory Committees (CCACs) are constituted under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005* to advise the Community Conservation Council on the provisions of the Community Conservation Area Agreement. CCACs are appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources. Members include representatives from local environment groups, industry (timber, mining and apiary), local government and catchment management authorities; and farmers, local recreation users, Aboriginal people and scientific experts.

### Border Rivers/Gwydir CCAC

Chair: Steven Adams  
 Kate Boyd  
 Casey Cooper  
 Bob Couch  
 Liza Duncan  
 Wendy Hawes  
 Peter Pankhurst  
 Keith Pickstone  
 Phillip Spark  
 Peter Turnbull  
 Kim Wright

### Central West CCAC

Chair: Neil Rabbett  
 Mike Blake  
 Tom Gavel  
 David Goldney  
 Janis Hosking  
 Bryn Jones  
 Anne Kerle  
 Richard MacFarlane  
 David Maynard  
 Anthony O'Halloran  
 Stephen Ryan  
 Bev Smiles  
 Michael Webb  
 Kim Wright

## Namoi CCAC

Chair: Colleen Fuller  
 Hugh Ford  
 Ted Hayman  
 Jane Judd  
 Anne Kerle  
 David King  
 Jim McDonald  
 Robert Michie  
 Ted Spackman  
 Helen Stevens  
 Tom Underwood

## Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee

This committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and oversees, on behalf of the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the compliance of the Director General of DECCW with her legislative responsibilities under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or any other related legislation.

Chair: Arthur Butler  
 Bob Conroy (DECCW)  
 Lisa Corbyn (DECCW)  
 Nicholas Jacomas  
 Mark Peacock (DECCW)  
 Kathryn Ridge  
 Merle Williams (from April 2010)

## Environmental Trust

The Environmental Trust is empowered under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, and its main responsibility is to supervise the expenditure of grants.

Chair: The Hon Frank Sartor MP  
 Lisa Corbyn (DECCW)  
 Genia McCaffery  
 Rob Pallin  
 Lindsey Williams

### Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel

This panel advises the Director General on matters pertaining to the implementation and review of the NSW Kangaroo Management Program, which sets the framework for the commercial harvest of kangaroos. These matters include kangaroo population dynamics, harvest quotas, licensing and compliance monitoring, animal welfare issues, legislation and policy, fees and funding, research needs and priorities and long-term strategic planning, which should be addressed consistently according to the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002, and the program. Members of the panel represent the views and interests of their organisations.

The panel is being re-convened for the next three years. Once appointed, a list of members will be available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifemanagement/KangarooManagementAdvisoryCommittee.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifemanagement/KangarooManagementAdvisoryCommittee.htm)

### Karst Management Advisory Committee

This committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to advise the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council on the conservation and management of karst environments.

Chair: Michael Wright (DECCW)  
 Michael Augee  
 Tracey Austin  
 Julia James  
 Neil Lipscombe  
 Chris Norton  
 Graeme Pattison  
 Andy Spate  
 Alfie Walker Jnr

### Load-based Licensing Technical Review Panel

This panel advises DECCW on the contents of the Load Calculation Protocol and any other licensing matters pertaining to load-based licensing. It includes representatives from industry, local government, environment groups and DECCW, and an independent adviser. The Load Calculation Protocol sets out the methods that holders of licences issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* must use to calculate assessable pollutant loads.

Chair: Mark Gifford (DECCW)  
 Richard Benson  
 John Court  
 Walter Moore  
 Keith Osborne (DECCW)  
 Debashis Raha  
 Donald White

### Marine Parks Authority

The NSW Government set up the Marine Parks Authority in 1997 to investigate and recommend where marine parks should be established; recommend which areas in each marine park should be set aside for conservation, and recreational and commercial purposes (zoning); manage activities in marine parks to protect the marine environment; tell the public about marine parks; and research ways in which marine parks affect the marine environment and nearby communities.

Chair: Brendan O'Reilly  
 Lisa Corbyn (DECCW)  
 Richard Sheldrake

### Marine Parks Advisory Council

This council's principal role is to advise the relevant Ministers and the Marine Parks Authority on matters relating to the management of marine parks in NSW from a statewide perspective. This includes the conservation of marine biological diversity in marine parks, the ecologically sustainable use of marine parks, the public use and enjoyment of marine parks and any other matter relating to the operation of the Act and regulations.

Chair: Lisa Corbyn (DECCW)  
 Elisabeth Allen  
 Viola Brown  
 Maria Byrne  
 Charlton Clark  
 John Clarke  
 Ross Coleman  
 Robert Edgar  
 Antonio Puglisi  
 Professor Peter Saenger  
 Richard Sheldrake

### Bateman's Marine Park Advisory Committee

Chair: Lindsay Brown  
 Bill Barker  
 Steven Bunney  
 Pat Campbell  
 Dave Clark  
 Andy Davis  
 William Figueira  
 Mark Fleming  
 Paul Green  
 John Hinde  
 John Pugsley  
 Ian Smith  
 Wayne Smith

### Cape Byron Marine Park Advisory Committee

Chair: David Lloyd  
 Sharon Cadwallader  
 Tim Hochgrebe  
 Paul Johnstone  
 Serge Killingbeck  
 Bruce Lewis  
 Theresa Nichols  
 Antonio Puglisi  
 James Robinson-Gale  
 Tom Tabart

**Jervis Bay Marine Park Advisory Committee**

Chair: Attila Bicskos  
 Anthony Byrnes  
 Matt Cross  
 Lynnette Cleary  
 Ann Garard  
 Malcom Gorry  
 Paul Green  
 Jaimie Hatcher  
 Todd Minchinton  
 John Sperring

**Lord Howe Island Marine Park Authority Advisory Committee**

Chair: Stan Fenton  
 Phillip Boxall  
 Brian Busteed  
 Cindy Charlton-Shick  
 Keith Galloway  
 Lauren Gatherer  
 Dean Hiscox  
 Ian Hutton OAM  
 Julian Mostert  
 Steve Wills  
 Campbell Wilson  
 Rhonda Wilson

**Port Stephens—Great Lakes Marine Park Advisory Committee**

Chair: John Nell  
 David Booth  
 Peter Chappelow  
 John Clarke  
 Dallas Davies  
 Darrell Dawson  
 Ross Fidden  
 Allan Freihaut  
 Frank Future  
 Bill Gladstone  
 Guy Holbert  
 Karen Hutchinson  
 Christian Patteson

**Solitary Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee**

Chair: Rus Glover  
 Geoff Blackburn  
 Pat Comben  
 Chris Connell  
 Michael Featherstone  
 Mark Graham  
 Bob Palmer  
 Steve Smith  
 Chris Spencer  
 Richard Taffs  
 Neil Vaughan

**National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council**

This council is constituted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The council has up to 19 members, each one having the required qualifications set out in the Act. The council advises the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Director General on a range of issues including the management of national parks and reserves, the protection of wildlife, and the management of conservation agreements and wilderness areas.

Chair: Jane Judd, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Deputy Chair: Ken Prendergast, National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee, Southern Region

Sally Barnes (DECCW)

Glenda Chalker, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

Michael Dunlop, CSIRO

Ronnie Harding, University of NSW

Janet Hayes, Local Government and Shires Associations

Bruce Hayllar, University of Technology Sydney

Diana Hoffman, National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee, Western Region

Nicholas Jacomas, National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee, Central Region

George McKay, National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Committee, Northern Region

Ian McKenzie, Local Government and Shires Association

Alice Prudhoe, Orienteering Association of NSW

Anne Reeves, National Parks Association of NSW

Jean Rice, Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites

## National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees

These committees help the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and DECCW to manage natural and cultural heritage, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, and to influence behaviour throughout the community to help protect the environment. In December 2009, 14 regional advisory committees and a site specific advisory committee for Hartley Historic Site were reconstituted. Members were appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment for a four-year term commencing on 1 January 2010 and ending on 31 December 2013. Membership as at 30 June 2010 is as follows:

### Blue Mountains Region

Warwick Armstrong  
Tracey Austin  
Elizabeth Black  
Robyn Bushell  
Joanne Cox  
Robert Degabriele  
Helen Drewe  
Jessie Garbellini  
Lachlan Garland  
Heidi Lawson  
Andrew Luke  
Andy Macqueen  
Fiona Meller  
Christopher Tobin  
John Tolhurst  
Ian Tucker  
Merle Williams

### Central Coast Hunter Range Region

Kim Baillie  
Daryl Bower  
Kendal Caynes  
Jason Edwards  
Narelle Howard  
Nick Jacomas  
Robert Kelly  
John Le Messurier  
John Matthews  
Margaret Matthews  
Robert Smith  
Jeffrey Strickson  
Rosie White  
Trevor Woolley

### Far South Coast Region

Judith Bourne  
Andrew Cooper  
Michael Darcy  
Chris Kowal  
Catherine Lawler  
Bruce Leaver  
Robert Litchfield  
Shane McAlister  
Doug Reckord  
Robert Ross  
David Shaw  
George Sherriff  
Georgeanna Story  
Susan Swensson  
Yvonne Thomson

### Far West Region

Peter Beven  
Beryl Carmichael  
Michael Davis  
Bill Elliot  
Desmond Ferguson  
Jim Graham  
Di Hoffman  
Anne Kiely  
Dick Kelly  
Dorothy Martin  
Mick McCulkin  
Fran McKinnon  
Maureen O'Donnell  
Archie Vann

### Hartley Historic Site

Krystina Campbell  
Margaret Combs  
Ross Fragar  
Cheryl Kenny  
Noel Kind  
Siobhan Lavelle  
Lynda Lovegrove  
John Luchetti  
Malcolm McDonald  
Robert Morris  
David Peters  
Annette Poston-Gilbey  
Sharon Simcoe

### Hunter Region

Mick Allison  
Helen Brown  
Viola Brown  
Nathalie Clare  
John Clarke  
Trevor Connell  
Frances Corner  
Joachim Engel  
Margaret Francis  
Emma Graham  
Cheryl Kitchner  
Jamie MacKee  
George McKay  
Alana Parkins  
Sue Saxby  
Gerard Tuckerman

### Metropolitan North East Region

Simon Balderstone  
Laurence Bimson  
Trevor Brown  
Stuart Burley  
Jason Coombs  
Emma Degenhardt  
Grahame Douglas  
Brigid Dowsett  
Dennis Foley  
Catherine Griffin  
Penelope Holloway  
Tracey-Lee Howie  
Garry McIlwaine  
Julie Old  
Christine Rand  
Victor Simms  
Carlita Warren

### Metropolitan Southwest Region

Sheelah Boleyn  
Glenda Chalker  
Sharyn Cullis  
Joanne Daly  
Brian Everingham  
Brendon Graham  
Paul Irish  
Rhonda Lenardon  
Charles Morris  
Cita Murphy  
Philip Sansom  
Norma Shankie-Williams  
Shayne Williams  
Alison Woodbury

### North Coast Region

Georgia De Biasi  
Allister Gee  
Annette Harrison  
Robin Heath  
Marie Howlett  
Roderick McKelvey  
Peter Morgan  
Judith Mortlock  
Paul Norton  
Belinda Novicky  
Bob Palmer  
Paul Price  
Barry Ramke  
Belinda Rosenbaum  
James Tedder  
Terry Tibbett

### Northern Plains Region

Lynton Auld  
Megan Collins  
Meryl Dillon  
Kay Durham  
James Faris  
Sandy Findlay  
Eric Fisher  
Shonelle Gleeson-Willey  
Janis Hosking  
Jane Judd  
Ronald Magann  
Geoffrey Mitchell  
Peter Shinton  
Maureen Sulter  
Joan Treweweke  
Tom Underwood  
John Whitehead

### Northern Rivers Region

Rob Andrews  
Michael Brett  
Rod Caldicott  
Raylee Delaney  
Christine Fury  
Melissa Ladkin  
Marjorie McKelvie  
Hugh Nicholson  
Jeanette Olley  
Hannah Rice-Hayes  
Lorraine Vass  
Max Willoughby

### Northern Tablelands Region

Rosemary Curtis  
Alan Grace  
Wendy Hawes  
Lynne Hosking  
Bryan Johnston  
Mahri Koch  
Donald Noakes  
James Rainger  
Dianne Roberts  
Russell Robinson  
Anthony Sonter  
Elton Squires

**South Coast Region**

Bill Barnetson  
 William Bean  
 Lena Bloxsome  
 Frances Bray  
 Renee Campbell  
 Justin Clarke  
 Mike Clear  
 Ethel Crossley  
 Steven Douglas  
 Genelle Gregory  
 Rebecca Hayes  
 Tony Hill  
 Sky Kidd  
 Kevin Mills  
 Rowena Morris  
 Robert Pallin  
 Robert Snedden

**Southern Ranges Region**

Janet Anderson  
 Rosemary Black  
 Martin Chalk  
 Paul Davies  
 Euan Diver  
 Joanne Hearne  
 John Hood  
 Paul McLeod  
 David Moore  
 Vicki Parsley  
 Kenneth Prendergast  
 Roger Quarterman  
 Peter Southwell  
 Jacqui Stol  
 Dianne Thompson  
 Vivien Thomson  
 Iris White

**Western Rivers Region**

Sandy Butler  
 Andrew Kennedy  
 Cilla Kinross  
 Bill Kite  
 Ian Lockhart  
 Steven Meredith  
 Bill Moller  
 Nerida Reid  
 Marie Russell  
 Mike Schultz  
 Nella Smith  
 Roy Stacy  
 Ian Thompson  
 Susan Wakefield  
 James Williams

**Boards of Management**

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* set up a process by which some parks can be returned to a local Aboriginal land council to hold on behalf of the Aboriginal owners. The park can then be leased back to the NSW Government under mutually agreed conditions, with the lease payments to be spent on the care, control and management of the park. A board of management cares for the park. The Aboriginal owners have a majority representation on the board, but there are also representatives of DECCW, local government, a conservation group and adjoining landholders.

**Biamanga National Park Board of Management**

Chair: John Mumbler  
 Deputy Chair: Dennis Scott  
 Faith Aldridge  
 Preston Cope (DECCW)  
 Lyle Davis  
 Carol Dixon  
 Averil Fink  
 John Hibberd  
 Keith Hughes  
 Kathy Jones  
 John Manns  
 Eric Naylor  
 Tim Shepherd (DECCW)  
 Gwenda Stewart  
 Paul Stewart

**Gulaga National Park Board of Management**

Chair: Mary Duroux  
 Ron Callaghan (resigned)  
 Deanna Campbell (resigned)  
 William Davis  
 Deanna Davison  
 Malcolm Dibden  
 Shirley Foster  
 Vivienne Mason  
 Lionel Mongta  
 Georgina Parsons  
 Tim Shepherd (DECCW)  
 Fergus Thomson  
 Dane Wimbush

**Mount Grenfell Historic Site Board of Management**

Chair: Richard Kennedy  
 Deputy Chair: Sharron Ohlsen  
 Allan Chapman  
 Colin Clarke  
 Coral Dunlop  
 Peter Dykes  
 Keith Hampton  
 Peter Harris  
 Bill Lord  
 Ross McDonnell (DECCW)  
 Steve Meredith  
 Phillip Sullivan  
 Harley Toomey

**Mutawintji Board of Management**

Chair: William Bates  
 Deputy Chair: Maureen O'Donnell  
 Richard Anderson  
 Badger Bates  
 Paul Brown  
 Norma Dutton  
 Paul Dutton  
 Doris Hunter  
 Elizabeth Hunter  
 Sky Kidd  
 Dulcie O'Donnell  
 Mark Peacock (DECCW)

**Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management**

Chair: Steve Larkins  
 Anthony Anderson  
 Lennie Anderson  
 Rod Bennison  
 Sally Dover  
 David Feeney  
 Bev Manton  
 Petrice Manton  
 Val Merrick  
 Rob Quirk (DECCW)  
 Gwen Russell  
 Andrew Smith  
 David Towers

## Joint management committees with agreements with DECCW

Through joint management committees, DECCW and the local Aboriginal community work together to manage areas of high cultural significance and reduce impacts on those areas; involve local Aboriginal people in the development of plans of management, fire management plans, weed and pest management plans and other plans for the park; and ensure that local Aboriginal people are consulted on park management issues like the works program for the park, new proposals for commercial tour operations and research proposals.

Some communities are negotiating agreements with DECCW but these committees have not been included as formal agreements are not yet in place.

### Arakwal National Park Management Committee

Chair: Yvonne Stewart  
Jan Barham  
Lorraine Harding  
Mark Johnston (DECCW)  
Delta Kay  
Leon Kelly  
Dulcie Nicholls  
Sue Walker (DECCW)

### Central Coast Hunter Range Regional Aboriginal Co-management Committee

Chair: Robert Welsh  
Anthony Anderson  
Lennie Anderson  
Noel Date  
Jason Edwards  
Craig Foreshew  
Ron Gordon  
Clifford Green  
Allen Madden  
John Mathews  
Margaret Mathews  
Tom Miller  
Tracey Skene  
Jack Smith  
Robert Smith  
Deb Swan  
Stephen Talbot  
Rhonda Ward

### Darug Peoples Advisory Committee

Richard Green  
Kerrie Kenton  
Brad Moore  
Gordon Morton  
Chris Tobin  
Jacinta Tobin  
Tony Williams  
Simone Wilson  
Gordon Workman

### Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee

Ellen Draper  
Aaron Edwards  
Michael Horne  
Patricia Madden  
Ronald Magann  
Robert Miller  
David Nicholls  
William Robinson  
Margaret Robinson  
Robyn Ruttley  
Simon Smith  
Maureen Sulter  
Sylvia Trindall

### Githabul National Parks Management Committee

Amanda Bryant (DECCW)  
Shirley Charles  
Trevor Close  
Mark Johnston (DECCW)  
Gilbert King  
Lena Robinson  
Queenie Speeding  
Dianne Torrens  
Doug Williams  
Gloria Williams  
James Williams  
Jennifer Williams  
Paul Williams

### Goobang National Park and Snake Rock Aboriginal Area Committee

Jeff Boyd  
Silvana Keating  
Ray Keed  
Valda Keed  
Christine Peckham  
Peter Read  
Francis Robinson  
Jenny Robinson  
William West

### Menindee Aboriginal Elders Council

Isobel Bennett  
Leslie Bennett  
Mirandah Doyle  
Patricia (Dayle) Doyle  
Patricia (Patsy) Doyle  
Noeline Ferguson  
Mitchell Fennell  
Marietta Files  
Lorriane King  
William Riley  
Ricky Williams  
Eileen (Susie) Williams

### Mungo National Park Joint Management Advisory Committee

Chair: Roy Kennedy  
Warren Clark (DECCW)  
Noel Johnson  
Beryl Kennedy  
Sharon Kennedy  
Geoff Larmour  
Patrick Lawson  
Ray Lawson  
Steve Millington (DECCW)  
Bianca Mitchell  
Steve O'Halloran  
Betty Pearce  
Joan Slade  
Dawn Smith  
Brian Wakefield  
Des Wakefield  
Martin Westbrooke  
Lottie Williams

## NSW Climate Change Council

This council replaced the Premier's Greenhouse Advisory Panel. The council is the key advisory panel on climate change to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and operates to ensure that the broad policy and program directions of the Government are informed by scientific, industry and broader community views. The council is overseeing the development of the NSW Climate Change Action Plan.

Chair: Martijn Wilder  
 Maria Atkinson  
 Greg Bourne  
 John Connor  
 Diana Gibbs  
 Sam Mostyn  
 Greg Mullins  
 Paul Orton  
 Andy Pitman  
 Lorraine Stephenson

## NSW Council on Environmental Education

This council was established by the *Protection of the Environment Administration Amendment (Environmental Education) Act 1998*. Its main functions are to advise the Government on key issues, trends and research requirements relating to environmental education and to coordinate the preparation, implementation and review of statewide three-year plans for environmental education.

Chair: Vacant  
 Peter Batten  
 Rachelle Benbow  
 Robyn Bushell  
 Bernard Carlon (DECCW)  
 Neil Dufty  
 Cecilia Kinross  
 Mika Malkki  
 Robyn Mamouny  
 Richard Pearson  
 Michael Wright (DECCW)

## NSW Landcare Committee

This committee is the peak state body for Landcare in NSW. It represents the independent Landcare networks and groups in NSW in advising the NSW Government and fostering NSW Landcare. The committee advises the NSW Government through the Director General of DECCW who also appoints committee members, and the Natural Resources Advisory Council. DECCW also provides secretariat support. The chair is the ex-officio representative for Landcare on the Natural Resources Advisory Council.

Chair: Chris Scott  
 Deputy Chair: Ted Spackman  
 Andrew Bain  
 Jim Booth (DECCW)  
 Vanessa Ekins  
 Robert Gledhill  
 Stuart Mosely  
 Cyril Sampson  
 Mandi Stevenson  
 David Walker

## NSW Scientific Committee

This independent committee of scientists, appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, is established under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. Its main functions include deciding which species should be listed as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or presumed extinct in NSW; which populations should be listed as endangered in NSW; which ecological communities should be listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable; and which threats to native plants and animals should be declared key threatening processes under the Act. The committee also reviews and updates the lists of threatened species, populations and communities and key threatening processes in the Act, but does not make decisions about threatened fish and marine plants. This is the responsibility of the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee.

Chair: Richard Major  
 Tony Auld (DECCW)  
 Linda Broadhurst  
 Peter Clarke  
 Melissa Giese (DECCW)  
 Geoffrey Gurr  
 Rod Kavanagh  
 Michelle Leishman  
 Bob Makinson (DECCW)  
 Andrea Wilson

## NSW State of the Environment Advisory Council

This council comprises 4 independent members of the EPA Board and a DECCW representative. Membership is approved by either the Director General DECCW or the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The council oversees the development of the NSW State of the Environment report, including assessing the process for analysis and conclusions made in the report; provides an opinion on the structure and content of the report; and ensures that the requirements of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* are met.

Chair: Tony Wright  
 Gerry Bates  
 Bob Junor  
 Genia McCaffery  
 Tim Rogers (DECCW)

## Office of the Hawkesbury–Nepean Advisory Board

This board was established under the *Hawkesbury Nepean River Act 2009* to advise the Director of the Office of the Hawkesbury–Nepean on planning and implementing management strategies regarding the health of the Hawkesbury–Nepean river system and in-stream development.

Chair: David Harriss (DECCW)  
 Bernie Bugden  
 Michael Bullen  
 Peter Goth  
 Dr Judi Hansen  
 Tim Hurst  
 Peter Marczan (DECCW)  
 Anthony Schofield

## Radiation Advisory Council

This council is set up under the *Radiation Control Act 1990* and comprises 16 members appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The council advises the Minister on the administration of the Act and measures to prevent or minimise the dangers arising from radiation. The council also advises DECCW on a wide range of radiation matters.

Chair: Craig Lamberton (DECCW)  
 Deputy Chair: Simon Smith (DECCW)  
 Brad Cassels  
 Lee Collins  
 Margaret Conley  
 Jon D'Astoli  
 Mary Dwyer  
 Frank Galea  
 Cameron Hazlehurst  
 Brian Holland  
 Kathy Meleady  
 Mark Moskvitch  
 Philip Pasfield  
 Ludmilla Robinson  
 John Robinson  
 Richard Smart  
 Eva Wegner

## Snowy Scientific Committee

This committee was established in 2008 by the NSW and Victorian Governments under the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997*. The committee advises the NSW Government on the regime for the release of environmental flows from the Snowy Hydro Scheme.

Chair: Jane Roberts  
 Arlene Buchan  
 Michael Curl  
 Wayne Erskine  
 Noel Kesby  
 Sam Lake  
 Brett Miners (Alternate)

## Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment Advisory Group

This advisory group was established under a memorandum of understanding between DECCW and the Local Government and Shires Association. The group enables local government representatives to work together to consider and advise DECCW on the waste service and sustainability improvement standards that will form the basis of eligibility for waste and sustainability improvement payments.

Chair: Stephen Sawtell  
 Robert Bailey  
 James Carey  
 Bernard Carlon (DECCW)  
 Quentin Espey  
 David Evans  
 John Harley (DECCW)  
 David Hojem  
 Ron Smith  
 Nick Tobin  
 Robert Verhey  
 Glenn Wilcox  
 Allan Wilding  
 Ken Wilson

## World Heritage Areas advisory committees

These committees advise DECCW on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of each World Heritage area DECCW manages, including strategic policies on Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

### Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Chair: Joan Domicelj  
 Deputy Chair: Richard Mackay  
 Doug Benson  
 Jodi Cameron  
 Lincoln Hall  
 Julia James  
 Wendy Lewis  
 Judy Smith  
 Haydn Washington

### Gondwana Rainforests Community Advisory Committee

Hague Best  
 Ysola Best (deceased)  
 Richard Braithwaite  
 Helen Brown  
 Trevor Close  
 Cathie Duffy Masters  
 Barbara Fahey  
 Frank Harrison  
 Roger Kitching  
 Peter Lloyd  
 Peter Metcalfe  
 Hugh Nicholson  
 Jan Olley  
 Shane O'Reilly  
 Virginia West  
 Richard Zoomers

### Gondwana Rainforests Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee

Richard Braithwaite  
 Ralf Buckley  
 Aila Keto  
 Roger Kitching  
 Michael Mahony  
 Bill McDonald  
 Kathryn Taffs  
 Erica Wilson

### Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Chair: Michael Ockwell  
 Gary Griffiths  
 Rhys Harris  
 Beryl Kennedy  
 Roy Kennedy  
 Geoff Larmour  
 Patrick Lawson  
 John Magee  
 Ron Mengler  
 Steve Millington (DECCW)  
 Tim Nevill  
 Wilfred Shawcross  
 Darrel Sue  
 Bill Tatnell  
 Brian Wakefield  
 Des Wakefield  
 Ian Wakefield  
 Martin Westbrooke  
 Lottie Williams

## DECCW membership of other significant statutory bodies

Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council	Bob Conroy, Executive Director, Park Management
Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Council	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission	Peter Christmas, NSW Office of Water Paul Simpson, NSW Office of Water
Lake Illawarra Authority	Brian Dooley, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Chris Page, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Lord Howe Island Board	Alistair Henschman, Parks and Wildlife
Murray-Darling Basin Authority – Basin Officials Committee	David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
National Biosecurity Committee	Bob Conroy, Executive Director, Park Management
Natural Resources Advisory Council	Lisa Corbyn, Director General (ex-officio) David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
Nature Conservation Trust	Tom Grosskopf, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
NSW Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee	Bob Conroy, Executive Director, Park Management
NSW Heritage Council	Norman Laing, Executive Director, Country, Culture and Heritage Russell Couch, Country, Culture and Heritage
Radiation Health Committee	Len Potapof, Environment Protection and Regulation
State Contracts Control Board	Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication (until 1 April 2010) Sally Barnes, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife (from 22 April 2010)
State Emergency Management Committee	Joe Woodward, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Craig Lamberton, Environment Protection and Regulation
State Heritage Register Committee	Norman Laing, Executive Director, Country, Culture and Heritage Russell Couch, Country, Culture and Heritage
State Records Authority Board	Zoe de Saram, Acting Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	Bob Conroy, Executive Director, Park Management

## DECCW membership of other significant interdepartmental committees

Adaptation Senior Officer's Group	Mark Conlon, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Asbestos Co-Regulators Working Group	Lesley Corkill, Environment Protection and Regulation
Australian Collaborative Rangelands Information System Management Committee	Mike Fleming, Scientific Services
Australian New Zealand Land Information Council Registries Working Group	Jonathon Doig, Scientific Services
Australian Transport Council, Fuel Efficiency Working Group	Chris Thomas, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Biofuels Expert Panel	Ann-Louise Crotty, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Board of Surveyors and Spatial Information – NSW Spatial Council	Kate Wilson, Executive Director, Scientific Services
Caring for Our Country Cooperation Committee	Jim Booth (Co-chair), Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Chief Executive Committee	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Climate Change CEOs Cluster	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Climate Change Working Group	Mark Conlon, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Commonwealth Fuel Standards Consultative Committee	Ann-Louise Crotty, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Council of Australian Governments Adaptation Subgroup	Mark Conlon, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Council of Australian Governments Water Reform Committee	David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
Council of Australian Governments Working Group on Climate Change and Water	Zoe de Saram, Acting Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Council for the Australian Federation Adaptation Working Group	Mark Conlon, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Counter Terrorism CEOs Cluster	Greg Sullivan, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation
Data and Information Management Working Group – NSW Remote Sensing Subcommittee	Neil Bennett (Chair), Scientific Services
Data and Information Management Working Group – NSW Spatial Data Infrastructure Subcommittee	Jonathon Doig, Scientific Services
DECCW/CMA/ServiceFirst Shared Services Steering Committee	Stephanie Cross, Executive Director, Corporate Services
Economic and Business CEOs Cluster	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Environment Protection and Heritage Council Air Quality Working Group	Simon Smith (Chair), Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Ann-Louise Crotty, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Environment Protection and Heritage Council/Australian Transport Council Fuel Efficiency Working Group	Chris Thomas, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Environment Protection and Heritage Council Working Group on Noise Labelling	Lorraine Phillips and Grant Harper, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Environmental Trust Subcommittee: Clean Air, Healthy Communities	Zoe de Saram, Acting Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication
Environmental Trust Subcommittee: Contaminated Land Management Program	Craig Lamberton, Environment Protection and Regulation
Environmental Trust Subcommittee: Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Subcommittee	Tom Grosskopf, Climate Change, Policy and Programs

Environmental Trust Subcommittee: Land Alive (Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity)	Tom Grosskopf, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Environmental Trust Subcommittee: Native Vegetation and Private Native Forestry	Tom Grosskopf, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Environmental Trust Subcommittee: NSW RiverBank	Lisa Corbyn , Director General (Chair) Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Derek Rutherford, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Environmental Trust Technical Committee: Restoration and Rehabilitation Program	Greg Sullivan, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation
Executive Implementation Steering Committee – Operational Review of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (NSW), the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (NSW) and the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)	Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Freshwater Protected Areas Task Force, World Commission on Protected Areas, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Eren Turak, Scientific Services
Freshwater Working Group of Society for Conservation Biology	Eren Turak, Scientific Services
Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area Steering Committee	John O’Gorman, Parks and Wildlife
Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network; Freshwater Ecosystems Change Working Group	Eren Turak, Scientific Services
Intensive Agriculture Consultative Committee	Greg Sullivan, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation
Interagency Committee on Rail Noise	Lorraine Phillips and Anna Ernst, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Joint Steering Committee for Revision of Australian and New Zealand Fresh and Marine Water Quality Guidelines	John Chapman, Scientific Services
Land Supply CEO Group	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Lord Howe Island Wastewater Management Committee	Eren Turak, Scientific Services
Marine and Coastal Committee: Research and Development Working Group Monitoring	Kate Wilson, Executive Director, Scientific Services Klaus Koop, Scientific Services
Marine and Coastal Committee: Research and Development Working Group, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Task Force	Tim Pritchard, Scientific Services
Metropolitan Water CEOs Committee	Lisa Corbyn, Director General David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water Alison White, NSW Office of Water
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Management Team	Klaus Koop, (Chair), Scientific Services Bruce Cooper, NSW Office of Water
Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy Working Group	Jim Booth, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Murray–Darling Basin Authority Acid Sulfate Soils Advisory Board	Glenn Atkinson, Scientific Services
Murray–Darling Basin Authority Acid Sulfate Soils Scientific Reference Panel	Glenn Atkinson, Scientific Services
Murray–Darling Basin Commission Salinity Management in Catchments Task Force	Mark Littleboy, Scientific Services
National Chemicals Environmental Management (NChem) Working Group	Therese Manning, Scientific Services Peter Lawson, Environment Protection and Regulation

National Coordination Committee – Aquatic Ecosystems Task Group	John Patten, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
National Coordination Committee – Australian Collaborative Land Use Mapping Program	Richard Hicks, Scientific Services
National Coordination Committee – Biodiversity Working Group	Michael Cavanagh, Scientific Services
National Coordination Committee – Executive Steering Committee for Australian Land Use Mapping	Keith Emery, Scientific Services
National Coordination Committee – Executive Steering Committee for Australian Vegetation Information	Dominic Siversten, Scientific Services
National Coordination Committee – River Health Contact Group	Peter Scanes, Scientific Service Bruce Cooper, NSW Office of Water
National Coordination Committee – Technical Advisory Group for Australian Landuse Mapping	Keith Emery, Scientific Services Nik Henry, Scientific Services
National Committee on Soil and Terrain	Greg Chapman, Scientific Services
National Environment Protection Standing Committee	Lisa Corbyn, Director General Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication (Until 1 April 2010)
National Environment Protection Measure (Assessment of Site Contamination) – Variation Working Group	Elvin Wong, Environment Protection and Regulation
National Hydrometric Training Advisory Group	Graham Parsons, NSW Office of Water
National Packaging Covenant Council	Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication (until 1 April 2010) Roz Hall, Climate Change Policy and Programs (from 1 April 2010)
National Steering Committee for the Framework for Assessing River and Wetland Health, National Water Commission	Eren Turak, Scientific Services
Natural Resources and Environment CEOs Cluster	Lisa Corbyn, Director General David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council Standing Committee	Lisa Corbyn, Director General Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication (until 1 April 2010) David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
Natural Resource Management Senior Officers Group	Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Natural Resource Policies and Program Committee	Jim Booth, Climate Change Policy and Programs
NSW Biodiversity Information Working Group	Malcolm Stephens, Scientific Services Jane Andrews, Scientific Services
NSW Chemical, Biological and Radiological Steering Committee	Craig Lamberton, Environment Protection and Regulation
NSW Chief Information Officers Executive Council	David Schneider, Corporate Services
NSW Committee for the Coordination of Government Geoscience Programs	Fletcher Townsend, Scientific Services
NSW Electric Vehicles Taskforce	Zoe de Saram, Climate Change Policy and Programs (until February 2010) Jennifer McAllister, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
NSW Green Skills Taskforce	Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs

NSW Heritage Council History Advisory Panel	Caroline Ford, Country, Culture and Heritage
NSW National Oil Spill Plan Executive Committee	Greg Sullivan, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation
NSW National Plan Technical Working Group	Peter Scanes, Scientific Services Moreno Julli, Scientific Services
NSW Research Scientist Classification Committee	John Chapman, Scientific Services Greg Bowman, Scientific Services
NSW Site Auditor Scheme Accreditation Panel	Elvin Wong, Environment Protection and Regulation
NSW Soil Policy Working Group	Peter Barker, Scientific Services Greg Bowman, Scientific Services
NSW Spatial Council	Bruce Cooper, NSW Office of Water
NSW Spatial Council Metadata Working Group	Jonathon Doig, Scientific Services Mick Dwyer, NSW Office of Water
NSW Spatial Council Water Working Group	Mick Dwyer, NSW Office of Water
Planning and Approvals CEOs Cluster	Lisa Corbyn, Director General David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
Premier's Council for Active Living	Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Chris Thomas, Climate Change, Policy and Programs
Senior Officers' Group on Energy Efficiency (reporting to the Council of Australian Governments)	Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Zoe de Saram, Acting Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication
Senior Officers Group on Water	Tracey Barton, NSW Office of Water Rob O'Neill, NSW Office of Water
State Algal Advisory Group	Bruce Cooper, NSW Office of Water Bunty Driver, NSW Office of Water Natasha Ryan, NSW Office of Water Lee Bowling, NSW Office of Water
Sustainability CEOs Cluster	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
The Living Murray Committee	Derek Rutherford, Climate Change, Policy and Programs David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water
The Living Murray Environmental Watering Group	Justen Simpson, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Digby Jacobs, NSW Office of Water
Transport, Planning and Infrastructure CEOs Cluster	Lisa Corbyn, Director General
Two Ways Together Coordinating Committee	Norman Laing, Executive Director, Country, Culture and Heritage Kellyanne Stanford, Country, Culture and Heritage
Wetlands and Waterbirds Task Force	Alison Curtin, Climate Change, Policy and Programs

## 6. Staff statistics

### 6.1 DECCW employees by classification

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees.

Staff category	EFT 30 June 2008	EFT 30 June 2009	EFT 30 June 2010
Administrative and clerical	836	844	627
Field	655	663	743
Horticultural	135	146	145
Manager positions	321	353	337
Operations	132	136	649
Other	129	134	373
Policy, project and research	975	993	1,029
Ranger categories	293	303	273
Senior officers and senior executive service	105	108	129
Trade	15	18	16
<b>Total number of DECCW employees</b>	<b>3,596</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>4,321</b>

Figures represent all DECCW employees by classification (including the Botanic Gardens Trust). **The increase in total number of DECCW employees between June 2009 and June 2010 was the result of the amalgamation with the NSW Office of Water.**

From July 2009, the new calculation of FTE was introduced in line with the NSW Public Sector Workforce profiling methodology. FTE now includes casual employees and is based on hours actually worked in the reporting period.

Note: DECCW does not report on staff attached to the Minister's Office, staff working in catchment management authorities, or board and committee members.

### 6.2 DECCW employees by location

Location	EFT 30 June 2008	EFT 30 June 2009	EFT 30 June 2010
Sydney metropolitan area	1,944	2,027	2,245
Regional areas	1,652	1,671	2,076
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,596</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>4,321</b>

Figures represent all DECCW employees by classification (including the Botanic Gardens Trust). **Figures from July 2009 also include the NSW Office of Water.**

From July 2009, the new calculation of FTE was introduced in line with the NSW Public Sector Workforce profiling methodology. FTE now includes casual employees and is based on hours actually worked in the reporting period.

Note: DECCW does not report on staff attached to the Minister's Office, staff working in catchment management authorities, or board and committee members.

### 6.3 DECCW executive officers

SES Level	30 June 2008	30 June 2009	30 June 2010
8	1	1	1
7	1	1	1
6	3	2	3
5	2	2	2
4	5	5	8
3	11	11	8
2	5	2	2
1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

Note: Includes all DECCW SES positions including SES positions at the Botanic Gardens Trust and NSW Office of Water

### 6.4 DECCW female executive officers

	30 June 2008	30 June 2009	30 June 2010
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

### 6.5 Staff representation levels for EEO groups

EEO figures below are provided by the Department of Premier & Cabinet following lodgement by DECCW of its Annual Workforce Profile Return. These EEO figures include staff of the Botanic Gardens Trust and the NSW Office of Water; and are based on headcount. The figures exclude casual staff and contractors. DECCW does not report on staff attached to the Minister's Office, staff working in catchment management authorities, or board and committee members.

#### Trends in the representation of EEO groups

EEO Group	Benchmark	% of total staff*			
		30 June 2007	30 June 2008	30 June 2009	30 June 2010
Women	50	42	42	42	41
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	2.6	7.5	8	8.8	8.3
People whose first language was not English	19	8	7	7	9
People with a disability	12	4	4	4	4
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	7	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2

#### Trends in the distribution of EEO groups

EEO Group	Benchmark	Distribution index* for total staff			
		30 June 2006	30 June 2007	30 June 2008	30 June 2009
Women	100	102	99	100	101
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	100	73	73	72	72
People whose first language was not English	100	107	103	105	108
People with a disability	100	98	101	103	102
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	100	112	114	118	108

\* A distribution index of 100 indicates that the centre of the distribution of the EEO group across salary levels is equivalent to that of other staff. Values less than 100 mean that the EEO group tends to be more concentrated at lower salary levels than is the case for other staff. The more pronounced this tendency is, the lower the index will be. In some cases the index may be more than 100, indicating that the EEO group is less concentrated at lower salary levels.

## 7. Legislation and legal changes

### Acts administered by DECCW 1 July 2009–30 June 2010

DECCW has responsibilities, powers, duties and functions, some of which are executed in the name of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), under the following legislation administered by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment:

- *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*
- *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*
- *Coastal Protection Act 1979*
- *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*
- *Crown Lands Act 1989* so far as it relates to the Crown Reserve known as Jenolan Caves Reserves, and the land D590137 dedicated for the public purpose of accommodation, in the Parishes of Jenolan, Bombah and Bouverie, Counties of Westmoreland and Georgiana (remainder, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, jointly with the Minister for Planning, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Lands)
- *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008* so far as it relates to the on-road and on-rail transport of dangerous goods by road or rail (remainder the Minister for Finance)
- *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*: Part 6A; s40(1A); and s45 so far as it relates to Part 6A and section 40(1A) (remainder, the Minister for Energy)
- *Environmental Trust Act 1998*
- *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*
- *Filming Approval Act 2004*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*: Division 2 of Part 7 and s227 so far as it relates to Division 2 of Part 7; and s243 and s245 jointly with the Minister for Primary Industries (remainder, the Minister for Primary Industries)
- *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*
- *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*
- *Forestry Revocation and National Park Reservation Act 1996*
- *Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1983*
- *Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1984*
- *Lane Cove National Park (Sugarloaf Point Additions) Act 1996*
- *Lord Howe Island Act 1953*
- *Lord Howe Island Aerodrome Act 1974*
- *Marine Parks Act 1997* (jointly with Minister for Primary Industries)
- *National Environment Protection Council (New South Wales) Act 1995*
- *National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006*
- *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002*
- *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003*
- *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2005*
- *National Park Estate (Southern Region Reservations) Act 2000*

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2001*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2005*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2006*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Broken Head Nature Reserve) Act 2010*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Further Adjustment of Areas) Act 2005*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Leacock Regional Park) Act 2008*
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003*
- *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*
- *Ozone Protection Act 1989*
- *Pesticides Act 1999*
- *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Radiation Control Act 1990*
- *Recreation Vehicles Act 1983* (except parts, jointly with the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads)
- *Roads Act 1993* so far as it relates to Lord Howe Island (remainder jointly with the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads, the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Local Government)
- *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1938*
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*
- *Wilderness Act 1987*

DECCW also supports the Minister for Water in administering the following Acts:

- *Central Coast Water Corporation Act 2006*
- *Dams Safety Act 1978*
- *Googong Dam Catchment Area Act 1975*
- *Hawkesbury-Nepean River Act 2009*
- *Hunter Water Act 1991*
- *Menindee Lakes Storage Agreement Act 1964*
- *New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Act 1947*
- *Pipelines Act 1967* (jointly with the Minister for Energy)
- *Public Works Act 1912, section 34 (3) and (4)* (remainder, the Minister for Commerce)
- *State Water Corporation Act 2004*
- *Sydney Water Act 1994*
- *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998*
- *Water Act 1912*
- *Water (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2008*
- *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (New South Wales) Act 2005*
- *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* (except Part 3, the Premier)
- *Water Management Act 2000*

## New and amending Acts

The following Acts were assented to in 2009–10:

- *Historic Houses Amendment (Throsby Park Historic Site) Act 2010*
- *National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gums Reservation) Act 2010*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Broken Head Nature Reserve) Act 2010*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Visitors and Tourists) Act 2010*
- *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Certification) Act 2010*

## New and amending Regulations

The following Regulations were made or re-made in 2009–10:

- Marine Parks Regulation 2009
- National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009
- Native Vegetation (Application of Act) Regulation 2009
- Pesticides Amendment (Qualifications) Regulation 2010
- Pesticides Regulation 2009
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment (Vapour Recovery) Regulation 2009
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Amendment (Maximum Exhaust Noise Levels) Regulation 2010
- Water Management (General) Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2009
- Water Management (General) Amendment (Controlled Activity Approval Exemption) Regulation 2009
- Water Management (General) Further Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2009
- Water Management (General) Amendment (Transitional) Regulation 2009
- Water (Part 2 – General) Amendment (Entitlements Transfer Process) Regulation 2009

## New and amending water sharing plans

The following water sharing plans were made in 2009–10:

- *Water Sharing Plan for the Central Coast Unregulated Water Sources 2009*
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Coffs Harbour Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Lower North Coast Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2009*
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010.*

The following Water Sharing Plans were amended in 2009–10:

- the *Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2003* was amended by the *Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources Amendment Order 2010* made under section 45 (1) (a) of the Water Management Act 2000. The amendments took effect on 9 July 2010.

## Legislative reviews

The following legislative review commenced this year:

- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*

## 8. Infringements and prosecutions

### Penalty notices issued by DECCW and local government under Environment Protection Authority legislation

Infringement	DECCW authorised officers	Local and NSW government authorised officers
Air: Smoky vehicles – POEO* (Clean Air) Regulation	302	4
Air: Other air offences from vehicles – POEO Act, POEO (Clean Air) Regulation	41	0
Air and odour: All non-vehicles offences – POEO Act, POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	5	2
Noise: Noisy vehicles – POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	188	94
Noise: All non-vehicles offences – POEO Act, POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	6	22
Waste: Littering (from motor vehicles) – POEO Act	857	2,577
Waste: Aggravated littering (motor vehicle related) – POEO Act	0	27
Waste: Littering (other than motor vehicles) – POEO Act	0	1,233
Waste: All offences – POEO Act, POEO (Waste) Regulation	36	206
Water: All offences – POEO Act	7	593
Dangerous goods: All offences – Road Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations, Rail Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations	2	0
Pesticides: All offences – Pesticides Act and Regulation	22	0
Native vegetation: All offences – Native Vegetation Act	20	0
Threatened species: All offences – Threatened Species Conservation Regulation	3	0
Radiation: All offences – Radiation Control Act and Regulation	17	0
Ozone: All offences – Ozone Protection Act and Regulation	0	0
Other offences (e.g. contravene a condition of a licence) – POEO Act, POEO (General) Regulation	68	436
<b>Total penalty infringement notices issued</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>5,194</b>
<b>Total value of fines imposed (estimates only)</b>	<b>\$625,700</b>	<b>\$2,030,335</b>

Source: DECCW data – Manual Penalty Notice Database. Motor Vehicle Compliance Database.

Government data: Office of State Revenue (Infringement Processing Bureau).

Based on legislation administered by DECCW.

\* POEO = Protection of the Environment Operations

### Prosecutions

DECCW can commence prosecutions for environment protection offences under the authority of the Environment Protection Authority. DECCW can also commence prosecutions for offences under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife, Aboriginal heritage and water legislation.

DECCW commenced 139 prosecutions in 2009–10, and completed 134. The 134 completed prosecutions resulted in:

- 114 convictions
- 7 matters where the offence was proven but a conviction was not recorded
- 8 acquittals
- 5 charges dealt with under s. 32 of the *Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990*.

Details of prosecutions completed during 2009–10 are recorded in the following tables:

**LEC** = NSW Land and Environment Court

**LC** = local court

**s. 10** = under s. 10 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* the court, although finding the defendant guilty of the offences charged, did not record a conviction or impose a penalty.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, the dollar amount referred to in the 'Result/penalty' column is a fine.

## Prosecutions completed under EPA legislation

### TIER 1 OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
<b><i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i></b>			
Geerdink, Rene	Negligently dispose of waste in a manner that harms or is likely to harm the environment	\$50,000 Ordered to perform 460 hours of community service	LEC
Wattke, Martin	Negligently dispose of waste in a manner that harms or is likely to harm the environment	\$50,000 Ordered to perform 460 hours of community service	LEC

### TIER 2 OFFENCES

#### ***Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997***

Albury City Council	Pollute waters	\$45,500 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$2,544	LEC
Botany Building Recyclers Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$4,500	Burwood LC
Botany Building Recyclers Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$1,800	Burwood LC
Botany Building Recyclers Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$3,600	Burwood LC
C Tile Master Pty Ltd	Littering	\$450	North Sydney LC
Causmag Ore Company Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$20,000 Ordered to pay \$45,000 to Young Shire Council for the re-vegetation of Victoria Street Landfill Project and publicise details of the offence in the Young Witness. Also ordered to pay investigation costs of \$4,170	LEC
Chidiac, George	Littering	\$800	Downing Centre LC
Chidiac, George	Littering	\$800	Downing Centre LC
Geerdink, Rene	Pollute waters	\$10,000 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$15,000	LEC
Ghossayn, George	Air pollution caused by a failure to deal with materials in a proper and efficient manner	\$38,250	LEC
Ghossayn, George	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$12,750	LEC
Groves, Bradley Michael Reginald	Littering	\$150	Manly LC
Hanna, Dib Hanna Abdallah	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	Ordered to pay \$32,000 to the Environmental Trust for the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Cleanup Program and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Liverpool Leader</i> and <i>Blacktown Advocate</i> . Also ordered to pay clean up costs of \$3,724.60	LEC

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Result/penalty</b>	<b>Court</b>
Hanna, Dib Hanna Abdallah	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	Ordered to pay \$24,000 to the Environmental Trust for the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Cleanup Program and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Liverpool Leader</i> and <i>Blacktown Advocate</i> . Also ordered to pay clean up costs of \$1,800	LEC
Hanna, Dib Hanna Abdallah	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	Ordered to pay \$32,000 to the Environmental Trust for the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Cleanup Program and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Liverpool Leader</i> and <i>Blacktown Advocate</i> . Also ordered to pay clean up costs of \$2,758	LEC
Hanna, Dib Hanna Abdallah	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	Ordered to pay \$16,000 to the Environmental Trust for the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Cleanup Program and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Liverpool Leader</i> and <i>Blacktown Advocate</i> .	LEC
Holley, Graham	Breach licence condition	s.10 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$4,147.08	LEC
Jumpers Hill Enterprises Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$2,000 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$10,000	Bathurst LC
Lan2go Pty Ltd	Littering	s.10	Campbelltown LC
Pound, Abbie Beth	Littering	\$200	Newtown LC
Ramsey Food Processing Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$10,000 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Grafton Daily Examiner</i> . Also ordered to pay investigation costs of \$4,492.61	LEC
Ramsey Food Processing Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$40,000 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Grafton Daily Examiner</i> . Also ordered to pay investigation costs of \$4,492.61	LEC
Ramsey Food Processing Pty Ltd	Failure to notify of pollution incident that caused or threatened material harm to the environment	\$80,000 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Grafton Daily Examiner</i> . Also ordered to pay investigation costs of \$4,492.61	LEC

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Result/penalty</b>	<b>Court</b>
Smart Skip (NSW) Pty Ltd	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$50,000 Ordered to provide monthly reports of tonnages to the EPA and to publicise details of the offence in the trade journal <i>Inside Waste</i>	LEC
Smith, David Anthony	Littering	Acquitted	Blacktown LC
State of New South Wales, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Breach licence condition	Ordered to pay \$80,000 to the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority for riparian and rehabilitation works along 15 km of Thredbo River	LEC
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Provide false information under licence condition	\$14,000 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Newcastle Herald</i> and <i>Maitland Mercury</i>	LEC
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$6,500 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Newcastle Herald</i> and <i>Maitland Mercury</i>	LEC
Transpacific Refiners Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$9,750 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Newcastle Herald</i> and <i>Maitland Mercury</i>	LEC
Wattke, Martin	Pollute waters	\$10,000 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$15,000	LEC
Werris Creek Coal Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	Ordered to pay \$49,000 towards the rehabilitation of Quipolly Dam and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> and <i>Financial Review</i> . Also, ordered to pay investigation costs of \$2,764.72	LEC
Williams Bobcats Pty Ltd	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$3,750 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Moree Champion</i> and <i>Northern Daily Leader</i>	Moree LC
Williams Bobcats Pty Ltd	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$3,750 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Moree Champion</i> and <i>Northern Daily Leader</i>	Moree LC
Williams Bobcats Pty Ltd	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$5,625 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Moree Champion</i> and <i>Northern Daily Leader</i>	Moree LC
Williams, Robert James	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$3,400 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Moree Champion</i> and <i>Northern Daily Leader</i>	Moree LC

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
Williams, Robert James	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$2,237 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Moree Champion</i> and <i>Northern Daily Leader</i>	Moree LC
Williams, Robert James	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$2,238 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Moree Champion</i> and <i>Northern Daily Leader</i>	Moree LC
Zeidan, Sarwat Abdul Hakim	Pollute waters	\$4,000 Ordered to pay asbestos disposal costs of \$990	Penrith LC
Zeidan, Sarwat Abdul Hakim	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$6,000	Penrith LC

#### Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008

Greenland, Darren John	Noisy vehicle	\$400	Liverpool LC
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#### Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002

Arslan, Musa	Smoky vehicle	\$500	Downing Centre LC
Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$16,000 Ordered to audit all vehicles registered before 2002 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> . Also ordered to send staff on training program and complete RTA Clean Fleet program	LEC
Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$16,000 Ordered to audit all vehicles registered before 2002 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> . Also ordered to send staff on training program and complete RTA Clean Fleet program	LEC
Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$16,000 Ordered to audit all vehicles registered before 2002 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> . Also ordered to send staff on training program and complete RTA Clean Fleet program	LEC
Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$16,000 Ordered to audit all vehicles registered before 2002 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> . Also ordered to send staff on training program and complete RTA Clean Fleet program	LEC

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
Bowport Allroads Transport Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$16,000 Ordered to audit all vehicles registered before 2002 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> and <i>St George and Sutherland Shire Leader</i> . Also ordered to send staff on training program and complete RTA Clean Fleet program	LEC
Harry Arnall Removals and Storage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$1,500	Parramatta LC
Loumbos Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$500	Downing Centre LC
Taateo, Petelo	Smoky vehicle	\$600	Downing Centre LC

#### NON-TIER OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
<b><i>Pesticides Act 1999</i></b>			
Betland, Russell	Use pesticide on non-target animals	\$5,000	Liverpool LC
Betland, Russell	Use pesticide on non-target animals	\$2,500	Liverpool LC

#### Pesticides Regulation 1995

Farrugia, Louis	Failure to make required record of pesticide use	s.10	Downing Centre LC
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#### Total fines and penalties under EPA legislation

Fines	\$582,250
Other financial penalties	\$278,000
<b>Total fines and other financial penalties</b>	<b>\$860,500</b>

#### Prosecutions completed under parks and wildlife, threatened species, Aboriginal heritage and related legislation

##### NON-TIER OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
<b><i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i></b>			
Jensen, Richard	Failure to possess official receipt	\$100	Nowra LC

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Result/penalty</b>	<b>Court</b>
<b>Food Act 2003</b>			
Stevens, Nigel Peter Andrew	Threaten an authorised officer	\$3,500	Cooma LC
<b>Marine Parks Act 1997</b>			
Clouten, Tony Allan	Assault marine parks officer	\$1,000 Ordered boat to be forfeited	Forster LC
Clouten, Tony Allan	Assault marine parks officer	\$1,000	Forster LC
Clouten, Tony Allan	Abuse marine parks officer	\$400	Forster LC
Clouten, Tony Allan	Abuse marine parks officer	\$400	Forster LC
<b>Marine Parks Regulation 1999</b>			
Allen, Andrew William	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$2,000	Nowra LC
Baillie, William	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$2,000	Nowra LC
Davidson, Gary Dennis	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$200	Maitland LC
Dixon, Paul Gilbert	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	s.10	Raymond LC
Gray, Peter William	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$250	Batemans Bay LC
Henly, Anthony Graham	Use motorised vehicle in marine park	\$200	Moruya LC
Jensen, Richard	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$300	Nowra LC
Korkidas, John	Possess fishing gear in sanctuary zone	\$500	Maitland LC
Mehajer, Rabih	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Sutherland LC
Roberts, Ben	Harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$600	Batemans Bay LC
Smith, George Allan	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$100	Grafton LC
Young, Stanley	Contravene permit condition	\$1,000	Grafton LC
Zappis, Nickolaos	Conduct activity for money in marine park	\$4,000	Raymond Terrace LC
<b>Marine Parks (Zoning Plans) Regulation 1999</b>			
Clouten, Tony Allan	Possess animal taken unlawfully	\$900	Forster LC
Clouten, Tony Allan	Possess equipment prohibited in marine parks	\$800	Forster LC
<b>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</b>			
Name withheld for privacy reasons	Import protected fauna	Dealt with under s. 32 of the <i>Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990</i>	Bega LC

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Result/penalty</b>	<b>Court</b>
Name withheld for privacy reasons	Breach licence condition	Dealt with under s. 32 of the <i>Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990</i>	Bega LC
Name withheld for privacy reasons	Possess protected fauna	Dealt with under s. 32 of the <i>Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990</i>	Bega LC
Name withheld for privacy reasons	Import protected fauna	Dealt with under s. 32 of the <i>Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990</i>	Bega LC
Betland, Russell	Use of prescribed substance for attempting to harm birds	4 months imprisonment (subject to appeal)	Liverpool LC
Chaffey, Brian George	Harm animal that is part of a threatened species	Ordered to perform 17 hours of community service	LEC
Chaffey, Brian George	Harm animal that is part of a threatened species	Ordered to perform 32 hours of community service	LEC
Chaffey, Brian George	Harm animal that is part of a threatened species	Ordered to perform 7 hours of community service	LEC
Chaffey, Brian George	Harm animal that is part of a threatened species	Ordered to perform 21 hours of community service	LEC
Chaffey, Brian George	Harm protected fauna	Ordered to perform 3 hours of community service	LEC
Ftizmaurice, John Edward	Breach licence condition	\$2,000	Deniliquin LC
Ftizmaurice, John Edward	Breach licence condition	\$2,000	Deniliquin LC
Ftizmaurice, John Edward	Harm protected fauna	\$2,000	Deniliquin LC
Ftizmaurice, John Edward	Harm protected fauna	\$2,000	Deniliquin LC
Ftizmaurice, John Edward	Harm protected fauna	\$2,000	Deniliquin LC
Ftizmaurice, John Edward	Breach licence condition	\$2,000	Deniliquin LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Possess protected fauna	s. 10	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Import protected fauna	Convicted – nil fine	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Import protected fauna	\$750	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Possess protected fauna	s. 10	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Sell protected fauna	Convicted – nil fine	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Import protected fauna	Convicted – nil fine	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Sell protected fauna	Convicted – nil fine	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Carry on business of fauna dealing without a licence	\$250	Liverpool LC
Green, Kelwin Peter	Sell protected fauna	\$250	Liverpool LC
Hockey, Brian George	Pick plant that is part of an endangered ecological community	Acquitted	LEC
Ianna, Ross Anthony	Pick plant that is part of an endangered ecological community	Convicted – nil fine	LEC
Lormine Pty Ltd	Approach marine mammal closer than prescribed distance	Acquitted	Forster LC
Lormine Pty Ltd	Approach marine mammal closer than prescribed distance	Acquitted	Forster LC
Lormine Pty Ltd	Approach marine mammal closer than prescribed distance	Acquitted	Forster LC

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Result/penalty</b>	<b>Court</b>
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$4,000 Ordered to perform 8 hours of community service	LEC
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$66,000 Ordered to perform 130 hours of community service	LEC
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$6,000 Ordered to perform 12 hours of community service	LEC
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$5,000 Ordered to perform 10 hours of community service	LEC
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$35,000 Ordered to perform 70 hours of community service	LEC
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$17,000 Ordered to perform 35 hours of community service	LEC
Rawson, Lance	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$2,000 Ordered to perform 5 hours of community service	LEC
Somerville, Jasen Allen	Pick plant that is part of an endangered ecological community	\$30,000	LEC
Southon, Donald Esmond	Pick plant that is part of an endangered ecological community	Acquitted	LEC
Tsiamis, Peter Tony	Damage reserved land	Ordered to pay \$36,715.80 towards remediation works to the Milligans Gully Dam area	Wyong LC
Vurlow, Glenn David	Pick plant that is part of an endangered ecological community	Acquitted	LEC
Wellington Council	Disturb Aboriginal object	\$1,500	Wellington LC

### **National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002**

Name withheld for privacy reasons	Provide false information in licence application	Dealt with under s. 32 of the <i>Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990</i>	Bega LC
Diab, Bassima	Park vehicle without valid pass displayed	\$68	Sutherland LC
Gray, Robert Leslie	Park vehicle without valid pass displayed	s.10	Sutherland LC
Leuthwaite, Kelvin	Possess animal in park	\$200	Gosford LC

**National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009**

Ghayasy, Zobaer	Park vehicle without valid pass displayed	\$100	North Sydney LC
Rebollo Pardo, Williams Alejandro	Park vehicle without valid pass displayed	\$100	Sutherland LC

**Total fines under parks and wildlife, threatened species, Aboriginal heritage and related legislation** **\$199,968**

**Prosecutions completed under native vegetation legislation****NON-TIER OFFENCES**

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Result/penalty</b>	<b>Court</b>
<b>Native Vegetation Act 2003</b>			
Calman Australia Pty Ltd	Clear native vegetation	\$22,000	LEC
Clarence Resources Pty Ltd	Clear native vegetation	\$5,000	Grafton LC
GD & JA Williams Pty Ltd	Clear native vegetation	\$22,000	LEC
Hewitt, Timothy	Clear native vegetation	Convicted – nil fine	Dubbo LC
Holmes, Hugh de Jenner	Clear native vegetation	Acquitted	Moree LC
Howard, John Maurice	Clear native vegetation	\$1,500	Inverell LC
Ian Colley Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Clear native vegetation	\$5,000	LEC
Iroch Pty Limited	Clear native vegetation	\$22,500	LEC
Jack & Bill Issa Pty Ltd	Clear native vegetation	Convicted – nil fine	LEC
Mura, Mario	Clear native vegetation	\$5,000	LEC
Olmwood Pty Ltd	Clear native vegetation	\$100,000	LEC
Rae, John	Clear native vegetation	\$160,000	LEC

**Total fines under native vegetation legislation: \$342,500**

**Prosecutions completed under water legislation**

No prosecutions were completed in 2009–10 under the *Water Act 1912* or the *Water Management Act 2000*. For details of the compliance activities undertaken, including remediation notices, licence suspensions, stop work orders and penalty notices, see Chapter 5.

**Total DECCW prosecutions completed**

	<b>Number of completed prosecutions</b>	<b>Value of fines and financial penalties</b>
Total prosecutions under EPA legislation (fines and other financial penalties)	53	860,250
Total prosecutions under parks, wildlife, threatened species, Aboriginal heritage and related legislation (fines)	69	\$199,968
Total prosecutions under native vegetation legislation (fines)	12	\$342,500
<b>Total DECCW prosecutions</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$1,402,718</b>

## Significant civil decisions

Parties	Court	Citation	Description of proceedings	Result
<b>DECCW civil cases</b>				
Arnold & Ors v Minister Administering the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> & Ors	High Court of Australia	[2010] HCA 3	Challenge against the making of the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Murray Groundwater Source</i> which had the effect of converting the plaintiffs' <i>Water Act 1912</i> licences into licences issued under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .	By majority (6:1) the High Court rejected the plaintiffs' challenge.
Biddle & Ors v Water Administration Ministerial Corporation & Ors	Local Land Board (Crookwell)	NA LLB 08-1	The operators of a commercial olive grove applied to the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation for a s. 10 <i>Water Act 1912</i> licence to extract water from the Cooks Vale Creek. The corporation determined that the licence should be granted subject to various conditions. Various persons objected to the granting of the licence on a number of grounds including environmental concerns.	Licence granted subject to various conditions.
Cleo's Unitisation Pty Ltd and Brian Clifford Powell v Minister administering the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	Land and Environment Court	n.a.	Appeal against a decision to issue stop work orders under s. 327(2) of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .	Proceedings settled out of court. No order as to costs.
EPA v Mato Investments Pty Ltd	Land and Environment Court	[2010] NSWLEC 56	EPA sought enforcement of the terms of an enforceable undertaking regarding the payment of money towards an environmental project.	Respondent ordered to pay money towards the environmental project in accordance with a schedule approved by the court.
Graymarshall Pty Ltd v Director General of DECCW	Land and Environment Court	[2010] NSWLEC 54	Graymarshall sought a review of the validity of a notice issued under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> requiring it to provide information and documents for an investigation.	Application dismissed and Graymarshall ordered to pay DECCW's costs.
Harvey & Ors v Minister Administering the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	High Court of Australia	[2009] HCA Trans 178 (31 July 2009)	Applicants sought special leave to appeal against the decision of the NSW Court of Appeal which dismissed their earlier appeal from a decision of the Land and Environment Court. The case considered the Minister's duty to afford the appellants procedural fairness when making the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Murrumbidgee Groundwater Source 2003 Amendment Order 2006</i> .	Special leave to appeal to the High Court refused. Appellants ordered to pay the Minister's costs.
ICM Agriculture Pty Ltd & Ors v The Commonwealth of Australia & Ors	High Court of Australia	[2009] HCA 51	Challenge against the making of the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Lachlan Groundwater Source</i> which had the effect of converting the plaintiffs' <i>Water Act 1912</i> licences into licences issued under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .	By majority (6:1) the High Court rejected the plaintiffs' challenge.
O'Keefe v Water Administration Ministerial Corporation	Land and Environment Court	[2010] NSWLEC 9	Appeal against the decision of the Local Land Board at Orange to grant a s. 10 <i>Water Act 1912</i> licence to Mr and Mrs Eccleston to construct and use a pump to take water from a dam located on an adjacent property.	1. Appeal dismissed. 2. Local Land Board's decision confirmed.
Joly Pty Ltd v Director General of DECCW	Land and Environment Court	[2009] NSWLEC 217	Joly sought a review of the terms of a remedial direction issued to it under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> .	Court upheld the legal basis for the remedial direction and determined the merit appeal by issuing a remediation direction on modified terms.

<b>Parties</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Citation</b>	<b>Description of proceedings</b>	<b>Result</b>
Walker Corporation Pty Ltd v Director General of DECCW	Land and Environment Court	[2009] NSWLEC 177	Walker Corporation sought a review of the ability of the respondent's officers to utilise powers under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> to enter Walker Corporation's premises.	Application dismissed, Walker Corporation ordered to pay DECCW's costs.
Walker Corporation Pty Ltd v Director General of DECCW	Court of Appeal	[2009] NSWCA 392	Walker Corporation appealed the decision of the Land and Environment Court referred to above.	Appeal dismissed, Walker Corporation ordered to pay DECCW's costs.
Warwick James Hilton v Minister administering the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	Supreme Court of NSW	[2009] NSWSC 613	Mr Hilton sought a declaration about the construction of a licence issued on behalf of the Minister.	Application dismissed and Mr Hilton ordered to pay the Minister's costs.



	Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)
Oxley Wild Rivers	145,145	Yengo	154,877	Boronga	195	Coramba	8
Paroo–Darling	178,053	Yuraygir	35,521	Bournda	5,862	Corrie Island	164
Popran	3,970	<b>Total area</b>		Bowraville	81	Couchy Creek	218
Ramornie	3,307	<b>national parks</b>	<b>5,045,422</b>	Bretti	2,902	Courabyra	239
Richmond Range	15,712	<b>Nature reserves</b>		Bridal Veil Falls	151	Coxcomb	73
Royal	15,092	Aberaldie	284	Brigalow	202	Cudgen	897
Saltwater	33	Agnes Banks	123	Brimbin	52	Cudgera Creek	60
Scheyville	920	Andrew Johnston		Broken Head	107	Cullendulla Creek	126
Scone Mountain	78	Big Scrub	21	Broulee Island	42	Cumbebin Swamp	92
Seven Mile Beach	964	Arakoola	3,180	Brundee Swamp	230	Cuumbeun	709
Single	2,559	Araluen	656	Brunswick Heads	222	Dalrymple-Hay	11
South East Forest	116,348	Avisford	2,437	Brush Island	47	Dananbilla	3,416
Sturt	325,329	Awabakal	228	Brushy Hill	80	Dangelong	4,974
Sydney Harbour	393	Baalijin	2,701	Buddigower	327	Dapper	999
Tallaganda	16,729	Back River	735	Budelah	4,045	Darawank	575
Tapin Tops	10,976	Badja Swamps	561	Bugan	1,530	Davis Scrub	14
Tarlo River	8,074	Bagul Waajaarr	520	Bull Island	1	Deer Vale	181
Thirlmere Lakes	666	Ballina	721	Bungabbee	169	Demon	900
Tilligerry	141	Bamarang	370	Bungawalbin	467	Dharawal	347
Timbarra	1,772	Bandicoot Island	30	Burning Mountain	15	Doctors Nose Mountain	66
Tomaree	2,402	Banyabba	15,210	Burnt-Down Scrub	364	Donnybrook	276
Tooloom	4,380	Barrengarry	21	Burnt School	285	Downfall	496
Toonumbar	14,991	Barren Grounds	2,041	Burra Creek	270	Dthinna Dthinnawan	1,870
Towarri	6,074	Barton	529	Burrall Yurrul	1,341	Dural	36
Turon	3,104	Bees Nest	1,616	Burrinjuck	5,250	Durands Island	7
Ulidarra	680	Bell Bird Creek	53	Bushy Island	<1	Duroby	31
Wadbilliga	98,530	Belowla Island	4	Byrnes Scrub	737	Duval	240
Wallahah	178	Berkeley	8	Cambewarra Range	1,883	Eagles Claw	1
Wallaroo	2,780	Bermagabee	818	Camels Hump	545	Egan Peaks	2,145
Wallingat	6,557	Berrico	910	Camerons Gorge	1,318	Ellerslie	1,877
Warra	2,031	Big Bush	640	Captains Creek	2,834	Eugowra	120
Warrabah	4,390	Billinudgel	781	Careunga	469	Eusdale	1,238
Warrumbungle	23,312	Bimberi	10,868	Castlereagh	490	Evans Crown	425
Washpool	68,819	Binjura	707	Cecil Hoskins	47	Fifes Knob	553
Watagans	7,798	Binnaway	3,699	Cedar Brush	190	Fishermans Bend	160
Weddin Mountains	8,377	Bird Island	7	Chambigne	798	Five Islands	27
Werakata	3,337	Black Andrew	1,559	Chapmans Peak	72	Flaggy Creek	72
Werrikimbe	33,309	Bluff River	1,793	Clarence Estuary	130	Flagstaff Memorial	18
Willandra	19,386	Boatharbour	24	Clarkes Hill	2,201	Flat Island	9
Willi Willi	29,870	Bobundara	204	Cockle Bay	68	Freemantle	361
Woko	8,730	Bogandyera	9,528	Cocopara	4,647	Gads Sugarloaf	477
Wollemi	493,770	Boginderra Hills	799	Colongra Swamp	112	Gamilaroi	114
Wollumbin	4,117	Bolivia Hill	1,782	Comboyne	23	Ganay	693
Woolooma	495	Bollanolla	650	Comerong Island	660	Garby	117
Woomargama	24,185	Bondi Gulf	1,800	Coocumbac Island	5	Georges Creek	1,190
Worimi	1,827	Boomi	156	Cook Island	5	Gibraltar	161
Wyrrabalong	620	Boomi West	149	Coolbaggie	1,793	Girralang	640
Yabba	8,890	Boonanghi	4,470	Coolonglook	198	Good Good	20
Yanga	31,190	Boondelbah	12	Coolumbooka	1,529	Goonawarra	437
Yanununbeyan	3,521	Boorganna	390	Cooperabung Creek	325	Goonook	1,016
Yarrhapinni Wetlands	1,245	Booroolong	968	Coornartha	1,184	Goorooyarroo	266
Yarriabini	2,183			Copperhannia	3,497	Gubbata	162

	Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)
Gulguer	359	Lion Island	8	Narran Lake	26,480	Severn River	5,750
Gungewalla	142	Little Broughton Island	36	Narrawallee Creek	874	Shark Island	2
Guy Fawkes River	1,534	Little Llangothlin	258	Nearie Lake	4,347	Sherwood	5,904
Hattons Bluff	18	Little Pimlico Island	16	Nest Hill	759	Skillion	691
Hattons Corner	4	Long Island	73	Newington	48	Smiths Lake	24
Hayters Hill	8	Loughnan	385	Ngadang	160	Snapper Island	13
Hogarth Range	853	Macquarie	12	Ngambaa	10,560	Snows Gully	34
Hortons Creek	330	Macquarie Marshes	19,825	Ngulin	1,250	South-West Solitary Island	3
Illawong	51	Mann River	7,137	Nimmo	721	Spectacle Island	36
Illunie	721	Manobalai	3,758	Nocoleche	74,000	Split Solitary Island	4
Iluka	136	Marshalls Creek	152	Nombinnie	70,000	Stony Batter Creek	564
Imbota	218	Medowie	238	North Obelisk	36	Stony Creek	80
Ingalba	4,012	Melville Range	843	North Rock	4	Stormpetrel	8
Inner Pocket	236	Meringo	49	North Solitary Island	20	Stotts Island	142
Ironbark	1,604	Mernot	320	North-West Solitary Island	4	Strike-a-Light	407
Ironmungy	713	Merriangaah	5,669	Numeralla	439	Susan Island	23
Jaaningga	975	Midkin	359	Numinhah	858	Tabbimoble Swamp	1,070
Jagun	100	Mills Island	61	Oak Creek	404	Tabletop	104
Jasper	355	Minimbah	130	One Tree Island	1	Talawahl	3,150
Jerilderie	37	Moffats Swamp	151	Palm Grove	240	Tallawudjah	1,247
Jerralong	341	Monkerai	865	Pambalong	35	Tapitallee	95
Jingellic	2,137	Monkeycot	1,612	Parma Creek	3,565	Tarawi	33,573
Joadja	830	Montague Island	82	Paupong	1,838	Taringa	1,342
Jobs Mountain	702	Moonee Beach	336	Pee Dee	441	The Basin	2,318
John Gould	26	Moon Island	1	Pelican Island	40	The Castles	2,720
Julian Rocks	<1	Moore Park	15	Pilliga	80,579	The Charcoal Tank	86
Juugawaarri	2,396	Mororo Creek	80	Pitt Town	46	The Glen	2,750
Kajuligah	13,660	Morrison's Lake	312	Planchonella	717	The Rock	347
Kangaroo River	126	Mother of Ducks Lagoon	181	Prospect	325	Tilligerry	513
Karuah	823	Mount Clifford	306	Pucawan	274	Tinderry	14,711
Kattang	58	Mount Dowling	513	Pulbah Island	69	Tingira Heights	18
Kemendok	1,043	Mount Hyland	2,519	Pulletop	145	Tollgate Islands	12
Kemps Creek	129	Mount Mackenzie	141	Quanda	4,784	Tollingo	3,232
Khappinghat	3,514	Mount Neville	6,575	Queanbeyan	68	Tomalla	605
Khatambuhl	801	Mount Nullum	99	Queens Lake	1,424	Towibakh	62
Killabakh	2,644	Mount Seaview	1,704	Quidong	750	Towra Point	604
Killarney	435	Mount Yarrowyck	587	Rawdon Creek	560	Triplarina	157
Kirramingly	1,306	Muckleewee Mountain	355	Razorback	2,595	Tuckean	919
Koorawatha	1,105	Mudjarn	591	Regatta Island	102	Tucki Tucki	4
Koorebang	465	Muldiva	10	Richmond River	256	Tuggerah	132
Kororo	11	Mulgoa	213	Rileys Island	46	Tuggolo Creek	645
Koukandowie	1,283	Mullengandra	150	Robertson	5	Turallo	25
Kuma	184	Mundoonen	1,471	Rodway	83	Tweed Estuary	59
Kybeyan	432	Munghorn Gap	5,934	Round Hill	13,630	Tyagarah	800
Lake Innes	3,523	Munro Island	14	Saltwater Swamp	215	Ukerebagh	150
Lake Urana	302	Muogamarra	2,274	Saratoga Island	2	Ulandra	3,931
Langtree	235	Mutawintji	6,688	Scabby Range	4,982	Undoo	19
Lansdowne	14	Muttonbird Island	9	Scott	151	Uralba	288
Ledknapper	47,864	Myalla	143	Sea Acres	76	Valla	47
Limeburners Creek	9,224	Nadgee	20,671	Seaham Swamp	11	Victoria Park	18
Limpinwood	2,647	Nadgigomar	5,596	Seal Rocks	<1	Wadjan	92
Linton	640	Narrandera	71	Serpentine	723	Wallabadah	1,132

	<b>Area (ha)</b>		<b>Area (ha)</b>		<b>Area (ha)</b>		<b>Area (ha)</b>
Wallamba	1,160	Bargo	4,619	Kumbatine	783	Yarringly	355
Wallis Island	584	Bargo River	1,970	Kybeyan	4,173	Yerranderie	12,192
Wallumatta	6	Barnunj	164	Lake Innes	321	Yurrammie	221
Wamberal Lagoon	139	Barrakee	174	Lake Macquarie	761	Yuraygir	3,150
Wambina	59	Barrington Tops	6,502	Lawrence Road	440	<b>Total area state conservation areas</b>	<b>445,915</b>
Wambool	194	Bents Basin	48	Livingstone	541	<b>Regional parks</b>	
Wanna Wanna	33	Berlang	2,319	Macanally	2,290	Berowra Valley	3,885
Warragai Creek	186	Bindarri	434	Macquarie Pass	166	Blue Gum Hills	129
Watchimbark	744	Black Bulga	1,554	Majors Creek	706	Bomaderry Creek	82
Watsons Creek	1,260	Boonanghi	1,242	Maroomba	1,895	Coffs Coast	379
Wee Jasper	632	Bridal Veil Falls	65	Maroota Ridge	260	Goolawah	57
Weelah	37	Brindabella	2,880	Medowie	2,851	Leacock	34
Weetalibah	2,146	Bulahdelah	138	Monga	1,006	Parramatta River	5
Wiaborough	2,024	Bundjalung	4,870	Morton	1,050	Penrith Lakes	1
Wiesners Swamp	103	Bungawalbin	1,834	Mount Canobolas	1,673	Rouse Hill	43
Willi Willi Caves	8	Bungonia	3,237	Mount Hyland	293	Wianamatta	64
Wilson	27	Burratorang	17,643	Mount Pikapene	17	William Howe	43
Winburndale	10,719	Butterleaf	712	Mullengandra	258	Wolli Creek	14
Windsor Downs	363	Cameron's Gorge	429	Mullion Range	1,025	Worimi	1,568
Wingen Maid	1,077	Cape Byron	99	Mummel Gulf	1,162	Yellomundee	485
Wingham Brush	8	Carrai	6,853	Munmorah	1,530	<b>Total area regional parks</b>	<b>6,789</b>
Wogamia	277	Cascade	412	Nattai	3,383	<b>Karst conservation reserves</b>	
Wogoon	6,373	Cataract	572	Nombinnie	46,000	Abercrombie	1,434
Wollondilly River	862	Chaelundi	1,624	Nymboi-Binderay	585	Borenore	140
Wongarbon	99	Chatsworth Hill	510	Nymboida	528	Jenolan	3,029
Woodford Island	374	Colymea	1,674	Oxley Wild Rivers	1,439	Wombeyan	569
Woollamia	452	Coneac	804	Paroo-Darling	41,521	<b>Total area karst conservation reserves</b>	<b>5,172</b>
Wooyung	87	Copeland Tops	2,202	Parr	38,121	<b>Community conservation areas</b>	
Woregore	84	Corramy	291	Queens Lake	1,026	<b>Zone 1 national parks</b>	
Worrigee	232	Corymbia	495	Sugarloaf	3,926	Barayamal	179
Wullweye	155	Cottan-Bimbang	105	Talawahl	136	Breelong	6,851
Yaegl	313	Curracabundi	729	Tallaganda	5,285	Bullala	2,625
Yahoo Island	47	Currys Gap	227	The Cells	4,708	Burrall Yurrul	1,037
Yanga	1,773	Dharawal	6,276	Tilligerry	4,570	Couradda	362
Yanununbeyan	40	Everlasting Swamp	460	Toonumbar	128	Crawney Pass	250
Yaouk	2,924	Fishermans Bend	39	Torrington	30,192	Dowe	381
Yarravel	318	Fladbury	114	Tuggerah	126	Drillwarrina	1,077
Yarringly	285	Frogs Hole	77	Tumblong	746	Dthinna Dthinnawan	27,803
Yathong	107,241	Garawarra	949	Upper Nepean	25,869	Garrawilla	937
Yattheyattah	35	Georges River	1	Washpool	2,491	Goonoo	9,090
Yessabah	17	Gir-um-bit	184	Watsons Creek	520	Gunyerwarildi	316
Yina	100	Glenrock	534	Werakata	2,300		
<b>Total area nature reserves</b>	<b>908,989</b>	Gumbaynggirr	2,561	Wereboldera	2,263		
<b>State conservation areas</b>		Gundabooka	25,430	Werrikimbe	204		
Abercrombie River	965	Gurranang	111	Whian Whian	2,439		
Arakoon	114	Guy Fawkes River	4,850	Wollumbin	368		
Avondale	313	Illawarra Escarpment	2,494	Wombat Creek	1,077		
Banyabba	3,566	Jackywalbin	661	Woomargama	7,120		
		Jiliby	12,159	Worimi	1,043		
		Karuah	74	Yanga	33,890		
		Kalyarr	10,846	Yanununbeyan	3,823		
		Kooyong	753	Yarriabini	9		

	Area (ha)
Gwydir River	4,369
Horton Falls	260
Kwiambal	796
Moema	2,028
Mogriguy	399
Murrurundi Pass	215
Nullamanna	296
Pilliga	11,120
Pilliga West	8,040
Somerton	759
Timallallie	39,395
Tinkrameannah	969
Warialda	1,603
Yarragin	3,201
Yarrobil	1,846
<b>Total area community conservation areas Zone 1 national parks</b>	<b>126,204</b>

**Community conservation areas Zone 2 Aboriginal areas**

Dandry Gorge	382
Deriah	2,240
Kelvin	2,267
Pilliga East	1,347
Terry Hie Hie	15,382
<b>Total area community conservation areas Zone 2 Aboriginal areas</b>	<b>21,618</b>

	Area (ha)
<b>Community conservation areas Zone 3 state conservation areas</b>	
Beni	1,849
Biddon	3,352
Bingara	1,979
Bobbiwaa	2,688
Bullawa Creek	99
Durridgere	6,138
Goodiman	569
Goonoo	53,752
Goonoowigal	1,055
Gwydir River	2,607
Killarney	1,858
Leard	1,176
Merriwindi	1,730
Pilliga	33,386
Pilliga East	24,711
Pilliga West	36,070
Trinke	10,229
Warialda	2,913
Wondoba	1,663
<b>Total area community conservation areas Zone 3 state conservation areas</b>	<b>187,843</b>

**TOTAL TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS 30-Jun-10 6,763,629**

**Summary of terrestrial protected areas at 30 June 2010**

Type	No.	Area (ha)
Aboriginal areas	16	12,610
Historic sites	15	3,066
National parks	189	5,045,422
Nature reserves	399	908,990
State conservation areas	112	445,915
Regional parks	14	6,789
Karst conservation reserves	4	5,172
Community conservation areas		
Zone 1 national parks	27	126,204
Zone 2 Aboriginal areas	5	21,618
Zone 3 state conservation areas	19	187,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>6,763,629*</b>

\* Represents 8.44% of land area of NSW

## Declared wilderness in NSW

**CCA:** community conservation area

**HS:** historic site

**KCR:** karst conservation reserve

**NP:** national park

**NR:** nature reserve

**RP:** regional park

**SCA:** state conservation area

**VCA:** voluntary conservation area

Wilderness area	Reserve name(s)	Size (ha)*
Banyabba	Banyabba NR, Fortis Creek NP	17,949
Barrington	Barrington Tops NP, Mount Royal NP	58,385
Bimberi**	Bimberi NR, Kosciuszko NP, Scabby Range NR	32,457
Bindery-Mann	Barool NP, Gibraltar Range NP, Nymboida NP	56,316
Bogong Peaks	Kosciuszko NP	28,771
Bramina	Kosciuszko NP	10,902
Brogo	South East Forest NP, Wadbilliga NP	39,913
Buckenbowra	Deua NP, Monga NP	9,184
Budawang	Budawang NP, Morton NP	75,877
Bundjalung	Bundjalung NP	10,693
Burra Oulla	Deua NP	17,783
Byadbo	Kosciuszko NP	80,929
Carrai	Carrai NP	3,507
Cathedral Rock	Cathedral Rock NP	8,598
Chaelundi	Chaelundi NP	10,863
Ettrema	Morton NP	67,042
Genoa	South East Forest NP	6,163
Goobarragandra	Kosciuszko NP	33,548
Grattai	Mount Kaputar NP	4,185
Grose	Blue Mountains NP	37,817
Guy Fawkes	Cathedral Rock NP, Guy Fawkes River NP, Guy Fawkes River NR	84,168
Indi	Kosciuszko NP	11,655
Jagungal	Kosciuszko NP	67,317
Kanangra-Boyd	Blue Mountains NP, Kanangra-Boyd NP, Yerranderie SCA	122,702
Kunderang	Oxley Wild Rivers NP	21,427
Levers	Border Ranges NP	15,289
Limeburners Creek	Limeburners Creek NR	8,360

Wilderness area	Reserve name(s)	Size (ha)*
Lost World	Border Ranges NP, Limpinwood NR	9,029
Macleay Gorges	Cunnawarra NP, Georges Creek NR, Oxley Wild Rivers NP	77,831
Mootwingee	Mutawintji NP	47,949
Mount Seaview	Cotton-Bimbang NP, Mount Seaview NR	12,127
Mummel Gulf	Mummel Gulf NP	10,651
Nadgee	Nadgee NR	19,437
Nandewar	Mount Kaputar NP	13,199
Nattai	Nattai NP	29,059
New England	Cunnawarra NP, New England NP	55,529
North Ettrema***	Morton NP	8,425
Pilot	Kosciuszko NP	80,335
Rusden	Mount Kaputar NP	12,653
Tuross	Wadbilliga NP	20,599
Warrazambil	Border Ranges NP	7,239
Washpool	Gibraltar Range NP, Nymboida NP, Oxley Wild Rivers NP	53,165
Werrikimbe	Werrikimbe NP	27,081
West Ettrema	Morton NP	12,777
Western Fall	Kosciuszko NP	15,222
Willi Willi	Boonanghi NR, Willi Willi NP	23,315
Woila Deua	Deua NP	27,007
Wollemi	Blue Mountains NP, Wollemi NP	360,408
Yengo	Yengo NP	117,414
Yowrie	Wadbilliga NP	15,793
<b>Total (50 areas)</b>		<b>1,998,045****</b>

\* Areas are calculated from the agency's digital mapping system using Lambert's projection and rounded to the nearest hectare.

Refinements to the digital mapping system mean there will be minor differences from previous years' reporting.

\*\* Around 26,600 ha of the Bimberi Wilderness located in the Australian Capital Territory had previously been counted as part of the NSW area due to a database error. This area has now been excluded from the NSW figures.

\*\*\* North Ettrema has previously been reported as part of Ettrema.

\*\*\*\* Total represents 2.5% of the total land area of NSW (80,064,200 ha) and 30% of total DECCW-managed parks and reserves.

## Other lands managed by DECCW

### Lands acquired under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, pending reservation/dedication at 30 June 2010

Park/Location	Area (ha)	Park/Location	Area (ha)	Park/Location	Area (ha)	Park/Location	Area (ha)
Bagul Waajaar NR	259	Dananbilla NR	9	Kings Plains NP	1,290	Queens Gap NR	1,949
Barton NR	16	Darawank NR	334	Kosciuszko NP	161	South East Forest NP	21
Barwon	5,499	Dharawal SCA	315	Ku-ring-gai Chase NP	<1	South Solitary Island NR	11
Billinudgel NR	16	Dthinna Dthinnawan NR	140	Kwiambal NP	1,721	Sturt NP	12,355
Blue Mountains NP	129	Eurobodalla NP	1	Lake Innes NR	16	Sydney Harbour NP	<1
Bongil Bongil NP	32	Eusdale SCA	642	Lake Macquarie SCA	173	Tamboroora	10
Booligal SCA	5,936	Gandangara NR	7	Lane Cove NP	40	Ti Tree Lake AA	11
Boonoo Boonoo NP	1,088	Garawarra SCA	34	Livingstone SCA	61	Towarri NP	443
Brigalow Park NR	51	Ginghet	6,239	Lower Gwydir SCA	4,292	Tuggerah NR	3
Bullala CCA (NP)	3,276	Glenrock SCA	5	Macquarie Marshes NR	2,387	Upper Barwon NR	4,048
Bundjalung NP	80	Goonengerry NP	70	Marra Marra NP	<1	Upper Nepean SCA	120
Burrinjuck NR	132	Goonoo CCA (SCA)	2,589	Marshalls Creek NR	49	Warrabah NP	749
Captains Creek NR	1,189	Goorooyarroo NR	24	Minimbah NR	209	Washpool NP	636
Carrai NP	141	Gundabooka SCA	91,383	Morton NP	16	Watchimbark NR	520
Cataract NP	469	Guy Fawkes River NP	3,282	Mount Grenfell AA	18,187	Werakata SCA	16
Chaelundi NP	1,878	Gwydir River CCA (SCA)	1,439	Mount Werong Creek NR	204	Wianamatta NP	181
Chambigne NR	746	Hayters Hill NR	<1	Munmorah SCA	130	Wollemi NP	78
Claremont NR	202	Hill End HS	4	Murramarang NP	28	Wolli Creek RP	11
Cobaki Broadwater	70	Hunter Wetlands NP	821	Myall Lakes NP	4	Yanga NP	8,201
Coffs Coast RP	2	Illawarra Escarpment SCA	103	Narran Lake NR	1,509	Yellomundee RP	122
Columbey NP	244	Jervis Bay NP	360	Nombinnie SCA	7,063	Yuraygir NP	30
Coolah Tops NP	1,148	Kalyarr SCA	870	Nymboida NP	3,218	<b>Total</b>	<b>216,047</b>
Coolangatta Mountain	68	Kanangra Boyd NP	79	Oxley Wild Rivers NP	6,994		
Copeland Tops SCA	219	Karuah NR	<1	Paroo–Darling NP	521		
Culgoa NP	894	Kemps Creek NR	68	Pilliga NR	1,907		
Curracabundi NP	1,472	Keverstone	2,024	Pilliga West CCA (SCA)	415		

## Lands vested in the Minister administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* by virtue of Act 1996 No. 131 (Forestry Revocation and National Park Reservation Act)

Total area: approximately 452 hectares, mainly in south-east NSW

### Crown land occupied by DECCW under reserves or lease for various management purposes at 30 June 2010

Location	Reserve*	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Purpose
Armidale	R89685	1,256	Workshop
Armidale	Sp.L.1989/4	2,753	Depot
Bingara	R87087	2,023	Depot
Broken Hill	R230017	1,125	Residence
Cobar	R 92637	749	Staff accommodation
Eden	R 91136	1,145	Workshop
Gol Gol	R 91509	2,023	Workshop
Narooma	R95616	1,992	Workshop
Rylstone	R190042	2,491	Depot
Tibooburra	R96931	1,012	Workshop
Tibooburra	R95882	1,799	Workshop/depot
Tibooburra	R91376	2,023	Workshop
Ulladulla	R180018	3,661	Workshop/office
Walcha	R 98162	3,862	Workshop/depot

\* R = Crown Reserve No. 95 gazetted

Sp.L = Special lease with Department of Lands

### Other land owned by DECCW

Location	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Purpose
Lidcombe, 480 Weeroona Road	20,820	Scientific facilities and laboratories

### Lands acquired under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and held for management purposes (not reserved) at 30 June 2010

Location	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Purpose
Armidale: 145 Miller Street	2,815	Depot
Baradine	5,615	Visitor centre
Boambee	4,725	Workshop/depot
Bombala	4,900	Workshop/depot
Bourke: Short, Anson and Tudor streets	3,036	Staff accommodation
Broken Hill	475	Regional office
Broken Hill: 167–173 Argent Street	1,881	Parking area
Bucketty	6,731	Workshop
Bulga	35,800	Office/depot
Cobar: 61 Bradley Street	563	Staff accommodation
Cobar: lots 36 and 37 Wrightville Street and lots 42 and 43 Brickworks Road	7,498	Workshop
Dorrigo	5,210	Workshop/depot
Dubbo	4,007	Area office/workshop
Dungog	2,104	Depot
Ebor	1,700	Workshop/depot
Eden	4,196	Workshop/depot
Gloucester	7,245	Depot
Griffith	1,808	Workshop/depot
Hay: 2 Meakes Street	865	Staff accommodation
Hay	2,803	Area office
Jindabyne: Munyang and Cobbon streets and Snowy River Avenue	1.0825 ha	Staff accommodation/visitor centre
Khancoban: 1, 5 and 13 Douglas Street, 1 and 3 Blackburn Street, 8 Whitehead Street, Scammel Street, 19 Read Street and 24 Sheather Street	10,460	Staff accommodation
Khancoban: 5 and 6 Gray Street	2,049	Depot
Khancoban: corner McIlree and Gray streets	1,031	Depot
Menindee	2,023	Staff accommodation
Narooma	2,665	Workshop/depot
Nowra	7,954	Workshop/depot
Oakdale	4,274	Depot
Oberon	1,701	Office
Oberon	6,000	Workshop
Peak Hill	4,023	Workshop/depot
Rylstone	2,188	Depot
Scone: Hayes Street	4,529	Workshop/depot
Tenterfield	6,327	Depot
Tibooburra	506	Office accommodation
Tibooburra	506	Visitor centre
Tibooburra: Sturt Street	1,012	Staff accommodation
White Cliffs: corner Johnston Street and Karara Road	3,590	Visitor centre
Wilcannia: Woore Street	8,090	Workshop
Yetman	4,312	Depot/staff accommodation
Yetman: 63 Simpson Street	2,023	Staff accommodation

## Aquatic protected areas

### Marine Parks

The NSW Government has declared and zoned six marine parks:

	Area (ha)
Batemans	85,100
Cape Byron	22,200
Jervis Bay	21,500
Lord Howe Island	45,500
Port Stephens—Great Lakes	98,400
Solitary Islands	71,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,100</b>

As at 30 June 2010, 34% (345,100 ha) of NSW waters are in the marine parks system, including approximately 6.7% (64,900 ha) in sanctuary zones.

### Aquatic reserves

	Area (ha)
Barrenjoey Head	20
Boat Harbour	72
Bronte—Coogee	43
Bushrangers Bay	4
Cabbage Tree Bay	20
Cape Banks	22
Cook Island	78
Long Reef	60
Narrabeen Head	5
North (Sydney) Harbour	260
Shiprock	2
Towra Point	1,401
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,987</b>

### Summary of aquatic protected areas as at 30 June 2010

Type	No.	Area (ha)
Marine parks	6	345,100
Aquatic reserves	12	1,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>347,087</b>

## 10. Statement of affairs

This statement of affairs describes DECCW's structure and functions; ways in which the functions affect members of the public; how the public can participate in policy development; documents held by DECCW; and how people can access those documents or seek amendment to documents concerning their personal affairs.

### Structure and functions

DECCW consists of the following divisions:

- Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group
- Environment Protection and Regulation Group
- Parks and Wildlife Group
- NSW Office of Water
- Corporate Services Division
- Country, Culture and Heritage Division
- Scientific Services Division
- Botanic Gardens Trust

The Botanic Gardens Trust is part of DECCW but reports separately as a statutory trust.

For a more detailed description of DECCW's executive and organisational structure and functions, see Chapter 1: Overview.

### Effect of functions on members of the public

DECCW is the NSW Government agency primarily responsible for working with the community to protect and care for the environment, including natural and cultural heritage, and manage water resources. DECCW leads the state's response to climate change and natural resource management and delivers water, energy, waste management and sustainability programs. Strategic policies and programs set corporate-wide direction and priorities for biodiversity and landscape conservation, environment protection, and surface water and groundwater resources.

DECCW is committed to preventing pollution before it occurs, avoiding the creation of waste and managing cultural heritage, wildlife and the protected area system. DECCW also recognises that strong and credible regulatory programs and innovative regulatory tools are needed to help address environmental problems and achieve sustainable water use. These functions, programs and tools have a broad effect on members of the public, and include:

- licensing regimes for a range of issues, including regulating pollution from industrial premises and licences to keep native wildlife
- regulating water extraction and the local utilities that deliver water and sewage services
- specifying what recreational and other activities can take place on DECCW-managed land and waters, while maintaining important conservation values
- receiving reports of pollution incidents and responding appropriately
- monitoring and reporting on air quality and water quality
- encouraging waste reduction, recycling and the sustainable use of resources, such as energy and water.

## Public participation in policy formulation

The health of the environment depends on community commitment and community involvement at all levels from policy development to everyday business, recreational or domestic activities. Involvement includes all sectors: business, industry, environment groups, Aboriginal communities, individuals, landholders, catchment management authorities, and federal, state and local government bodies. DECCW works with all these sectors and individuals to implement an integrated environment protection framework for NSW, and to protect natural resources and cultural heritage.

The community participates in policy formulation through the various consultative bodies described elsewhere in this annual report. DECCW also seeks public submissions when developing and reviewing policies, plans and programs. DECCW's website regularly features calls for public comment and describes how to make submissions on its proposals (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult/)). DECCW is also making greater use of social networking tools to increase public engagement, for example, using online community consultation software to facilitate public comment on management of particular national parks.

## Documents held by DECCW and how to obtain them

DECCW holds documents in its metropolitan, regional and area offices. While many documents are available for inspection or purchase, access to some documents may require an application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

## Government information applications

As of 1 July 2010, the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* was replaced by the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. People can apply under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* for access to documents held by DECCW that are not publicly available. The documents can relate to personal or non-personal information. Individuals can also apply under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* to correct any information about their personal affairs that may be incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out-of-date.

Contact the Right to Information/Privacy Officer at PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232, phone (02) 9995 6080 or (02) 9995 6497, or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweaare/information.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweaare/information.htm) for an application form and information about the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the process, fees and charges. Freedom of information statistics for 2009–10 are detailed in Appendix 11.

## Privacy applications

The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* regulate the way DECCW deals with personal and health information and gives people a legally enforceable right of access to their information.

Applications can be made for personal information that may be held by DECCW. Applications may also be made to amend personal information that may be incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out-of-date. If a person believes that DECCW has breached their privacy, they can ask DECCW to investigate what occurred.

Contact the Right to Information/Privacy Officer at PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232, phone (02) 9995 6080 or (02) 9995 6497, or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweaare/privacy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweaare/privacy.htm) for more information.

## Policy documents

A list of policy documents called the Summary of Affairs is published each June and December in the *Government Gazette* and on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweaare/summary.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweaare/summary.htm).

These documents include corporate policy documents, scientific policies and manuals, environmental guidelines, and field policies and procedures. Many of these documents are also available on the DECCW website, while others may be purchased. DECCW will publish a publication guide under the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* by December 2010.

## Publications

DECCW produces a range of books, guides, teachers' kits, information pamphlets and posters. Publications may be obtained over the counter at DECCW's office at 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney, and from many regional and area offices, and visitor centres. The DECCW website features a list of publications for sale and download (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/), [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/threatenedspeciespublications.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/threatenedspeciespublications.htm) and [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chpublications/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chpublications/)).

## Photographs

A photographic library is available to the public and other agencies under certain conditions. Fees and charges may apply. For further information, phone (02) 9995 5000 (switchboard).

## Public registers

DECCW is required to maintain a number of public registers under legislation (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/index.htm)). These are listed below.

### ***Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO) Public Register***

The POEO Public Register is a register of environment protection licences and notices, any exemptions from the provisions of the Act or Regulations, details of convictions for offences under the Act and the results of civil proceedings. Visit the Public Register on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/index.htm).

### **Contaminated land**

Copies of declarations, orders and notices issued under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* are available from a register of contaminated sites on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/prclmapp/aboutregister.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/prclmapp/aboutregister.aspx).

## Chemicals and dangerous goods

DECCW holds a number of public registers for chemicals and dangerous goods:

- approvals, exemptions and determinations under the *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008*
- dangerous goods licences
- licences under the *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*
- declared chemical wastes and chemical control orders under the *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*.

The dangerous goods register is accessible on the DECCW website (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/prdg/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/prdg/index.htm)), as is the Hazmat register (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/hazmat/register.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/hazmat/register.htm)).

## Threatened species and biobanking

DECCW holds three public registers under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The register for section 91 licences contains the applications for licences (section 96) and the licences issued (section 104). A register of critical habitat declared under section 55 of the Act is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/S91TscRegisterBydate.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/S91TscRegisterBydate.htm)

and [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/criticalhabitat/CriticalHabitatProtectionByDoctype.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/criticalhabitat/CriticalHabitatProtectionByDoctype.htm).

The Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking) public register covers:

- biobanking agreements
- biobank site expressions of interest
- biobanking statements
- biodiversity credits
- biodiversity credit transactions.

It is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bimSpr/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bimSpr/).

## Native vegetation

DECCW maintains a public register on issues relating to managing native vegetation in NSW (see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publicregister.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publicregister.htm)). The register includes information on:

- the approval of broadscale clearing of native vegetation
- property vegetation plans (PVPs) and development consents that allow broadscale clearing where a catchment management authority has exercised its discretion
- dates specified in PVPs to meet relevant regrowth definitions
- clearing native vegetation for essential local government infrastructure.

## Leases, easements and rights of way on national parks and reserves

Section 151D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires DECCW to keep a register of information on every lease, easement or right of way granted in national parks and reserves. This register is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/RegisterOfLeases.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/RegisterOfLeases.htm).

## Filming approvals

Section 12 of the *Filming Approval Act 2004* requires DECCW to keep a public register of information relating to filming approvals. Section 12(2) of this Act requires that the register provide the name of the each person to whom approval to film has been granted, the area and purpose of each filming approval and the associated terms and conditions.

The filming register is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

## Aboriginal and historic heritage

Section 170 of the *Heritage Act 1977* requires all NSW Government departments to have a heritage and conservation register. DECCW's register contains details of the Aboriginal, historic, natural, archaeological, moveable, multicultural and maritime heritage it manages that have local, state, national or World Heritage significance. The register is recorded as a subset of data within DECCW's Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS).

HHIMS holds details on the type and location of historic places and sites managed by DECCW, including reports, permits and other archival material. Access to HHIMS is available to researchers and interested members of the public through the HHIMS Registrar. For more information, contact the HHIMS Registrar by emailing [hhims@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hhims@environment.nsw.gov.au).

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) includes a database and recording cards for all Aboriginal objects, declared Aboriginal Places and other Aboriginal heritage values in NSW that have been reported to DECCW. Access to AHIMS is available to Aboriginal groups, researchers and interested members of the public. Access may be restricted in some cases due to the sensitivity of some matters. DECCW undertakes searches of AHIMS for a fee. Information is available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/conservation/AboriginalPlacesNSW.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/conservation/AboriginalPlacesNSW.htm) and [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/HowToObtainAHIMSData.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/HowToObtainAHIMSData.htm).

For more information, phone DECCW's Aboriginal Heritage Information Unit at Hurstville on (02) 9585 6471, (02) 9585 6345 or (02) 9585 6157 or email [ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## Conservation agreements

DECCW holds registers of interim protection orders, conservation agreements and wilderness protection agreements. For more information, email [conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water maintains a number of public registers relating to various consents and activities under the *Water Management Act 2000*:

- water approvals
- available water determinations
- water access licence conditions
- water access licence statistics
- water allocation assignments
- transfer and share assignment statistics.

Further information is available on [www.water.nsw.gov.au/Waterlicensing/Registers/default.aspx](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Waterlicensing/Registers/default.aspx).

## Other information services

The DECCW Information Centre (details at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/InformationCentreSydneyCBD.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/InformationCentreSydneyCBD.htm)) can be contacted for information on national parks, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable living and a wide variety of conservation and environmental topics, including air quality, noise, pesticides, water, soils, native vegetation, hazardous materials and waste disposal. The Environment Line can be contacted to report pollution, smoky and noisy vehicles, and littering from vehicles.

Phone:

- 1300 361 967 (national parks information, annual passes, residential rebates and publication requests) for the cost of a local call within Australia (mobiles excluded), or (02) 9995 5550
- 131 555 (pollution reporting, environment information and publication requests) for the cost of a local call within NSW (mobiles excluded), or (02) 9995 5555

or email [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au).

DECCW's air quality monitoring network informs the public about air quality by updating the regional air quality index (RAQI) hourly, providing 24-hour summaries, reporting monthly RAQI values and annual exceedances, and providing a search function for public access to the air quality database. For further details, see [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMS/aji.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMS/aji.htm).

The Beachwatch and Harbourwatch information line (phone 1800 036 677) provides a daily summary of water quality conditions at ocean and harbour beaches in Sydney, and beaches in the Hunter and Illawarra regions. It advises the public on whether there is any risk of bacterial contamination. Information is also available on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beachApp/default.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beachApp/default.aspx). Further information is available by phoning (02) 9995 5344 or emailing [beachwatch@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:beachwatch@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## 11. Freedom of information applications

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) was created effective from 1 July 2009, when the former Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and its responsibilities were combined with the water management responsibilities of the former Department of Water and Energy. Accordingly, the FOI statistics for 2009–10 are reported in two separate tables for the former DECC and for the NSW Office of Water.

### Freedom of information applications (excluding NSW Office of Water)

#### New freedom of information (FOI) applications

FOI applications received, discontinued or completed	Number of FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
New	4	3	87	144	91	147
Brought forward	0	0	12	7	12	7
<b>Total to be processed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>154</b>
Completed	3	3	84	135	87	138
Discontinued	1	0	8	10	9	10
<b>Total processed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>148</b>
Unfinished (carried forward)	0	0	7	6	7	6

#### Discontinued applications

Reasons why FOI applications were discontinued	Number of discontinued FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Request transferred out to another agency (s. 20)	0	0	0	2	0	2
Applicant withdrew request	0	0	6	5	6	5
Applicant failed to pay advance deposit (s. 22)	0	0	2	2	2	2
Applicant failed to amend a request that would have been an unreasonable diversion of resources to complete (s. 25(1)(a1))	0	0	1	1	1	1
<b>Total discontinued</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

## Completed applications

Completed FOI applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Granted or otherwise available in full	2	3	40	89	42	91
Granted or otherwise available in part	0	0	22	27	22	27
Refused	1	1	10	6	11	7
No documents held	1	0	12	13	12	13
<b>Total completed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>138</b>

## Applications granted or otherwise available in full

How documents were made available to the applicant	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in full)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
<b>All documents requested were:</b>						
Provided to the applicant	2	2	40	87	42	89
Other	0	0	0	2	0	2

## Applications granted or otherwise available in part

How documents were made available to the applicant	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in part)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
<b>Documents made available were:</b>						
Provided to the applicant	0	0	22	24	22	24
Other	0	0	0	3	0	3

## Refused FOI applications

Reasons why access to the documents was refused	Number of refused FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Exempt	1	1	10	5	11	6
Deemed refused	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total refused</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>

## Exempt documents

Reasons why the documents were classified as exempt	Number of FOI applications (refused or access granted or otherwise available in part only)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
<b>Restricted documents</b>						
Cabinet documents (Clause 1)	0	0	1	3	1	3
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety (Clause 4)	0	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Documents requiring consultation</b>						
Documents affecting intergovernmental relations	0	0	0	3	0	3
Documents affecting personal affairs (Clause 6)	0	0	3	6	3	6
Documents affecting business affairs (Clause 7)	0	0	5	7	5	7
<b>Documents otherwise exempt</b>						
Documents subject to legal professional privilege (Clause 10)	0	0	2	4	2	4
Documents subject to secrecy provisions (Clause 12)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Documents containing confidential material (Clause 13)	1	0	9	4	10	4
Documents affecting financial or property interests of the state or an agency (Clause 15)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Documents concerning operations of agencies (Clause 16)	0	1	0	0	0	1
Documents containing information relating to threatened species, Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places (Clause 23)	0	0	1	2	1	2
<b>Total applications including exempt documents</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>

## Ministerial certificates (s. 59)

	Number of Ministerial certificates	
	2008-09	2009-10
Ministerial certificates issued	0	0

## Formal consultations

Formal consultations conducted	Number	
	2008-09	2009-10
Number of applications requiring formal consultation	46	95
Number of persons formally consulted	236	360

## Amendment of personal records

Applications for amendment of personal records agreed to or refused	Number of applications for amendment of personal records	
	2008–09	2009–10
Agreed in full	0	0
Agreed in part	0	0
Refused	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Notation of personal records

Formal consultations conducted	Number of applications for notation	
	2008–09	2009–10
Applications for notation	0	0

## Fees and costs

Fees assessed and received for FOI applications processed (excluding applications transferred out)	Assessed costs		Fees received	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
All completed applications	\$11,002	\$13,128	\$10,733	14,418.00

## Fee discounts and waivers

Fee waivers and discounts allowed and reasons	Number of FOI applications (where fees were waived or discounted)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Processing fees waived in full	0	0	0	1	0	1
Public interest discounts	0	0	5	10	5	10
Financial hardship discounts – pensioner or child	1	0	0	4	1	4
Financial hardship discounts – non profit organisation	0	0	8	6	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>

## Fee refunds

Fee refunds granted	Number of refunds	
	2008–09	2009–10
Number of fee refunds granted as a result of significant correction of personal records	0	0

## Days taken to complete request

Calendar days taken to process completed applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
0-21 days – statutory determination period	3	1	42	59	45	60
22-35 days – extended statutory determination period	0	2	40	57	40	59
Over 21 days – deemed refusal where no extended determination period applies	0	0	0	1	0	1
Over 35 days – deemed refusal where extended determination period applies	0	0	2	18	2	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>138</b>

## Processing time

Time taken to process completed applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
0-10 hours	3	2	71	119	74	121
11-20 hours	0	1	7	9	7	10
21-40 hours	0	0	5	4	5	4
Over 40 hours	0	0	1	3	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>138</b>

## Number of reviews finalised

	2008-09	2009-10
Internal reviews	12	9
Ombudsman reviews	0	0
Administrative Decisions Tribunal reviews	2	0

## Results of internal reviews

Grounds on which the internal review was requested	Number of internal reviews					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	Upheld	Varied	Upheld	Varied	Upheld	Varied
Original agency decision:						
Access refused	0	0	2	0	2	0
Access deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt matter deleted from documents	0	0	2	0	2	0
Unreasonable charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to consult with third parties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Third parties' views disregarded	0	0	4	0	4	0
Amendment of personal records refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

## Freedom of information applications – NSW Office of Water

Comparative data for 2008–09 is not available as the NSW Office of Water was part of the former Department of Water and Energy until 30 June 2009.

### New freedom of information (FOI) applications

FOI applications received, discontinued or completed	Number of FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
New		1		40		41
Brought forward		0		4		4
<b>Total to be processed</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>44</b>		<b>45</b>
Completed		1		34		35
Discontinued		0		6		6
<b>Total processed</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>41</b>		<b>42</b>
Unfinished (carried forward)		0		6		6

### Discontinued applications

Reasons why FOI applications were discontinued	Number of discontinued FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Request transferred out to another agency (s. 20)		0		4		4
Applicant withdrew request		0		2		2
Applicant failed to pay advance deposit (s. 22)		0		0		0
Applicant failed to amend a request that would have been an unreasonable diversion of resources to complete (s. 25(1)(a1))		0		0		0
<b>Total discontinued</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>6</b>

### Completed applications

Completed FOI applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Granted or otherwise available in full		0		26		26
Granted or otherwise available in part		0		5		5
Refused		1		1		2
No documents held		0		3		3
<b>Total completed</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>35</b>		<b>36</b>

### Applications granted or otherwise available in full

How documents were made available to the applicant	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in full)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
All documents requested were:	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
Provided to the applicant		0		26		26

### Applications granted or otherwise available in part

How documents were made available to the applicant	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in part)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
Documents made available were:	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
Provided to the applicant		0		5		5

### Refused FOI applications

Reasons why access to the documents was refused	Number of refused FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
Exempt		0		0		0
Deemed refused		1		18		19
<b>Total refused</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>

### Exempt documents

Reasons why the documents were classified as exempt	Number of FOI applications (refused or access granted or otherwise available in part only)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
<b>Restricted documents</b>						
Cabinet documents (Clause 1)		0		2		2
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety (Clause 4)		0		0		0
<b>Documents requiring consultation</b>						
Documents affecting personal affairs (Clause 6)		0		2		2
Documents affecting business affairs (Clause 7)		0		0		0
<b>Documents otherwise exempt</b>						
Documents which are internal working documents (Clause 9)		0		1		1
Documents subject to legal professional privilege (Clause 10)		0		0		0
Documents subject to secrecy provisions (Clause 12)		0		0		0
Documents containing confidential material (Clause 13)		0		0		0
Documents affecting financial or property interests of the state or an agency (Clause 15)		0		0		0
Documents containing information relating to threatened species, Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places (Clause 23)		0		0		0
<b>Total applications including exempt documents</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>5</b>

## Ministerial certificates (s. 59)

	Number of Ministerial certificates	
	2008–09	2009–10
Ministerial certificates issued		0

## Formal consultations

Formal consultations conducted	Number	
	2008–09	2009–10
Number of applications requiring formal consultation		25
Number of persons formally consulted		77

## Amendment of personal records

Applications for amendment of personal records agreed to or refused	Number of applications for amendment of personal records	
	2008–09	2009–10
Agreed in full		0
Agreed in part		0
Refused		1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

## Notation of personal records

Formal consultations conducted	Number of applications for notation	
	2008–09	2009–10
Applications for notation		0

## Fees and costs

Fees assessed and received for FOI applications processed (excluding applications transferred out)	Assessed costs		Fees received	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
All completed applications		\$3,776.25		\$3,477.50

## Fee discounts and waivers

Fee waivers and discounts allowed and reasons	Number of FOI applications (where fees were waived or discounted)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10	2008–09	2009–10
Processing fees waived in full		1		3		4
Public interest discounts		0		1		1
Financial hardship discounts – pensioner or child		0		0		0
Financial hardship discounts – non profit organisation		0		4		4
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>

## Fee refunds

Fee refunds granted	Number of refunds	
	2008-09	2009-10
Number of fee refunds granted as a result of significant correction of personal records		0

## Days taken to complete request

Calendar days taken to process completed applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
0-21 days – statutory determination period		0		17		17
22-35 days – extended statutory determination period		0		7		7
Over 21 days – deemed refusal where no extended determination period applies		1		10		11
Over 35 days – deemed refusal where extended determination period applies		0		8		8
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>42</b>		<b>43</b>

## Processing time

Time taken to process completed applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10	2008-09	2009-10
0-10 hours		0		32		32
11-20 hours		1		3		4
21-40 hours		0		2		2
Over 40 hours		0		0		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>37</b>		<b>38</b>

## Number of reviews finalised

	2008-09	2009-10
Internal reviews		2
Ombudsman reviews		0
Administrative Decisions Tribunal reviews		0

## Results of internal reviews

Grounds on which the internal review was requested	Number of internal reviews					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	Upheld	Varied	Upheld	Varied	Upheld	Varied
<b>Original agency decision:</b>						
Access refused	0	0	2	0	2	0
Access deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt matter deleted from documents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to consult with third parties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Third parties' views disregarded	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amendment of personal records refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

## 12. Information Centre and Environment Line statistics

The following table shows a detailed breakdown of inquiries to DECCW's Information Centre and predecessor services over the past five years. It includes calls taken by the Environment Line telephone service.

### Information inquiries to DECCW's Information Centre by subject area

Subject	2005–06		2006–07		2007–08		2008–09		2009–10	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Air	5	4,818	4	4,027	3	4,100	3	4,361	1.8	3,165
Chemicals	6	4,480	3	3,200	4	4,980	3	5,172	2	3,573
Land	2	2,418	1	1,612	3	4,101	3	4,985	1.8	3,164
Noise	4	4,278	3	3,242	4	4,686	3	4,735	1.8	3,215
Waste	8	8,205	13	14,496	16	20,503	15	23,927	9.8	17,507
Water	4	4,345	3	3,624	3	3,808	2	3,552	1.6	2,809
Flora/fauna	17	16,518	20	20,640	13	16,504	9	14,352	9.5	16,950
National parks	30	28,713	31	33,956	16	20,630	19	30,884	17.3	30,841
National parks passes	14	14,260	12	11,984	12	15,128	7	12,170	9.1	16,313
Climate Change Fund	na	na	na	na	13	16,506	26	43,433	35.5	63,340
Other	10	8,980	10	10,067	13	16,402	10	15,577	9.9	17,610
<b>Total information contacts</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97,015</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>106,848</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>127,348</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>163,148</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>178,487</b>
<b>Other inquiries at reception</b>		<b>30,355</b>		<b>33,635</b>		<b>37,330</b>		<b>36,782</b>		<b>41,809</b>
<b>Switchboard inquiries</b>		<b>60,658</b>		<b>67,500</b>		<b>63,907</b>		<b>71,030</b>		<b>69,664</b>

### Calls to Environment Line reporting pollution incidents by type

Incident type	2005–06		2006–07		2007–08		2008–09		2009–10	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.1	%	No.	%	No.
Air	9.2	746	10	671	10	695	8	572	9.3	695
Air – odour	33	2,662	36	2,478	32	2,215	32	2,262	32.4	2,422
Chemicals – waste	4.2	338	5	339	5	360	5	341	4.3	324
Chemicals – hazardous waste	1.3	103	2	120	2	115	1.5	105	1.6	121
Chemicals – illegal dumping	0.8	65	1	92	1	74	2	146	3.1	229
Chemicals – toxic spills	0.5	39	0.3	22	0.2	15	0.2	13	0.2	16
Contaminated land	0.3	23	0.5	31	0.4	25	0.4	31	0.4	28
Cultural heritage	0.1	6	0.1	8	0.1	7	0.2	10	0.2	16
Noise	3.2	263	4	279	5	354	5	344	4.6	346
Noise – scheduled premises	10.6	867	11	760	12	800	16	1,136	13.2	988
Native vegetation					5.5	378	7	485	7.3	546
Pesticides	3.1	255	4	279	4.5	310	4	293	3.9	293
Radiation	0.1	6	0.4	25	0.1	7	0.1	7	<0.1	2
Threatened species	0.9	72	2.3	157	2	120	1.0	91	2.0	151
Water	13	1,097	8	563	8	530	7.3	517	7.9	589
Water – algae	0.4	34	0.4	26	0.2	15	0.3	18	0.2	17
Water – fish kills	0.9	70	1	62	0.7	50	1	62	0.9	64
Water – oil spills	1.8	147	2	151	2.3	165	2	140	1.9	140
Water – stormwater	16.6	1,350	12	801	9	600	7	512	6.5	488
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,143</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,864</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,835</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,085</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,475</b>

### Calls to Environment Line and reports to the DECCW website on vehicle-related pollution incidents

Incident type	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Smoky vehicles	3,488	3,396	2,830	2,451	3,211
Noisy vehicles	561	896	1,063	1,411	1,226
Littering from vehicles	4,379	5,058	4,429	5,096	5,070
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,428</b>	<b>9,350</b>	<b>8,322</b>	<b>8,958</b>	<b>9,507</b>

## 13. Publications

### Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

#### Corporate publications

About the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Corporate Plan Update 2010

Department of Environment and Climate Change annual report 2008–09

Disability Action Plan 2009–2012

Environmental Trust annual report 2008–09

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative annual progress report 2007–08

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative annual progress report 2008–09

Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program annual report 2008–09

Household Chemical CleanOut Program annual report 2007–08

NSW budget highlights 2010–11

NSW Climate Change Fund annual report 2008–09

NSW State of the Environment 2009

Radiation Advisory Council annual report 2008–09

#### Discussion papers and draft plans

Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve: draft Fisheries Management (Aquatic Reserve) Regulation 2009 and implementation strategy

Draft code of practice for archaeological investigation in NSW

Draft code of practice for injured, sick and orphaned protected fauna

Draft code of practice for the private keeping of reptiles

Draft Cumberland Plain recovery plan

Draft ecological harvesting plan guideline for endangered ecological communities

Draft Far North Coast Regional Conservation Plan

Draft floodplain management plan: Edward and Wakool rivers stage 1 – Deniliquin to Moama–Moulamein Railway

Draft floodplain management plan: Edward and Niemur rivers stage 3 – Moama–Moulamein Railway to Liewah and Mallan

Draft floodplain management plan: Wakool River stage 2 – Moama–Moulamein Railway to Gee Gee Bridge

Draft Gwydir Wetlands adaptive environmental management plan

Draft Lower Hawkesbury–Nepean River Nutrient Management Strategy

Draft Macquarie Marshes adaptive environmental management plan

Draft Minister's requirements under the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*

Draft report: review of the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953*

Draft South Coast Regional Conservation Plan

NSW Road Noise Policy: draft for consultation

Proposed biodiversity certification for the Albury Local Environmental Plan 2009

Regulatory impact statement: Catchment Management Authorities (Hunter Central Rivers) Regulation 2010

Regulatory impact statement: proposed Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010

Regulatory impact statement: proposed Threatened Species Conservation Regulation 2010

#### Guidelines and advisory documents

Alternative waste technologies assessment tool (CD)

BioBanking: guide to establishing a biobank site

Coal washery rejects levy operational guidance note

Contaminated sites: guidelines on the duty to report contamination under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*

Decision support tools: choosing and using the right tool

Delivering the Ramsar Convention in NSW: responsibilities and roles of stakeholders in managing Ramsar wetlands in NSW

Energy efficiency for small business program (brochure)

Energy efficiency for small business case studies:

- Glebe Point YHA
- Feel Amazing wellness centres

Environmentally friendly seawalls: a guide to improving the environmental value of seawalls and seawall-lined foreshores in estuaries

Guide to using research in sustainability programs

Handbook for kangaroo harvesters

House deconstruction:

- Information booklet
- Bricks and concrete removal
- Costs of house deconstruction
- Plan and conduct a house deconstruction
- Plasterboard removal
- Roof beams and timber removal
- Roof surface removal
- Stripping out

Interim construction noise guideline

Love food, hate waste style guide

Monitoring manual for bitou bush control and native plant recovery

Native vegetation: compliance and enforcement strategy

NSW Government sustainability policy:

- Guide note for NSW Government agencies – how to prepare a greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Office building strategy Q&As

Preparing for NABERS ratings

Private Native Forestry Code of Practice:

- Fact sheet 1 – overview of private native forestry (revision)
- Fact sheet 2 – how to obtain a private native forestry property vegetation plan (revision)
- Guideline 1 – guidelines for assessing regeneration and stocking (revision)
- Guideline 2 – protocol for re-evaluating old-growth forest on private property (revision)
- Guideline 3 – protocol for re-evaluating rainforest on private property (revision)
- Guideline 4 – techniques for measuring stand height (revision)

Private native forestry field guide for northern NSW

Protocols for recycling redundant utility poles and bridge timbers in NSW

Protocols for recycling redundant utility poles and bridge timbers in NSW: case study

Routine agricultural management activities on private native forestry land (revised fact sheet)

Specification for supply of recycled material for pavements, earthworks and drainage

Standards and best practice guidelines for vapour recovery at petrol service stations

Sustainability Advantage energy saver (brochure)

UPSS technical note: decommissioning, abandonment and removal of UPSS

UPSS technical note: site sensitivity assessment

UPSS technical note: site validation reporting

Waste and environment levy: operational guidance notes

Waste and sustainability improvements payments program: guidelines for councils

## Environmental and technical reports

Action for Air: 2009 update

Better regulation statement: expansion of vapour recovery at petrol service stations in the NSW GMR

Connectivity conservation and the Great Eastern Ranges corridor

Disposal-based survey of the commercial and industrial waste stream in Sydney

Hawkesbury–Nepean River environmental monitoring program final technical report

Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme 2008–09 performance

Identification guide to the Australian Odonata

Koala surveys in the coastal forests of the Bermagui–Mumbulla area 2007–09: An interim report

Montague Island Seabird Habitat Restoration Project: proceedings of shared island management workshop, Narooma, November 2008

Native vegetation interim type standard

NSW annual report on native vegetation 2008

NSW Wetlands Policy

NSW resource recovery industries survey 2008–09:

- Glass reprocessing
- Organics reprocessing
- Paper reprocessing

Paroo River Wetlands Ramsar site ecological character description

Planning for catchment biodiversity targets at a local landscape scale: a proposal for the South-west Slopes Bioregion of NSW

Statement of intent 2: infection of frogs by amphibian chytrid causing the disease chytridiomycosis

Strategic environmental compliance and performance review: industry monitoring

Towra Point Nature Reserve Ramsar site ecological character description

Vertebrate fauna of the Wollangambe and Upper Wolgan area

Who cares about the environment in 2009?

## Climate change-related publications

A snapshot of future sea levels: photographing the king tide, 12 January 2009

Climate change: how will it affect the natural environment in NSW? (brochure)

Derivation of the NSW Government's sea level rise planning benchmarks: technical note

Draft coastal risk management guide: incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in coastal risk assessments

Draft flood risk management guide: incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in flood risk assessments

Draft guidelines on incorporating sea level rise benchmarks into coastal hazard assessment

NSW Climate Impact Profile: the impacts of climate change on the biophysical environment of NSW

NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement

## Cultural heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010

Aboriginal cultural values of the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands: oral history component

Aboriginal women's fishing in NSW: a thematic history

Challenges in the landscape: memories of conserving historic heritage in the NSW park system 1967–2000 (reprint)

Cultural heritage research prospectus

Consultation requirements for proponents:

- Fact sheet 1 – what is Aboriginal cultural knowledge?
- Fact sheet 2 – what is an Aboriginal cultural landscape?
- Fact sheet 3 – cultural knowledge and its protection
- Fact sheet 4 – local Aboriginal land councils
- Fact sheet 5 – land use planning
- Questions and answers 1 – the consultation requirements process
- Questions and answers 2 – transitional arrangements

Myall Lakes National Park: a people's history

There were always people here: a history of Yuraygir National Park

## Education and community relations

Air quality in NSW (fact sheet)

Beachwatch and Harbourwatch: state of the beaches 2008–09

Beachwatch Partnership Program: state of the beaches 2008–09

BioBanking for conservationists (brochure)

BioBanking for developers (brochure)

BioBanking for landholders (brochure)

Bushfire hazard reduction and the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (brochure)

Clear the air (brochure)

Clear the air education resource kit

Clear the air posters:

- Cycling
- Enviro driving
- Taking public transport
- Walking

Clear the air social research backgrounder

Commercial and industrial waste in Sydney: overview (brochure)

Commercial licensing of protected native plants in the cut-flower industry (brochure)

Dealing with neighbourhood noise (revised brochure)

Do you plan to carry out private native forestry in NSW? (brochure)

Energy efficient heating (fact sheet)

Energy efficient lighting (fact sheet)

Flying-foxes of NSW (brochure)

Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program (brochure)

Guide to NSW national parks 2009–10

How to make your seawall more environmentally friendly (brochure)

Land contamination: what are my responsibilities? (brochure)

Living sustainably e-newsletters:

- Issue 13
- Issue 14
- Issue 15

Love food, hate waste (brochure)

Love food, hate waste: food waste avoidance benchmark study 2009 at a glance

Managing noise from intruder alarms (revised brochure)

Managing vehicle noise (revised brochure)

Native vegetation assistance package for private native forestry (fact sheet)

NSW State of the Environment 2009 summary

Parks Eco Pass: information guide, fast facts and frequently asked questions

Reform and action: strengthening environmental protection and

sustainability in NSW (brochure)

Review of the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*

Review of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*

Save power fact sheets:

- General fact sheet
- Appliances
- Cooling systems
- Heating
- Home cooling
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Refrigeration
- Work

Sustainability Advantage case studies

- Austral Bricks
- Carlingford Court
- Converga
- De Bortoli Wines
- Goodman Fielder
- Inghams Enterprises Pty Ltd
- Marquis Bathroom Products Pty Ltd
- Ontera Modular Carpets
- Riverina Cluster
- Rockdale Beef
- Rondo Building Services
- Schindler Lifts Australia
- Sydney Markets Limited
- TAFE – Northern Sydney Institute
- The Schindler Group

Towra Point internationally significant wetlands (brochure)

Training for dangerous goods driver licensing in NSW

Walks with native plants in La Perouse (brochure)

Waste tyres: know your responsibilities (brochure)

Water for the environment news: spring/summer 2010

Who cares about the environment in 2009? At a glance

Working with local government toward a sustainable future:

- March 2010
- May 2010

## Terrestrial reserve plans of management

### Draft plans

Aberaldie Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Belford National Park Draft Plan of Management

Ben Boyd National Park and Bellbird Creek Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Binjura Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Broadwater National Park Draft Plan of Management

Bungawalbin and Yarrungully Parks and Reserves Draft Plan of Management

Cape Byron State Conservation Area (Cape Byron Headland Reserve) Plan of Management: proposed amendments

Columbey Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Cook Island Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Dural Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Duroby Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Eusdale Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Julian Rocks Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management: proposed amendments to increase volunteer ski patrol beds

Mummel Gulf National Park and State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

Northern Monaro Reserves (incorporating Dangelong, Wadjan, Kybeyan, Numeralla, Undoo, Coornartha, Mount Clifford and Good Good Nature Reserves, and Kybeyan and Macanally State Conservation Areas) Draft Plan of Management

Prospect Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Tallaganda National Park and State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

### **Approved plans**

Amendments to Cape Byron State Conservation Area (Cape Byron Headland Reserve) Plan of Management (provision of visitor facilities at The Pass)

Avondale State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Bangadilly National Park Plan of Management

Border Ranges Rainforest Biodiversity Management Plan (NSW and Queensland)

Brindabella National Park and State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Burra Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Chaelundi National Park and State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Cockle Bay, Rileys Island, Pelican Island and Saratoga Island Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Dananbilla, Koorawatha, Illunie and Gungewalla Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Ellerslie Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Gardens of Stone National Park Plan of Management

Gibraltar Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Jerilderie Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Jerrawangala National Park and Parma Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management

John Gould Nature Reserve and Boondelbah Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Jubullum Flat Camp Aboriginal Area Plan of Management

Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management (geotechnical and water management amendments)

Mount Hyland Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Mullion Range State Conservation Area and Giralang Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Munmorah State Conservation Area and Bird Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Munro Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Razorback Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Scabby Range Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve Plan of Management: amendments

Scott Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Turallo Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Tweed Estuary Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Wee Jasper Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Wereboldera State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Woomargama National Park and State Conservation Area, and Mullengandra Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Yaouk Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Yellomundee Regional Park Plan of Management

Yengo National Park, Parr State Conservation Area and Finchley Aboriginal Area Plan of Management

### **Fire management plans and strategies**

Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2009

Bimberi Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2008

Brindabella National Park and State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy 2008

Durrigere State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy 2009

Evans Crown Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2009

Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy 2009

Paroo–Darling National Park (Coonavitra Section) Fire Management Strategy 2009

Paroo–Darling National Park (Tilpilly Section) Fire Management Strategy 2009

Paroo–Darling National Park (Wilga and Mount Murchison Sections) Fire Management Strategy 2009

Yarrobil National Park and Goodiman State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy 2009

### **New or revised parks and reserves brochures**

Accommodation, Cape Byron Lighthouse cottages

Discovering Gondwana: a guide to Dorrigo National Park

Manning coast park brochure

Myall Lakes National Park: a people's history

Myall Lakes National Park: the guide

New England National Park (75th anniversary edition)

New England Wilderness Walk, New England National Park

Parks of the Hunter Region  
 Parks and reserves of the far south coast  
 South coast region National Parks and Wildlife Newspaper  
 Tread lightly: Cape Byron State Conservation Area

### **Marine parks publications**

Lord Howe Island Marine Park attitudinal report  
 Lord Howe Island Marine Park: summary of research and monitoring  
 Lord Howe Island Marine Park visitor and expenditure survey  
 Natural values of Lord Howe Island Marine Park  
 Recreational fishing in NSW marine parks (revision)  
 Review of Lord Howe Island Marine Park zoning plan  
 Seabed mapping in the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks  
 Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Parks: research project summaries 2002–09

## **NSW Office of Water**

### **Corporate**

Department of Water and Energy annual report 2008–2009  
 Working for the NSW Office of Water – applicant information pack  
 Your guide to [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

### **Water licensing and management**

Cap and pipe your bores to improve water supply  
 Darling River Water Saving Project – community update Number 2  
 Management of the 2010 flood event in the Menindee Lakes System  
 Management of Menindee Lakes releases to South Australia  
 News for licence holders (Issues 1, 2, and 3)  
 Lower Murrumbidgee groundwater sources: Groundwater Management Area 002 groundwater status report – 2009  
 Lower Murrumbidgee groundwater sources: resource condition assessment report – 2010  
 NSW Great Artesian Basin water auction 2009: final report  
 Guideline to the policy for groundwater transfers in inland NSW outside water sharing plan areas  
 Impact of groundwater pumping on river systems – a conceptual model of a shallow, highly connected aquifer-stream system for regulated and unregulated rivers  
 Introducing the Hawkesbury–Nepean Water Metering Project  
 Improving water balance accounting in the Hawkesbury–Nepean Catchment: Hawkesbury–Nepean Water Metering Project  
 Riparian vegetation extent for environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting: project report  
 NSW strategic water information and monitoring plan – final report

NSW strategic water information and monitoring plan – water inventory and observation networks in New South Wales

The Murray River algal bloom evaluation and recommendations for the future management of major outbreaks

NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy. Draft for community consultation

Review of 2010 bulk water prices – NSW Office of Water submission to IPART

Strategic compliance in the Macquarie Valley: project report

Development of catchment health. Indicators for the drinking water catchments – Sydney, the Illawarra, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven

Snowy River recovery. Snowy flow response monitoring and modelling: assessment of matters of national environmental significance in the Snowy and Montane rivers

Returning environmental flows to the Snowy River: an overview of water recovery, management and delivery of increased flows

Environmental water monitoring in unregulated rivers: fish assemblages of Coopers Creek and the Wilsons River, with special reference to the eastern freshwater cod

Environmental water monitoring in unregulated rivers: review of the ecology and environmental water requirements of the endangered eastern freshwater cod

Environmental water monitoring in unregulated rivers: assessment of fish passage and low flow habitat protection – Coopers Creek, NSW

Environmental flow response and socioeconomic monitoring. Macquarie Valley – progress report 2009

Final report – five-year review of the Snowy Hydro Water Licence – licence review – May 2002 to May 2007

Proposed variation of the Snowy Hydro Water Licence – in accordance with Clause 26(1)(b), and (e) of the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997* (NSW)

### **Critical water planning communiqués**

Lachlan (Issues 4–11)

Murrumbidgee (Issues 25–35)

Lower Murray Darling (Issues 25–35)

Flood flows in the Barwon–Darling River system (Issues 1–9)

### **Factsheets**

Guide to water access licences and certificates

Compliance powers, offences and penalties – questions and answers

Water management charges for licensed water users 2009/2010

Transaction fees for access licences and approvals under the *Water Management Act 2000*

Guide to the conversion of water licences to water access licences and approvals

Extending water supply work and/or use approvals

## Water sharing plans and support documents

Draft plans:

- Murrumbidgee Catchment unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 13 report cards
- Towamba River unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 22 report cards
- Bega and Brogo Rivers unregulated, regulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 12 report cards
- Peel Valley regulated, unregulated, alluvial and fractured rock water sources – guide, background document, 8 report cards
- Richmond River Area unregulated, regulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 22 report cards
- Tweed River Area unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 31 report cards
- Greater Metropolitan Region surface water sources – guide, background document, 49 report cards
- Greater Metropolitan Region groundwater sources – guide, background document, 13 report cards

Final plans:

- Coffs Harbour Area unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 13 report cards, 13 summary rules
- Central Coast unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 5 report cards, 5 summary rules
- Hunter unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 37 report cards, 37 summary rules
- Lower North Coast unregulated and alluvial water sources – guide, background document, 21 report cards, 21 summary rules
- NSW Border Rivers regulated river water source – guide, background document

Guidelines for groundwater sharing plan report cards

Guidelines for surface water sharing plan report cards

Macro water sharing plans – the approach for unregulated rivers. A report to assist community consultation

Coopers Creek Water Sharing Plan: socio-economic impact assessment of changes to the flow rules

Economic assessment relating to the draft water sharing plan for the Peel Valley: Changes to the alluvial groundwater access rules for Cockburn River and Goonoo Goonoo Creek

Economic assessment of proposed Goonoo Goonoo Creek alluvial groundwater access rules

## Urban water

2008–09 NSW water supply and sewerage: benchmarking report

2008–09 NSW water supply and sewerage: performance monitoring report

Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program

Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program – achievements in 2008–09

Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program – highlights and achievements

Protect our environment by managing your liquid trade waste – important information for businesses in country NSW

Draft Schedule under the Water Industry Competition (General) Amendment (Licensing Exemptions) Regulation 2008

Water for Life brand guidelines

Updating the Metropolitan Water Plan: community views – summary of findings from phase 1 of the consultation

## 14. Papers published and presented

Papers published and presented by DECCW staff, except for those by Botanic Gardens Trust employees. The Botanic Gardens Trust lists its scientific publications separately in its own annual report.

Alexander B, Ling J and Saintilan N 2009, 'Investigations to better the use of environmental water in the northern Murray Darling Basin, Australia. Subprogram II of the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program', *Wetland Science and Practice*, 26(4), pp. 6–11.

Armstrong J, Denham R, Danaher T, Scarth P and Moffiet T 2009, 'Prediction and validation of foliage projective cover from Landsat-5 TM and Landsat-7 ETM+ imagery for Queensland, Australia', *Journal of Applied Remote Sensing* 3.

Barmuta L, Turak E and Linke S 2009, 'Implementing systematic conservation plans: overcoming the impediments', 12th International River Symposium, Brisbane, Australia, 21–24 September 2009.

Barnes P, Wilson B, Nadolny C and Grown I 2009, 'The influence of individual native trees and grazing regime on soil properties and groundcover patterns in a temperate landscape of New South Wales, Australia', *The Rangeland Journal* 31, pp. 405–415.

Barnes P, Wilson BR and Lockwood P 2010, 'Integrating scattered trees into grazing landscapes to manage soil sustainably', oral presentation to the European Geosciences Union, General Assembly 2010, Vienna, Austria, 2–7 May 2010.

Bedward M, Ellis MV and Simpson C 2009, 'Simple modelling to assess if offsets schemes can prevent biodiversity loss, using examples from Australian woodlands', *Biological Conservation*, 142, pp. 2732–2742.

Berhane D 2009, 'Use of multiple methods for assessing surface and groundwater connectivity – Cockburn River, New South Wales', abstract, Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, 2009 Science Forum.

Berhane D and Vervoort W 2010, 'Use of multiple methods for assessing surface and groundwater connectivity – Cockburn River, New South Wales', poster presented at the Centenary Research Symposium, The University of Sydney.

Bonaccorso F and Pennay M 2008, '*Pipistrellus watti*', in *IUCN red list of threatened species*, version 2010.1, IUCN, 2010.

Bowen S and Simpson SL 2010, 'What are we getting for our wetting? Measuring ecosystem responses – the role of monitoring change in extent and condition of vegetation communities in response to environmental water', Ecosystem Response Modelling in the Murray–Darling Basin: Better Use of Environmental Water Conference, Sydney, Australia 11–12 May 2010.

Bowling L, Honeyman G, Crawford D, Holliday J, Egan S and Ryan D 2009, 'Preliminary results of investigations into in-situ fluorometry and biovolume as management tools', oral presentation to Cyanobacterial Bloom Management – Current and Future Options, Parramatta, Australia 12–13 August 2009.

Bowling L 2009, 'Cyanobacterial blooms in New South Wales – causes, monitoring and management', oral presentation to Les cyanobactéries - rencontre d'échanges d'informations, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, 1 September 2009.

Bowling L 2009, 'A recent case study – the Murray River cyanobacterial bloom autumn 2009 – monitoring results and implications', oral presentation to Les cyanobactéries - rencontre d'échanges d'informations, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, 1 September 2009.

Bowling L 2009, 'Preliminary results of investigations into in-situ fluorometry and biovolume as management tools', oral presentation to Les cyanobactéries - rencontre d'échanges d'informations, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, 1 September 2009.

Bradstock R, Davies I, Price O and Cary G 2008, *Effects of climate change on bushfire threats to biodiversity, ecosystem processes and people in the Sydney region, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Project*, final report to DECCW.

Bradstock RA, Hammill K A, Collins L and Price O 2009, 'Effects of weather, fuel and terrain on fire severity in topographically diverse landscapes of south-eastern Australia', *Landscape Ecology*, published online 25 December 2009.

Briggs SV 2009, 'Priorities and paradigms: directions in threatened species recovery', *Conservation Letters* 2, pp. 101–108.

Brown S 2009, 'Playing God with history? Creating "wild nature" from living landscapes', poster presented to Australian Archaeology Association Conference, Flinders University, Adelaide, December 2009.

Brown S 2010, 'Pastoral landscapes and parks: a practical approach to heritage management', presented to ICOMOS Australia: ICOMOS 2010 Outback and Beyond Conference, Broken Hill, April 2010.

Cavanagh V 2009, 'The dilemma of ethics in cross-cultural human geography research', presented to Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, James Cook University, Cairns, September 2009.

Cendon DI, Hankin S, Williams JP, Dimovski C, Meredith KT, Hughes CE and Hollins SE 2009, 'Groundwater residence time in the Kulnura–Mangrove Mountain Plateau', in Grice K and Trinajstić K (eds), *The 10th Australasian Environmental Isotope Conference and 3rd Australasian Hydrogeological Research Conference Perth WA 1–3 December 2009*, p. 6.

Chapman J, Pablo F, Julli M, Patra R, Sunderam R, Manning T and Sargent N 2009, 'Toxicity assessment of a lanthanum-based clay product to fish and cladoceran', ASE conference – 'Toxicants in a Changing Environment, Adelaide, Australia, 20–23 September 2009.

Chapman JC, Sanchez-Bayo F and Rendell P 2009, 'International experience in incorporating bioaccumulation into water quality guidelines', ASE conference – Toxicants in a Changing Environment, Adelaide, Australia, 20–23 September 2009.

Chejara V, Kriticos D, Kristiansen P, Sindel B, Whalley R, Nadolny C 2010, 'The current and future potential geographical distribution of *Hyparrhenia hirta*', *Weed Research* 50, pp. 174–184.

Chessman BC 2009, 'Climatic changes and 13-year trends in stream macroinvertebrate assemblages in New South Wales, Australia', *Global Change Biology* 15, pp. 2791–2802.

Chessman BC, Royal MJ and Muschal M 2009, 'The challenge of monitoring impacts of water abstraction on macroinvertebrate assemblages in unregulated streams', *River Research and Applications*, December 2009, vol. 9999, pp. 1535–1467.

- Chessman BC and Townsend SA 2010, 'Differing effects of catchment land use on water chemistry explain contrasting behaviour of a diatom index in tropical northern and temperate southern Australia', *Ecological Indicators* 10, pp. 620–626.
- Chessman BC, Westhorpe DP, Mitrovic SM and Hardwick L 2009, 'Trophic linkages between periphyton and grazing macroinvertebrates in rivers with different levels of catchment development', *Hydrobiologia* 625, pp. 135–150.
- Choung CB, Hyne RV and Hose GC 2009, 'The individual and joint effects of corn pesticides on the development of the endangered southern bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*)', SETAC North America, New Orleans, USA, November 2009.
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## 15. Overseas visits by staff

The following table shows details of all overseas travel by DECCW staff for work purposes. Staff of the Botanic Gardens Trust are not included in this list, as the trust provides this information in a separate annual report.

Name	Purpose of visit	Destination	Dates	Cost to DECCW	Notes
Bowling, Dr Lee	Study developments into research and management of blue-green algal blooms	Quebec and Nova Scotia, Canada, and Vermont, USA.	31 August–9 October 2009	Nil	Funded by an Australian Academy of Science grant, and the Quebec provincial government
Bowman, Greg	Australia–China International Science Linkages Project	Lake Taihu, (Shanghai region) and Nanjing, China	19–28 July 2008	\$1,170	The trip was undertaken in 2008–09 but paid for in 2009–10
Brown, Steve	Undertake a technical evaluation of a World Heritage nomination	Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands	7–17 September 2009	Nil	Funded by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
Byrne, Denis	Participate in a workshop on conserving objects of cultural heritage and the use of air-conditioning, in the context of climate change	Malacca, Malaysia	27–31 August 2009	Nil	Funded by the University of Singapore
Choi, Patrick	Participate in the joint Australian/Cambodian project for the destruction of precursor chemicals for illicit drug manufacturing, to advise on environment protection measures and safe disposal of hazardous chemicals.	Battambang, Cambodia	25 January–5 February 2010	Nil	Funded by the Australian Federal Police
Chau, Phung TK Lewis, Brad	Scientific instrument training at factory	Tokyo, Japan	13–22 August 2009	\$4,531	
Davies, Peter	Indian Ocean Colour Remote Sensing Workshop	Singapore	15–20 March 2010	\$2,243	
Davies, Richard	Participate in an International Year of Biodiversity visitor experience planning project	Lord Howe Island	30 March–1 April 2010	\$1,188	
Burton, Tegan Croft, Greg Harnadi, Victor Hellmann, Kathleen Henderson, Alan Keyzer, Chris North, Holly O'Donovan, Vera Pavich, Chris Scott-Lawson, Duncan Urquhart, Fluer Woodhall, Steve	6th World Ranger Congress	Santa Cruz, Bolivia	2–7 November 2009	\$10,000	All DECCW participants were self-funded, but DECCW contributed \$10,000 to sponsoring delegates from developing countries

Name	Purpose of visit	Destination	Dates	Cost to DECCW	Notes
Downey, Paul	Attend the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions Conference	Stellenbosch, South Africa	21–29 August 2009	Nil	Self-funded
Ferguson, Angus	Present a paper to the 20th Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation	Portland, USA	31 October–6 November 2009	\$4,442	
Hayes, John Isaac, Vicky	Undertake factory acceptance testing for the water quality database at the Kisters Pty Ltd head office	Aachen, Germany	21–28 May 2010	\$1,890	Other costs paid by hosts
Hayes, John	Present a paper to the 9th Kisters International User Group Conference, hosted by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute	Norrköping, Sweden	7–11 June 2010	\$525	Other travel costs paid by hosts
Hoey, Dave	Present a paper to the International Conference on Management of Soil and Groundwater Salinisation in Arid Regions	Muscat, Oman	11–14 January 2010	Nil	Self-funded
Hyne, Dr Ross	Attend the annual meeting of the Society for Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology	Seville, Spain	23–27 May 2010	\$1,793	Airfare self-funded
Keith, David	International Scientific Symposium	Mexico and USA	17 April–7 May 2009	\$5,375	The trip was undertaken in 2008–09 but paid for in 2009–10
Lawrance, Caroline	Attend an International Building Conservation Masterclass	Chichester, United Kingdom	1–4 June 2010	Nil	Self-funded
Lord, Doug You, Dr Bob	Attend the International Coastal and Port Conference	Wellington, New Zealand	16–18 September 2009	\$4,923	
Manning, Therese	Attend the Mid-America Toxicology Course	Kansas City, USA	25–30 April 2010	\$5,900	
McAllister, Jenny	Attend the World Expo and participate in various meetings with Australian and Chinese officials	Shanghai, China	10–15 June 2010	\$9,568	
Mitrovic, Dr Simon	Present a paper to the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Conference	New Orleans, USA	19–23 November 2009	\$1,437	Other travel costs self-funded and paid by the University of Technology, Sydney
Neilson, Joseph	Conduct field survey on fish	Lord Howe Island	12 June–2 July 2009	\$1,260	Part of the trip was undertaken in 2009–10
Pemberton, Dave	Attend Executive Masters of Public Administration Program conducted by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government	Wellington, New Zealand	1–6 December 2009	\$2,455	

Name	Purpose of visit	Destination	Dates	Cost to DECCW	Notes
Priddel, Dr David	Attend a workshop on rabbit eradication and present a paper to the Island Invasives: Eradication and Management Conference	Christchurch and Auckland, New Zealand	3–13 February 2010	\$1,734	Airfares and some other costs funded by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre
Roach, Dr Anthony	Attend the 29th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants ('Dioxin 2010')	Beijing, China	21–29 August 2009	\$2,205	Accommodation costs funded externally. Airfare self-funded.
Saintilan, Dr Neil	Annual Conference of the Society of Wetland Scientists	Salt Lake City, USA	27 June–2 July 2010	\$4,421	Part of the trip was undertaken in 2009–10
Saintilan, Dr Neil	Present a paper to the 6th China-Australia Symposium towards Sustainable Coastal and Deltaic Systems under Climate Change	Guangzhou and Xiamen, China	11–16 October 2009	\$506	Other costs funded by the Australian and Chinese Academies of Science
Schalk, Tara	Present a paper to the Asian Conference of Social Sciences	Osaka, Japan	18–21 June 2010	Nil	Funded by the University of Canberra
Shaikh, Mustak	Present a paper to the American Water Resources Association 2010 Conference	Orlando, USA	27 March–15 April 2010	Nil	All costs met by an externally funded project (Integrated Monitoring of Environmental Flows)
Smith, Ian Henderson, Alan Clark, Peter Leathers, Sean	Four DECCW staff were part of 30 Australian and New Zealand professionals deployed to Canada to provide fire management expertise to the British Columbia Forest Service	British Columbia, Canada	5 August–8 September 2009	Nil	Funded by the provincial government of British Columbia
Turak, Dr Eren	Present a paper to the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology	Beijing, China	10–17 July 2009	\$3,671	
Wen, Dr Li	Attend a joint International Convention of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences and International Association of Hydrogeologists	Hyderabad, India	6–12 September 2009	\$3,461	
Wilkinson, Dr Ian	Present a paper to the Island Invasives: Eradication and Management Conference	Auckland, New Zealand	7–13 February 2010	\$1,374	Other costs met by the Lord Howe Island Board
Yang, Dr Xihua	Present a paper to the 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE6) and undertake work on Australia–China collaborative projects	Beijing, China	7 Sept–6 Oct 2009	\$2,500	
Zylstra, Phillip	Attend a FireGlobe Steering Committee meeting	Alcala, Spain	30 November–4 December 2009	Nil	Self-funded

## 16. Consultancies

A consultant is an organisation or individual engaged for a defined period of time solely to provide an expert opinion or recommendation to DECCW on a specific issue.

<b>Consultancies of \$50,000 or more</b>		<b>2009–10</b>
<b>Consultant</b>	<b>Product description</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	Feasibility study for a solar power precinct(s) within NSW	159,000
App Corporation Pty Ltd	Sustaining The Basin – business case	51,777
Argus Consulting Group	Development of Parks and Wildlife Group business plan	99,856
Department of Services Technology and Admin	Scoping study & NOW modelled flow data study	66,265
Elton Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Sydney Harbour plan of management	75,657
Elton Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Phase 2 – 2006 Metro water plan	111,912
Epacris Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd	3D footprint data and photo shoot design	58,000
Ernst & Young	Management services – NOW	133,566
Hamstead Consulting Pty Ltd	NWC – integration of water sharing plans and Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council cap on diversions	152,840
McMillan Staff Development	Staff development ranger progression	142,891
Marianne Porteners	Vegetation and floristic survey	58,093
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Develop business cases for NSW Sustaining the Basin projects	922,783
UNSW Global Pty Ltd	Seedbank study	59,790
<b>Subtotal – consultancies of \$50,000 or more</b>		<b>2,092,430</b>

<b>Consultancies less than \$50,000</b>		<b>2009–10</b>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
Finance and accounting	0	–
Economic	1	34,500
Information technology	1	45,472
Legal	1	20,489
Management services	18	270,579
Environment	38	533,031
Engineering	0	–
Organisational review	1	48,367
Training	0	–
<b>Subtotal – consultancies less than \$50,000</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>952,439</b>
<b>Subtotal – consultancies of \$50,000 or more</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,092,430</b>
<b>Total consultancies</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>3,044,869</b>

## 17. Grants to community organisations

For the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

### Key to programs

1. Climate Change and Policy Programs
2. Parks and Wildlife
3. Country, Culture and Heritage
4. Environment Protection and Regulation
5. Scientific Services
6. Urban Water Utilities
7. Water Management

Recipient	Amount (\$)	Program	Nature and purpose of grant
Aboriginal Housing Company Ltd	29,999.99	2	Dharug co-management project
Access Community Group	5,940.00	1	Water efficiency project
Addison Road Centre	16,985.00	1	Addison Road Centre water efficiency improvement project
Albert Golf Club Ltd	40,000.00	1	Albert Golf Club and community water reduction drive
Albion Park RSL Memorial Club Ltd	30,823.00	1	Energy efficiency improvement project
Alcheringa Pre-school Association Inc	7,199.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
All Saints Anglican Church	33,100.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
All Saints Pre-school Albion Park Inc	35,061.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Amy Hurd Child Care Centre	21,556.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Anglican Diocese of Sydney	160,000.00	1	Energy saving laundries at Chesalon Living in Jannali, South Nowra and Woonona
Anglican Parish of Charlestown	17,710.00	1	St Alban's energy saving and reduced ecological footprint initiative
Anglican Parish of Springwood	12,645.00	1	Rainwater harvesting and use for toilet flushing at mountain churches
Armidale Greyhound Racing Club	30,709.00	1	Water efficiency project
Ashmont Pre-school Inc	27,809.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Australian Hindu Multicultural Association Inc	17,250.00	1	Water efficiency project at the Sanatan Cultural Centre
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc	3,240.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Ballina Tennis Club	16,015.00	1	Water efficiency project
Ballina Touch Association Inc	8,299.75	1	Water efficiency project
Bangalow Anglican Church Op Shop	7,800.00	1	Ceiling insulation, and rainwater storage and re-use on-site
Bangalow Bowling & Sports Club Ltd	8,500.00	1	Solar hot water and energy-efficient lighting upgrade
Bangalow Community Children's Centre	22,805.00	1	Global Conscience Project – water and energy efficiency
Bangalow Masonic Lodge	6,600.00	1	Water efficiency project
Baptist Community Services	305,230.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Barnardos Australia	44,001.00	1	Barnardos at Auburn and Penrith Children's Family Centre Green Solution

Recipient	Amount (\$)	Program	Nature and purpose of grant
Batemans Bay Soldiers Club Ltd	37,500.00	1	Business Treading Lightly – energy-use reduction
Bathurst Baptist Church	18,058.00	1	Caring for the Community – “energy efficiency project
Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre	9,127.00	1	Solar hot water installation
Bellinger Valley–North Beach Surf Life Saving Club	8,730.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Ben Lomond War Memorial Hall Trust	14,087.00	1	Clean Water and Energy Max Cover Program at the community hall: stage 2
Benelong’s Haven Ltd	38,000.00	1	Sustainable and efficient residential rehabilitation accommodation
Berry Community Pre-school Inc	35,074.00	1	Water and energy saving upgrades
Bexley RSL & Community Club	38,000.00	1	Water and energy reduction
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare	15,000.00	1	Strategic weed control
Blacktown Tennis Inc	33,200.00	1	Rooty Hill Tennis & Squash Centre – Water Wise Project
Blaxland Pre-school Kindergarten	19,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre	26,363.63	2	Dharug co-management project
Bodalla Bowling & Recreation Club	15,303.00	1	Business Treading Lightly – energy efficiency project
Bolton Point Child Care Centre	40,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Brayside Community Pre-school	12,134.00	1	Brayside water-saving project
Bundanoon District Pre-school	3,379.00	1	Bundanoon pre-school water-sustainability project
Bundeena Christian Training School & Fellowship Ltd	37,500.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Bungendore Pre-school	9,732.00	1	Water and energy saving plan
Burdon Torzillo and Associates	4,125.00	2	Dharug co-management project
Cabarita Beach Bowls & Sports Club Ltd	15,475.00	1	Cabarita’s Green Revolution – water and energy efficiency project
Camden Pre-school Kindergarten Co-operative Ltd	39,752.00	1	Camden Pre-school water works
Campsie Baptist Church	10,154.00	1	Environment conservation project
Catalina Country Club Ltd	37,500.00	1	Environmental sustainability project
Catherine Pre-school East Maitland Inc	9,500.00	1	Water-saving strategy – rainwater harvesting
Catholic Care of the Aged	296,137.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Catholic Parish of St Patricks West Tamworth	9,000.00	1	St Patricks Hall – energy efficiency project
Catholic Parish of St Patrick Lithgow	40,000.00	1	Fatima Hall – water efficiency project
Central Coast Campus Union Ltd	35,500.00	1	Campus Central – energy efficient lighting upgrade
Central Coast Community College	19,518.00	1	Shed Some Light Project

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Nature and purpose of grant</b>
Central Coast Community Environment Network Inc	31,170.00	1	Land for Wildlife – coordination and energy efficiency project
Chatswood RSL Club Ltd	26,834.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Chillingham Community Association Ltd	11,303.00	1	Community sustainability showcase
Coal & Candle Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade	18,303.00	1	Coal and Candle rainwater harvesting facility
Coldstream Community Pre-school	19,359.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Comboyne Community Association	10,953.00	1	Mid-north coast – to establish a Centre for Sustainability
Commercial Club (Albury) Ltd	37,499.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Como Pre-school Kindergarten	33,882.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Concord West Rhodes Pre-school	7,150.00	1	Water efficiency project
Condobolin Gospel Trust	34,500.00	1	Condobolin Water Savers and Greening Project
Coonabarabran Bowling Club	2,500.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Coonabarabran Bowling Club Co-operative Ltd	37,258.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Corowa Pre-school	35,891.00	1	Water efficiency project
Cowra Rugby Club Inc	26,065.00	1	Community savers project
Crescent Head Country Club Ltd	38,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Cuddleprie Early Childhood Learning Centre	4,470.00	1	Water efficiency project solar hot water system
Culburra & Districts Pre-school	26,866.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Dalwood Auxillary Inc	38,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Denison Partnership	15,794.54	4	Wetland management agreement
Djalaringi Child Centre Inc	7,790.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Dubbo District Pre-school Kindergarten	35,906.00	1	Energy optimisation project
Dungog Menshed Inc	26,560.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club Ltd	37,483.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Elizabeth Street Extended Hours Pre-school	18,540.00	1	Water savings project
Empire Bay Progress Association Inc	10,370.00	1	Empire Bay Community Creating Environmental Future
Environmental Training & Employment Inc	20,000.00	1	Connectivity conservation incentives – Wompoo Gorge, Huonbrook
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW Inc	39,700.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW Inc	66,000.00	7	Water education in CALD communities
Federation of Parents & Citizens	5,909.09	1	Sponsorship of environment award for parents at the annual state conference
Forster Croquet Club Inc	18,738.00	1	Water savings project
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	12,500.00	1	Private land conservation grants program
Friends of the Koala Inc	3,240.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Garry RB & Leanne M Hall	4,521.24	4	Wetland management agreement
Girrinbai Community Pre-school	19,679.00	1	Water efficiency project

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Nature and purpose of grant</b>
Glenbrook Pre-school Kindergarten	24,366.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Gloucester Pre-school Inc	20,115.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Goonellabah & District Soccer Club Inc	28,230.00	1	Water efficiency project
Goonellabah Pre-school Inc	31,590.00	1	Water efficiency project
Graeme Lewis Sims Black	27,869.40	4	Wetland management agreement
Grafton Greyhound Racing Club	18,508.00	1	Water efficiency project – irrigation system upgrade
Grantham Heights Uniting Church	19,962.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Great Lakes Children's Centre Inc	39,802.00	1	Installation of water and energy saving technologies
Green Team Development Unit	200,000.00	3	Three-year commitment to the regional partnership agreement in the Many Rivers region
Grenfell Country Club	18,782.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Grenfell Pre-school & Long Day Care Centre	23,489.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc	100,000.00	2	Gundungurra co-management project
Gundungurra Tribal Council	103,500.00	2	Gundungurra co-management project
Gunedoo Child Protection Service Inc	16,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Hope Healthcare Ltd	79,982.00	1	Braeside and Greenwich Hospital Lighting Efficiency Scheme
Illawarra Area Child Care Ltd	66,696.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Illawarra Children's Services	18,300.00	1	Water efficiency project
Illawarra Montessori Pre-school	22,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Illawarra Retirement Trust	293,801.09	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Interaction Disability Services Ltd	98,745.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Jarjum Centre Inc	16,896.00	1	Jarjum Aboriginal Centre Enhancement Program
Jo Pender Memorial Scholarship	500.00	2	Jo Pender Memorial Scholarship
John Balcomb Oval Community Operating Committee	34,945.00	1	Upgrading irrigation system at John Balcomb Field
Johns River Community Hall	24,985.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Jumping Jacks Community Pre-school Inc	3,251.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Keiraville Community Pre-school	22,513.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Kempsey Children's Services Co-Op Ltd	64,455.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Kiama Surf Life Saving Club	15,988.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Kingscliff Mini School Inc	7,717.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Kooloora Community Centre	26,021.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Lambton Bowling Club Co-Operative Ltd	36,381.00	1	Water efficiency project
Lansvale United Sports Club	37,268.00	1	Stormwater irrigation project
Larool Pre-school Inc	1,161.55	1	Water saving project
Lawson Bowling Club Ltd	22,245.00	1	Energy efficiency project

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Nature and purpose of grant</b>
Leeton & District Bowling Club	15,400.00	1	Automatic sprinkler irrigation system
Lifeline Broken Hill Inc	14,000.00	1	Water saving project
Lions Club of Jindabyne	250.00	2	Donation for Koori art prize
Lismore Pre-school Kindergarten Inc	28,161.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Lismore Thistles Soccer Club Inc	28,800.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Little Yuin Aboriginal Pre-school	7,855.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Lockhart Golf Club Ltd	39,200.00	1	Water efficient irrigation system
Looking After Our Kosciuszko Orphans (LAOKO)	3,000.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Macquarie Hills Community Pre-school	7,774.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Macquarie Pre-Schools Co-Operative Ltd	25,895.00	1	Energy management and efficiency project
Macquarie Scorpions Inc	38,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Malua Bay Bowling & Recreation Club	15,784.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Mangrove Mountain & Districts Community Group Inc	7,200.00	1	Climate control for Mangrove Mountain Hall
Manildra Bowling Club Ltd	38,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Marine Discovery Centre	2,000.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Maroubra Neighbourhood Children's Centre	3,440.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Medowie Community Pre-school Inc	29,898.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Merana Aboriginal Community Association for the Hawkesbury	22,727.27	2	Dharug co-management project
Merimbula RSL Club Ltd	7,896.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Merimbula-Imlay Bowling Club Ltd	8,724.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Metro Screen Ltd	37,722.00	1	Energy efficiency project – studio lighting upgrade
Mikayla Children's Centre Inc	19,917.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Miranda Kindergarten Association Inc	1,500.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Miranda Kindergarten Association Inc	20,948.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Mission Australia	4,075.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart	1,025,200.00	4	Biodiversity credits
Mittagong Pre-school Kindergarten	33,747.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Mollymook Beach Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd	37,500.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Moorebank Sports Club Ltd	21,340.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Morton PJ & SE	12,600.00	4	Dundomallee Station bank construction
Moruya Bowling & Recreation Club	16,672.00	1	Energy efficiency project – lighting upgrade
Moruya Golf Club Ltd	12,390.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Mount Pritchard & District Community Club Ltd	35,679.99	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Mulong Pty Ltd	4,363.64	2	Dharug co-management project
Murwillumbah Services Memorial Club	35,830.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Muswellbrook Pre-school Kindergarten	11,407.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Nambucca Heads Local Aboriginal Land Council	17,373.00	1	Energy efficiency project – the Mish Shed

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Nature and purpose of grant</b>
Nambucca Heads Pre-school Playcentre Ltd	20,987.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Nambucca Heads Surf Life Saving Club Inc	29,065.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Narooma Golf Club Ltd & Surfbeach Resort	38,705.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Narooma Pre-school Kindergarten	14,884.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Narooma Sporting and Services Club	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Narromine Pre-school Kindergarten	572.00	1	Water efficiency project – water saving taps
Newcastle Family Support Services	20,375.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Newcastle Macedonia Sports Club	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Nigyanni Indigenous Corporation	15,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
North Coast Sikh Association Inc	5,200.00	1	Energy efficiency project
North Shore Temple Emanuel	26,000.00	1	Energy efficiency project
North West Livestock Health & Pest Authority	8,356.80	4	Gwydir Wetlands – NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program
Northcott Disability Services	2,500.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	3,240.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Nowra Bowling & Recreation Club	33,629.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Oaks Flats Bowling & Recreation Club	20,995.00	1	Water efficiency project
Ocean Shores Pre-school Inc	11,000.00	1	Ocean Shores Sustainable Education Project – energy and water savings
Orange City Bowling Club Ltd	35,000.00	1	Sustainable Solar Solutions Energy efficiency project
Pacific Palms Bowling Club Ltd	40,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Pambula Aquatic Centre Inc	11,350.00	1	Water efficiency project
Pambula–Merimbula Golf Club Ltd	37,385.00	1	Green Light Project – energy efficiency
Peak Hill Uniting Community Church	9,865.00	1	Water efficiency project
Peter Pan Pre-school Kindergarten	18,441.00	1	Water efficiency project
Pied Piper Pre-school Association	5,139.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Pioneer House	14,738.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Police & Citizens Youth Clubs	18,863.00	1	Armidale PCYC Energy Efficiency Project
Police & Community Youth Club	31,097.00	1	Lismore PCYC Energy and Water Saving Project
Police & Community Youth Club	17,456.00	1	Griffith PCYC Energy and Water Saving Project
Port Macquarie Community Pre-school	21,587.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Port of Yamba Historical Society	2,000.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Port Stephens Veterans and Citizens Aged Care Ltd	39,500.00	1	Water and energy saving project for aged-care laundry
Portland Golf Club Ltd	13,526.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Possums Patch Children's Hub	37,500.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Price Merrett Consulting Pty L td	3,590.91	4	Macquarie Wetland management agreement
Quilbone Pastoral Company	8,419.77	4	Wetland management agreement

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Nature and purpose of grant</b>
Quirindi Pre-school Kindergarten	7,200.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Revesby Uniting Church Child Care	19,087.27	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Richmond Vale Railway Museum	38,000.00	1	Water savings project
Riverview Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd	37,656.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Rescue & Rehabilitation of Australian Native Animals	500.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Santi Forest Monastery	25,185.00	1	Water savings project
Saving Our Native Animals Inc	1,500.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Scone And District Pre-school Inc	38,901.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
SDN Children's Services Inc	40,000.00	1	Water savings project
Shoalhaven Heads Bowling & Recreation Club	38,000.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Centre	2,704.00	1	Water savings project
Shortland Wetlands Centre	36,597.00	1	Hunter Wetlands Centre Sustainability Program
Shortland Wetlands Centre	20,000.00	1	Support for the operations of the RAMSAR managers network
Shortland Wetlands Centre	10,000.00	4	RAMSAR Committee – administrative assistance
Snowy Mountains Care And Early Learning Centre	5,500.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Soldiers Beach Surf Life Saving Club	7,860.00	1	Energy efficiency project
St George Rowing Club	34,484.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
St Michael's Family Centre Ltd	38,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
St Patrick's Catholic Church	15,750.00	1	Water savings project
St Peters Pre-school Ltd	14,288.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
St Vincent's Private Hospital	33,000.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Sussex Inlet Bowling Club Ltd	17,500.00	1	Water efficiency project
Swansea Football Club Inc.	24,020.00	1	Water efficiency project
Sydney Anglican Schools Ltd	40,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
TAP Art Gallery	27,793.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Teen Challenge NSW Inc	38,739.00	1	Water efficiency project
The Albury Sailors Soldiers & Airmens Club Ltd	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
The Bays Community Group Inc	18,700.00	1	Energy efficiency project
The Bradman Foundation Trust	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
The Forest Pre-school	22,625.00	1	Water efficiency project
The Friends of St Vincents Hospital Lismore	25,190.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
The Hammond Care Group	35,632.73	1	Water efficiency project
The Hills Community Kindergarten	37,764.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
The Inverell Club	14,620.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
The Italo-Australian Sports & Recreation Club Ltd	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
The Mudgee Golf Club Ltd	9,849.00	1	Water efficiency project
The Northcott Society	37,254.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Nature and purpose of grant</b>
The Northern Nursery School	13,500.00	1	Water conservation initiatives project
The Olde Block Factory	22,727.27	2	Dharug co-management project
The Robertson Shed Inc	38,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
The Trustee For North Winnabri	1,680.00	4	Wetland management agreement
Tocumwal Bowls Club Ltd	40,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Tottenham Bowling Club	35,268.00	1	Water efficiency project
Trunkey Creek Progress Association Inc	6,500.00	1	Water efficiency project
Trustees of The Sisters of Mercy Diocese of Bathurst	180,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Tullamore Pre-school & Child Care Centre Inc	19,335.00	1	Solar hot water and water storage facility with irrigation system
Tweed Heads Bowls Club	40,000.00	1	Energy efficiency project
Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers	3,240.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Uniting Church in Australia – Glebe	11,000.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Uniting Church in Australia – West Epping	22,780.00	1	Natural lighting project
Uniting Church in Australia – Bangalow Byron Bay	6,600.00	1	Water efficiency project
Ulladulla Childrens Centre Inc	19,504.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Walsingham Community Pre-school	9,322.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Warialda Pre-school	17,400.00	1	Energy Smart Project
Warilla Occasional Child Care	9,498.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Waste Management Association of Australia	3,000.00	1	Award for leadership in compost community education
Wellington Bowling Club Ltd	15,077.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Wildcare Inc	2,000.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Wildlife ARC	3,000.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Wilgara Partnership	1,911.04	4	Wetland management agreement
Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare	5,000.00	1	Strategic environmental weed control
Windara Communities Ltd	25,293.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
WIRES – Central Coast	3,000.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
WIRES – Northern Rivers	3,240.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
WIRES – Snowy Mountains	1,500.00	2	Support for wildlife care organisation
Wollongong Golf Club Ltd	10,593.00	1	Water efficiency project
Wollongong West St Centre Inc	8,215.00	1	Water and energy efficiency project
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	14,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Woonona Bulli RSL Memorial Club	38,000.00	1	Water efficiency project
Wyong Pre-school Kindergarten	3,525.00	1	Energy saving project
Y Hotel (YWCA)	36,922.00	1	Water efficiency project
Yanco Hotel Cricket Club	12,300.00	1	Cricket nets irrigation upgrade
YMCA of Sydney	5,812.00	1	Water efficiency project
Young Pony Club Inc	27,455.00	1	Water efficiency project
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,251,255.97</b>		

## 18. Major works

### 2009–10 Major capital works

Project	Cost to date \$'000	Estimated completion
<b>Major new works</b>		
Nil		
<b>Major works-in-progress</b>		
NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program	59,460	2009–10
Infrastructure improvements in national parks	30,151	2009–10
Acquisition of spatial data	8,710	2009–10
Perpetual crown leases for conservation	9,727	2010–11
Lower Hunter conservation area	4,257	2010–11
Acquisition of satellite imagery	9,887	2010–11
Water management monitoring and information system	16,734	2010–11
Riverbank water licences	78,114	2011–12
Radio network – Parks and Wildlife Group	11,751	2011–12
Brigalow–Nandewar National Park establishment	20,339	2012–13
New park establishment costs	24,847	2013–14
Marine parks equipment	3,930	2013–14
Land purchases – funded by grants and donations	75,725	2013–14
Fire, feral animal and weed control equipment	1,101	2013–14
Bushfire management equipment	7,288	2013–14
Perisher Range redevelopment	19,826	2025–26
Kosciuszko centenary program	3,154	2025–26
<b>Total</b>	<b>385,001</b>	

There were no significant cost overruns in these projects.

## 19. Major assets

By virtue of its functions, DECCW's asset base covers a wide range of fixed assets and other infrastructure which have been categorised as following for accounting purposes.

### Land

Most of the land parcels in this category are 'dedicated land', including national parks, nature reserves, historic sites, Aboriginal areas, state conservation areas and regional parks. A full list of dedicated and DECCW-managed lands is in Appendix 9.

### Buildings and improvements

This category includes all buildings and improvements in use and temporarily out-of-use. Buildings number 1,495 in total and those with a written down replacement value of \$1 million or more are:

- Audley Regional Office, Royal National Park
- Baradine Visitors Centre
- Blackheath Visitors Centre, Blue Mountains National Park
- Bobbin Head Visitor Centre and Halvorsen's Boat Shed, Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park
- Broken Hill, Far West Regional Office Parks and Wildlife Group
- Byron Coast area office, Byron Bay
- Camp Blackman amenities block, Warrumbungle National Park
- Coffs Harbour sub-district office
- Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park
- Dorrigo Rainforest Centre
- Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre, Morton National Park
- Fort Denison, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Gap Bluff officers mess, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Garie Beach Surf Safety Centre, Royal National Park
- Goat Island amenities and ship-repair building, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Greycliffe House, Vaucluse, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Hartley Church, Courthouse and Presbytery, Hartley Historic Site
- Hill End Historic Site, Royal Hotel
- Jenkins Centre, Lane Cove National Park
- Kinchega Woolshed, Kinchega National Park
- Lidcombe laboratories and environmental science facility
- Lighthouses – Barrenjoey, Port Stephens, Greencape and Cape Byron
- Narooma area office
- Perisher information centre, Kosciuszko National Park
- Quarantine Station – accommodation units, hospital and conference centre, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Rawsons Pass amenities block, Kosciuszko National Park
- Sawpit Creek office, Kosciuszko National Park
- Sea Acres Visitor Centre, Port Macquarie

- Snowy Mountains Visitor Centre, Jindabyne
- The Lakes Area office and visitor centre, Lake Munmorah
- Throsby Park Homestead, Throsby Park Historic Site
- Wolli Creek laboratory

Heritage buildings are at the following locations:

- Bare Island
- Curracabundi NP, Karema Cottage
- Green Cape, Davidson Whaling Station
- Goat Island, Sydney Harbour islands
- Hartley Historic Site
- Hill End Historic Site
- Quarantine Station, Manly
- Royal National Park, Googles Cottage
- Royal National Park, Audley Dance Hall
- Yanga National Park
- Yarrangobilly Caves, Caves House

Amenities such as picnic areas, campsites and lookouts with a replacement value of \$750,000 or more are located in: Blue Mountains, Booti Booti, Bundjalung, Cattai, Crowdy Bay, Garigal, Georges River, Kamay Botany Bay, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Murrumbidgee, Royal, Sydney Harbour and Warrumbungle national parks; and in Arakoon State Conservation Area, Yuraygir Crown Reserve, Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve and Blue Gum Hills, Leacock and Rouse Hill regional parks.

### Roads and other access

Apart from roads, this category also includes access facilities such as fire trails, walking tracks, car parks, bridges, boat ramps and wharves. Roads and other access with a replacement value of \$5 million or more are

- Cambridge Plateau Drive, Richmond Range National Park
- Cameron Corner Road, Sturt National Park
- Drive Tour Road, Mungo National Park
- Elliot Way, Kosciuszko National Park
- Geehi Walls Track, Kosciuszko National Park
- Guthega Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Jump Up Loop Road, Sturt National Park
- Kiandra to Khancoban road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Mutawintji Road, Mutawintji National Park
- Mungo Brush Road, Myall Lakes National Park
- Olsens Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Tantangara Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Tin Mine Road, Woomargama National Park
- Tweed Range Scenic Drive, Border Ranges National Park

## Utilities and other infrastructure

This category includes airstrips, electricity reticulation, sewerage systems, levees, fencing and water supply systems. Those with a replacement value of \$1 million or more are:

- Airstrips in far western NSW – Bourke, Broken Hill and Cobar regions
- Helipad at Perisher Valley
- Sewerage treatment plants at Bobbin Head, Goat Island, Hill End Historic Site, Kosciuszko and Lane Cove national parks and Yarrangobilly Caves
- Water supply systems in Gundabooka, Kosciuszko and Mt Kaputar national parks and Yathong Nature Reserve.

## Plant and equipment

Items valued at \$5,000 or more are:

<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Helicopter – Eurocopter AS 350B-3	1
Plane – Cessna U206G	1
<b>Motor vehicles (excluding leased)</b>	
Dual cab and utility vehicles	18
Trucks – 1–5 tonne, >5 tonne	151
Motorbikes	23
Quad bikes	133
Off-road carriers, 6 x 6	54
<b>Scientific equipment</b>	
Analysers, calibrators, data loggers, diluters, monitoring systems etc.	821
<b>Field Plant</b>	
Boats (including outboards)	72
Graders, dozers, excavators, rollers	44
Forklifts	64
Generators	24
Mowers, ride-on	84
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Skidoo, snow vehicles	19
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