



## *Berry Corridor: from Escarpment to Sea*

### *Natural Resource Management Plan*

#### *Vision*

Sustainable and resilient vegetation connections supporting the movement of wildlife between the coast and the escarpment.

#### *Mission*

To provide leadership, resources and information supporting the local community and stakeholders to achieve the vision.

#### *Background*

Berry Landcare was established in 2004 and operates as an umbrella group over ten sites with local people as site coordinators and active participation from more than 100 volunteers. Significant community support for environmental initiatives and preserving the landscape's integrity has been identified. Berry Landcare works on both private and public land and undertakes joint projects with other community groups to address natural resource management issues. It has received awards for its work at catchment and local government levels.

This project builds on and continues to support local efforts to engage landholders in the restoration and creation of vegetation corridors in the area. Shoalhaven City Council, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and Berry Landcarers, with the support of Shoalhaven Landcare Association, have contributed to these efforts over many years, representing a significant investment in revegetation, regeneration, weed control, fencing and feral animal control. The establishment and nurturing of partnerships is central to the project.

The project recognises and respects the landscape of the Berry Area, which is heritage listed and acknowledges its cultural heritage.

The corridor is identified in the South Coast Regional Conservation Plan and the Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan, is reflected in the South Coast Regional Strategy, and links with the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor.

Engaging community members in caring for country at any of our 10 sites, through working bees and other activities, builds communities and social capital, as well as environmental value in our locality. The proposed project will take this beyond what can be achieved by volunteers.

We have a Duty of Care for the land on which we live. The proposed project will help Berry Landcare and the Berry community to carry out this Duty of Care.

## Objectives

1. Document the present situation
2. Establish two-way NRM communications within local community and with stakeholders
3. Build NRM capacity of landholders
4. Support on-ground NRM works
5. Achieve the corridor

### Objective #1: Document the present situation

| Strategies  | Actions  | Measures  |
|---|--|---|
| Create a Berry corridor profile by providing regularly updated maps and information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and verify remnant vegetation</li> <li>• Review previous contact with, and feedback from, landowners within the project area</li> <li>• Plot potential connections in line with the CAR Framework of Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative vegetation</li> <li>• Map levels of landowner support</li> <li>• Relate individual properties to SCRCP and SRCMA maps</li> <li>• Identify current situation, future possibilities and priorities</li> <li>• Utilise Atlas of NSW Wildlife of NSW OE&amp;H</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial representation of existing support for, and commitment to, the project</li> <li>• Use and recognition of the profile as a valuable aid to project planning, management and communication</li> <li>• Ability to target individual landowners</li> </ul> |
| Identify and draw on available support for development of the corridor              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and nurture relationships within the Shoalhaven and the region (Kiama/ Illawarra corridors) and with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The range of relationships and extent of support provided to the project</li> </ul>  |
| Work within legislative frameworks and political realities                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for action as appropriate</li> <li>• Identify funding sources and seek funding as appropriate</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to submissions</li> <li>• Success of grant applications</li> <li>• Recognition of Berry Corridor in Regional Plans and Strategies</li> </ul>  |

### Objective #2: Establish two-way NRM communications within local and regional communities and with landholders:

| Strategies   | Actions  | Measures  |
|--|--|---|
| Communicate project aims and the benefits of participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular contributions to existing newsletters,</li> <li>• develop project specific newsletter</li> <li>• Contribute to local media</li> <li>• Invite contributions from a range of landowners</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration sites established</li> <li>• Celebrations of achievements and milestones</li> </ul>  |
| Support the network of project participants                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the Berry Show and other local NRM field days, workshops, conferences and forums</li> <li>• Communicate with/establish partnerships with individuals, agencies and institutions with key areas of local knowledge</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from within the broad network</li> <li>• Engagement with local expertise</li> <li>• Project badging included on all communications</li> </ul> |
| Engage the local community, especially young people        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the community engagement activities of Berry Landcare</li> <li>• Develop partnerships with Schools: Berry Public, Bomaderry High, Nowra Anglican College</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of relationships and documented activities</li> </ul>  |

### Objective #3: Build NRM capacity of landholders:

| Strategies  | Actions  | Measures   |
|---|--|--|
| Provide relevant information  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess information needs</li> <li>Prepare inventory of existing resource material</li> <li>Develop resource material as required</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of relevant resource material and briefing notes</li> <li>Feedback from project participants and stakeholders</li> </ul>  |
| Support knowledge and skill development                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an annual calendar of corridor field days and workshops</li> <li>Provide briefings for real estate agents</li> <li>Support community-based research and establish links with University of Wollongong and other tertiary institutes.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in field days and workshops and evaluation at response and reflection levels</li> <li>Ongoing relationship with real estate agents</li> <li>Relationships with community researchers and tertiary institutions</li> </ul> |
| Create and support participant networks, recognising individual contributions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish connections between project participants on a local area and a whole-of-corridor basis</li> <li>Develop project identity and badging (logo/slogan; gate signs, bumper stickers, T-shirts)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact between project participants</li> <li>Take up of gate signs and other material used for project badging</li> <li>Response to logo competition</li> </ul>  |

### Objective #4: Support on-ground NRM works

| Strategies  | Actions   | Measures  |
|---|---|---|
| Support property vegetation planning  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance with individual and cross property planning</li> <li>Develop field guide and practice note to enable identification and appropriate protection to cultural heritage values</li> <li>Promote the benefits of property management planning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of documented property plans</li> </ul>   |
| Identify priority areas and support conservation, revegetation and regeneration works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the use of local indigenous plants</li> <li>Establish seed collection and storage procedures for local native plants</li> <li>Develop nursery/ propagation facilities</li> <li>Weed control</li> <li>Replanting</li> <li>Fencing</li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of active management for corridor establishment and maintenance</li> <li>Numbers of landowners engaged</li> </ul> |


### Objective #5: Achieve the corridor

| Strategies  | Actions  | Measures  |
|---|--|---|
| Establish Berry The corridor project as an ongoing activity with sustainable and resilient vegetation connections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a project management model that supports the project aims and available resources</li> <li>Establish a project steering committee and formalise this as a sub-committee of Berry Landcare</li> <li>Liaise with NSW Roads &amp; Maritime Services concerning the re-alignment of the Princes Highway through the corridor.</li> <li>Contact relevant Government agencies re railway through the corridor area</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which the project addresses the CAR Framework for vegetation (Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative )</li> <li>Princes Highway upgrades includes provision for the Berry Corridor</li> <li>Existing and potential passageways identified in relation to South Coast Railway</li> <li>Recognition of Berry Corridor</li> </ul> |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Investigate issues relating to establishment of a land conservancy or trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire land for corridor enhancement</li> <li>• Explore management agreements for paper roads, e.g. the Corowa Landcare Paper Laneways project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an options paper for land conservancy or trust</li> <li>• Develop a case for management of paper roads</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

## South Coast Regional Conservation Plan

### Wildlife Corridors

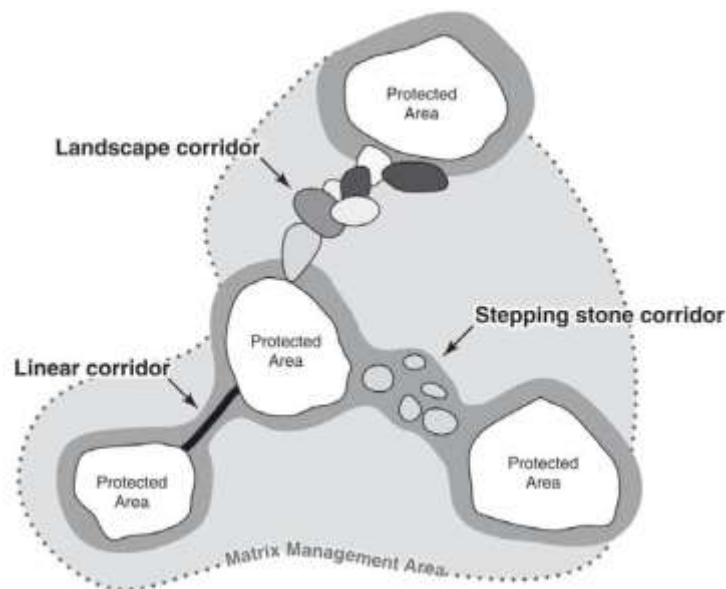


**Extract from the South Coast Regional Conservation Plan:  
Chapter 6 Wildlife corridor analysis: 6.1 : Introduction**

Connectivity is the degree to which the landscape allows species of native flora and fauna to move or disperse between patches. While connectivity requirements are different for each species, the aim of wildlife corridors is to integrate individual species' requirements to prevent the local extinction, and promote the recovery of, local populations of threatened species. They achieve this by enabling feeding, breeding, dispersal, colonisation or migration (whether seasonally or nomadically) of native fauna and flora, and by facilitating gene pool exchange between populations of native fauna and flora. Wildlife corridors improve the overall function of the landscape and help prevent the deterioration of environmental services. Achieving better connectivity and establishing corridors usually involves protecting and improving the size, shape and distribution of vegetation remnants left from past and current land-use practices.

Shoalhaven's coastal plains and escarpment are among the most biodiverse regions of NSW. While the forest areas of the escarpment are generally well protected in formal conservation areas, the lowland areas support extensive areas of agriculture along with expanding areas of urban settlement. The Berry Corridor project will operate within an area lies between the coast in the east, the border between Kiama and Shoalhaven LGAs and the Berry Escarpment in the north, and in the west, a north- south line that lies to the east of Berry Township. It includes upper Broughton Creek, Moeyan Hill, Coomonderry Swamp and Seven Mile Beach National Park. This is shown on the maps below.





Native vegetation serves as 'stepping stones' and form linear corridors of native habitat.  
(From Great Eastern Ranges brochure on Connectivity Conservation)

### Native Fauna expected in the Corridor

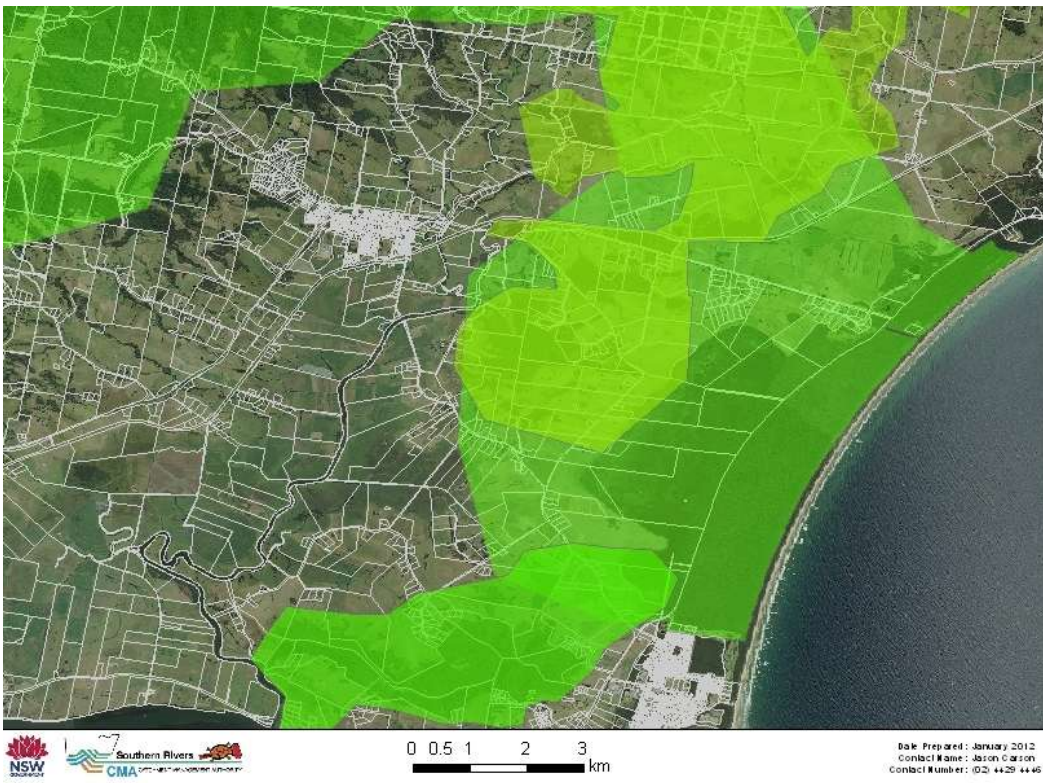
Two species lists have been combined to give an idea of what species of fauna might be found in the Berry Corridor. The first is the "Public Report of all Valid Records of Animals in a selected area [10 sq Km North: -34.69 West: 150.7 East: 150.82 South: -34.83] returned a total of 3275 records of 364 species" from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Atlas of NSW Wildlife, which holds data from a number of custodians, obtained through the BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife website on 30/08/2012). The second is from the Shoalhaven City Council's *Draft Remnant Vegetation Management Plan, Moeyan Hill* (Julian Laing and Peter Dalmazzo, November 1998). The result includes 17 Amphibians, 30 Reptiles, 59 Mammals (of which more than half are bats or gliders) and 285 birds (including sea-birds and migratory species). The lists include protected, vulnerable, threatened species. Lists are available separately.

**MAMMALS include** Short-beaked Echidna; Spotted-tailed Quoll; Brown Antechinus; Long-nosed Bandicoot; Common Brushtail-Possum ;Common Ringtail Possum; Sugar Glider; Feathertail Glider; Eastern Grey Kangaroo; Long-nosed Potoroo; Swamp Wallaby; Grey-headed Flying Fox; Little Red Flying Fox; Gould's Wattled Bat; Chocolate Wattled Bat; Great Pipstrelle; Lesser Long-eared Bat; Gould's Long-eared Bat; Large Forest Bat; **REPTILES include** Snake-necked turtle; Jacky lizard, Gippsland water dragon, She-oak skink, Eastern water skink, Grass skink, Garden skink, Weasel skink, Common bluetongue, Diamond python, Harsh snake, Eastern tiger snake, Red-bellied black snake, Brown snake, Small-eyed snake. **AMPHIBIANS include** Green & golden bell frog, Green tree frog, Bleating tree frog, Perons tree frog, Jervis bay tree frog, Tylers tree frog, Verreauxs tree frog, Common froglet, Brown-striped frog

In the RTA study for the re-alignment of the Princes Highway, a total of 158 animal species were recorded within the study area during the current survey. Native fauna comprised seven frog, nine reptile, 103 bird and 29 mammal species. Introduced species accounted for 6.3% (10) of the total number of animals recorded, which included six bird and three mammal species.

**DISCLAIMER FOR MAPS:** Maps have been compiled from various sources and the publishers and contributors bear no responsibility for any consequences of their use or variations and inaccuracies therein.

Berry Landcare thanks the staff members from NSW Environment and Heritage and the Southern Rivers CMA for their help in obtaining this information.



- Indicative Corridor South Coast Regional Strategy
- Southern Rivers CMA Corridors

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