



ITEM: 9.3
SUBJECT: WATER STATUS REPORT
FILE/INDEX: OPERATIONS COUNCIL REPORTS
PRESENTED BY: CRAIG SALMON, MANAGER WATER AND WASTEWATER

080/17

RESOLVED (Cr Fenton/Cr Wright-Turner)

That Council receive and note the May 2017 Water Status Report.

UNANIMOUS

ITEM: 9.4
SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY PROJECTS
FILE/INDEX: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PRESENTED BY: ALEX WALDRON, MANAGER SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT & WASTE

081/17

RESOLVED (Cr Klipin/Cr Wright-Turner)

That the proposed 2017-2018 Environment Levy project list and funding allocations be adopted.

UNANIMOUS



Item: 9.4
Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY PROJECTS
File/Index: Environmental Management
Presented by: Alex Waldron, Manager Sustainable Environment & Waste

ALIGNMENT WITH DELIVERY PROGRAM

(LE) LIVING ENVIRONMENT

(LE.6) We work together to protect and enhance our environment.

(LE.6.2) Our community is informed and educated on environmental issues, threats and opportunities.

(LE.6.2.0) Our community is informed and educated on environmental issues, threats and opportunities - Other Activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed 2017-2018 Environment Levy project list and funding allocations be adopted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the proposed 2017-18 Environmental Levy projects to be funded to the value of \$235,013 and the re-allocation of funding held within the Environmental Levy Reserve to the value of \$95,000.

REPORT DETAIL

Bellingen Shire Council applied to the Minister for Local Government in May 2005 for a special variation to General Income for environmental projects. On 30 June 2005 Council received notice that an increase of 4% was approved on an on-going basis. In 2017-18 this equates to a fund of \$235,013 for environmental projects.

As identified in the Shire of Bellingen 2030 Community Vision, the environmental levy supports the implementation of projects to achieve the strategic directions, outcomes and aspirations for the future from our local community. The key focus areas are as follows;

- Invasive plant management;
- Biodiversity management;
- Coastal and river ecosystem management;
- Sustainable food production;
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The proposed projects in this report will deliver actions identified in a number of strategic documents/plans such as the North Coast Weeds Action Program, NSW Invasive Species Plan, Dangar Falls Plan of Management, Estuary Management Plan, Bellinger and Kalang River Health Plans, Bellingen Emission Reduction Plan (BERP), the Bellingen Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), the comprehensive Koala Plan of Management



(KPOM), Gleniffer Reserves Master Plan, the Bellingen Island Plan of Management and the Bellingen Flying Fox Camp Management Plan (when finalised).

Council's intention is to apply for external grants where appropriate to match, and therefore maximise, the funds and these have been outlined as far as possible in the table below.

Consultation with the community through the former Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) members has been undertaken and support for the proposed expenditure and projects has been given. As a result of this consultation and feedback a project was proposed aimed at protecting the Rainbow Bee Eaters breeding sites and nests found at Mylestom and Wenonah Head. This project was considered, however was not included in the proposed 2017-18 Environmental Levy projects list as it was confirmed that the locations of these breeding sites are on Crown Land managed by the Bellinger Heads State Park Trust in Mylestom, and Crown Land managed by NSW Department of Industry – Lands & Forestry in Wenonah Head. It is suggested however that this may be a suitable project from the Environmental Levy Community Fund and this feedback will be passed on to the proposer.

The table below provides the proposed 2017-18 Environmental Levy projects list with details and budget. The projects highlighted in green are projects that are ongoing or require no further Environmental Levy funding from the 2017-18 financial year, however it is important that these items are listed as projects for the 2017-18 financial year as they represent a significant body of work and have benefits for both community and the environment alike.

The projects highlighted in blue are projects that require a re-allocation of funding from the Environmental Levy reserve. This includes the proposed seed funding allocation of \$17,000 from the funds held within the Environmental Levy reserve.

All other projects listed require a budget allocation from the 2017-18 Environmental Levy in order to progress.

Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
Environmental Levy Community Fund	Community grants of up to \$5000 for environmental projects	\$0	\$35,000 Environmental Levy (EL) Reserve	\$35,000
North Coast Bioregion Ecohealth Program	This project will aim to understand the ecosystem health condition of the rivers in a local and regional context and implement a 24 month water quality monitoring project. In conjunction with UNE, OEH and	\$0	\$44,000 Carry forward from 14/15 and 2016/17 EL Funds	\$44,000 (Note – \$20,000 Cost saving for regional program compared to local program)



Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
	other Councils.			
Protecting Bellingden's koalas through responsible dog ownership	The project will develop a suite of educational tools (brochures, DVD and signs) to aid the delivery of a community education program including 'Dog's breakfast' events, school presentations and tree planting. This project complements the work already carried out for the recently adopted KPOM. This project replaces the unsuccessful grant application to the Koala Saving Our Species funds approved in 2016-17.	\$0	\$20,000 Carry forward 16/17 EL Funds \$25,800 Land Use Services (Koala funds) \$5K OEH and \$70K Environmental Trust grant pending invitation to submit full application June 2017. Plus \$48,200 in-kind.	\$169,000
Restoring public reserves of the Never Never, Gleniffer - Stage One	Protect and enhance the riparian zone within Earl Preston Reserve by implementing weed control, revegetation and fencing to address invasive plants, compaction from stock and vehicle access and erosion.	\$0	\$60,000 Section 94 funds for instream works Arthur Keough Reserve, Gleniffer Reserves Master Plan. \$100,000 Environmental Trust grant pending announcement by June 2017. \$19,000 in-kind BSC and project partners.	\$179,000

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
Bellinger-Kalang Coast & Estuary Management Plan	This project aims to revamp/convert several existing plans to the standard of management plans required by the funding bodies in order to apply for grant funding to carry out works. Funding to carry out this project is available now through OEH and it is recommended that money from the EL reserve is used to expedite the process and secure funding..	\$0	\$25,000 EL reserve \$25,000 Office of Environment and Heritage grant	\$50,000
Dalhousie Creek Entrance Management Strategy	Develop entrance management strategy and implement actions. -pedestrian access ways formalised, surf club vehicle access way formalised, 230 metres length of fencing protecting 450 square metres of dunal vegetation, interpretive signage, and beach surveys.	\$0	\$20,000 over 2 years (EL reserve funding) \$20,000 BHSPT over 2 years to match BSC funds \$40,000 OEH Coastal management program	\$80,000
Plans of Management - Gleniffer reserves	A number of Plans of Management are required to be written and/or updated in line with proposals and actions contained within the Gleniffer Master Plan	\$0	\$15,000 EL Reserves	\$15,000
Seed funding for potential projects	Many of the recommended projects	\$0	\$17,000 Unallocated	\$17,000

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
	<p>are subject to grant funding in order to proceed. If they are not successful it is proposed that the reserve funds and any unused allocated funds be placed into a seed funding account to match future funding opportunities that may arise.</p> <p>Three potential project examples are provided below –</p> <p>Potential project example 1: Bellingen Shire Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>The North Coast of New South Wales is one of Australia’s most biologically diverse regions, and the Bellingen Local Government Area (LGA) is a key focal area on the mid north coast of NSW.</p> <p>As identified in the Bellingen Shire Community Vision, the community has a deep respect and concern for the Shire’s biodiversity and would like to see the area’s natural character maintained.</p> <p>The Bellingen Biodiversity Action</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>funds in EL reserve</p> <p>\$60,000</p>	<p>\$90,000</p>

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
	<p>Strategy would aim to set the agenda and direction for biodiversity conservation management throughout the Bellingen LGA to 2030 and beyond.</p> <p>No current funding sources have been identified to support this project at present, however seed funding could be used should an opportunity arise to begin a staged approach to developing a Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Potential project example 2: I love Bello River - Incentive grants. Incentive grants up to certain value to carry out works on riparian areas.</p> <p>This could include options to work alongside bush regenerators, contractors to do property plans etc.</p> <p>Potential project example 3. Urunga walkway and boardwalk. Walkway with interpretive signage Urunga boardwalk-</p>	<p>Project cost to be assessed dependant on available funds</p> <p>Project cost to be assessed dependant on available</p>	<p>Potential funding to be sourced – likely NSW Environmental Trust grants</p> <p>Potential grant: NSW Regional growth fund grants are a minimum of</p>	

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
	Urunga Lagoon-Hungry Head-cycleway	funds	\$500,000. Other possible funding through the Crown Lands Public Reserves Management Fund Program. Partnership including in-kind funds from Bellinger Heads State Park Trust	
Past project maintenance	On-going bush regeneration (Jaliigirr Biodiversity 4 sites, Dangar Falls, Rock Fillets, Mylestom Drive and Bellingen Island)	\$32,000	\$7,500 Public Reserve Management Fund Program, \$10,000 Bellinger Heads State Park Trust \$3,000 EL Reserve	\$52,500
River & Biodiversity Community support, assistance and grant application/scoping time	Officer support to the community, responding to customer requests and supporting community members and organisations. Project and grant funding scoping and application preparation time.	\$25,000	\$5,000 EL Reserve	\$30,000
Weeds Action Program	Weeds Action Program 1520 - funds to	\$52,413	\$48,000 from general funds	\$154,825

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
	implement the NSW Invasive Species Plan. In order for Council to implement the 12 weed action program objectives, including invasive plant control and 400 local control authority weed inspections, an allocation to the weeds operational budget will be required.		and approximately \$47,412 from Department of Primary Industry \$7,000 Carry forward 16/17 EL Funds	
Bellinger Riverwatch 'Our River, Our Future'	Citizen science program supporting community volunteers and schools to undertake monthly water quality sampling to provide a consistent, scientifically rigorous indicator of river health, to inform the recovery of the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle and complement other Council and state government water quality monitoring programs.	\$15,600	\$10,000 EL Reserve to contribute towards initial pilot project costs.	\$111,000 and future grants including application pending for Environmental Trust Education grants – submitted by (OzGreen)
Sustainability and Climate Change Projects	Funding to implement on ground environmental monitoring projects as identified in management plans and Council priorities.	\$25,000	\$20,000 General Funds	\$45,000
Flying-fox Camp Management Plan (CMP) implementation and Improvement Works	Project aimed at implementing actions identified in the new Flying-fox CMP (in development).	\$25,000	\$5,000 carry forward – EL funding 16/17 \$25,000	\$55,000

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
to Bellingen Island Reserve	Interpretive signage and improvement works to be undertaken from 16-17 EL funds (awaiting CMP before implementing).		Potential Local Government NSW grant.	
Win Win - habitat and recreational enhancements to Yellow Rock, Back Creek and Lower Bellinger Estuary	<p>Stage 1 Installation of 180m of rock and timber revetment works. Future stages 2 and 3 will include bush regeneration, monitoring and vehicle management</p> <p>Recreational Fishing Trust recommended that BSC apply for this grant opportunity in response to an unsuccessful flagship grant application.</p>	\$40,000	<p>\$40,000 Recreational Fishing Trust HAG</p> <p>Further funding and grant money is proposed for another two stages - \$30,000 each for bush regeneration, monitoring and vehicle management 2018/19 and \$15,000 each for bush regeneration and monitoring 2019/20.</p>	\$80,000
Dangar Falls Pathway Upgrade Stage 3	\$500,000 NSW Regional Growth grant pending invitation to submit a full application in June 2017. EL contribution towards pathways and viewing platform. EL funds need to be allocated to submit the full application.	<p>\$20,000 EL funds 2017-18</p> <p>\$20,000 EL funds 2018-19</p>	\$500K NSW Regional Growth grant pending invitation to submit full Application June 2017. Need to allocate EL funds to	\$582,000

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Project Name	Project description	EL 17-18 Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Funds
			apply.	

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The funding is included in the 2017/18 Long Term Financial Plan, however the table provided in this report includes the proposed expenditure of the environmental levy budget for the 2017/18 financial year to the value of \$235,013, along with \$95,000 from the Environmental Levy reserve.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

The adoption of the proposed 2017-2018 Environment Levy projects contributes to the environmental sustainability of the community through the process of transparent consultation in relation to the items addressed. The Environmental Levy projects include many elements which will have positive environmental sustainability implications.

ENGAGEMENT

The Bellingen Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy was adopted by Council at its Meeting 22 February 2012. This strategy is designed to outline the approach Bellingen Shire takes towards engaging with our community.

Having regard to the Community Engagement Strategy it is considered that the actions/initiatives contained within this report are appropriately categorised as having a LEVEL 1 impact (i.e. High impact – Shire wide). To address the requirements of Council's Community Engagement Strategy and the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, Council engaged appropriate stakeholders by providing the proposed 2017-2018 Environmental Levy project list to the former Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) members for consideration and feedback. Feedback and support for the projects was provided by two former ESAC members. A workshop was also held with Councillors on 17 May 2017.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil