



Bellinghen Shire Council

Environmental Levy

Projects 2010-2011

Introduction

Bellinghen Shire Council applied to the minister for Local Government in May 2005 for a special variation to General Income for environmental projects. On the 30th June 2005 Council received notice that an increase of 4% was approved. This 4% increase led to an environmental fund in the order of \$170K. Council's intention was to apply for grants to match and therefore maximise the funds. Projects identified in the application included;

- Dangar Falls Vegetation Management and Path Upgrading (\$115K)
- Water Quality Management – Man Arm Creek (\$50K).
- Urunga Lagoon boardwalk extension and interpretive signage (\$180K).
- Riverbank Improvements at Bellinghen and Mylestom (\$415K).
- Noxious and Environmental Weed Management Programs (\$100K)

To date Council has undertaken projects in all of the above categories.

This report is an introduction to each of the projects in sufficient detail for the Environmental Advisory committee to understand their strategic relevance. The majority of the projects are the implementation of already adopted Council management plans. The report does not indicate operational or financial detail.

Projects 2010-2011

Community Fund

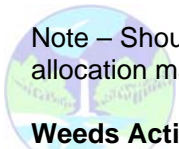
Council has made available from the Levy a fund available for community groups working on public land to, through a competitive process, gain additional funds to complete projects. This fund has supported over 15 community groups over recent years. It is recommended that this community funding process continue.

The funds to be allocated to this program are \$28,000 for the 2010/2011 financial year.

Bellinghen Island Restoration

The continuation of vegetation management in order to provide increased habitat for the flying fox camp and improve resilience of the riparian zone vegetation across the reserve system is to be funded. The riparian vegetation management program has been enhanced by a Bellinghen Urban Landcare groups implementation from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority to the value of \$18,000. This has been assisted through the work of the Green Corps team and TAFE Students.

The funds to be allocated to this program are \$30,000 for the 2010/2011 financial year.



Note – Should Urban Sustainability Grant funds be allocated to Bellingen Island this allocation may be reviewed.

Weeds Action Program

Council in alliance with the NSW North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee have applied under the new Weeds Action Program for funds to implement the nSW Invasive Species Plan. In order for Council to maintain current operational staffing levels an allocation to the weeds operational budget will be required. This was identified to Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 26th May.

The funds to be allocated to this program are \$50,000 for the 2010/2011 financial year.

Ecosystem Health Monitoring

Following on from the trial project undertaken in conjunction with the Northern Rivers CMA and the Department of Environment Climate change and Water a continuation of some regime of water quality monitoring will be developed and implemented..

The funds to be allocated to this program are \$25,000 from 2010/2011.

Dangar Falls Biodiversity

This project continues the excellent works already undertaken at Dangar falls. The minimal investment has resulted in an excellent response from the Beech forest. The project will be the continuation of that already reported to the committee.

The funds to be allocated to this program are \$10,000 for the 2010/2011 financial year.

Estuarine Sea Level Rise Inundation Mapping

Council has applied for funding from the NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change and Water to map inundation of the estuarine reaches of the shire through modelling different seal level rise scenarios. These models will also be used to determine the impact of seal level rise during flood events. The information will provide Council with an increased ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Should the grant be funded Council will need to contribute \$31,000 from the Environmental Levy for the 2010/2011 financial year.

Summary

Project	Funding
Community Fund	\$28,000
Bellingen Island Restoration	\$30,000
Weeds Action Program	\$50,000
Ecosystem Health Monitoring	\$25,000
Dangar Falls Biodiversity & Management Plan	\$10,000
Estuarine Sea Level Rise	\$31,000
TOTAL	\$174,000

This report is for the information of the committee.