**Berry Landcare in the Berry Town Crier July 2015-11-02**

**Berry Road Works** are changing the surrounding landscape that we love. Many trees are being demolished and large excavations are being dug. Since the commencement of the road works Berry Landcare has been communicating with the contractor, Fulton Hogan on many issues. This

co-operation has resulted in our having a fair working knowledge of the environmental issues associated with the construction and the engineering processes that must be employed to execute the works.

Residents of Berry have been expressing concerns regarding what they see happening along the highway corridor and Berry surrounds. This article hopes to explain what is being done and why it is necessary. It may allay some of the concerns expressed.

1. The large and complex excavations and holding ponds are made to prevent stormwater run-off and uncontrolled erosion of the disturbed areas. These are constantly monitored so that any extreme weather conditions will not result in pollution of water ways. This has proved successful in the recent storms.
2. The removal of native fl ora including mature trees is necessary for the safe design of the highway. The landscape design that is to be carried out will re build the local native landscape along the road corridor. This is to be done with local sourced plant species suitable for the Plant Communities that were in place prior to the works. These plants will take some time to regenerate the mature Plant Communities and in the long term will recreate the unique Shoalhaven Coastal Plain landscape that is being removed.
3. Hydro seeding is a technique where seeds from grasses and various shrubs and trees are mixed with wood pulp and water and hosed onto disturbed soils for stabilisation. When a surface is the fi nal designed one the seed mixes applied will match the original removed Plant Communities.
4. The planting of tube stock in areas where specific species have been designated will be done with local species matching original Native Plant Communities. Illawarra and Berry Landcare are working with Fulton Hogan to obtain local seed-stock for the propagation of this tube stock. Berry Primary School’s propagation unit is part of this process.
5. Fulton Hogan’s responsibility for the work extends only to the boundary of the road alignment. This is defined along the corridor by new wire fences at the outer perimeter of the works. In some places the work extends outside this defi ned boundary. These areas are designated as Ancillary Areas and Fulton Hogan’s brief for these is to return them to their original pre-works state by completion.
6. Upon completion the area of the works will be handed back to the RMS. They are then responsible for maintenance thereafter. Ancillary Areas will revert to the Councils or land owners. The use of these areas is a Council responsibility.

**Schools National Tree Planting Day** is at 10-12am Friday 24th July at Alexandra Street Park.

**National Tree Planting Day** at 10-12am Sunday 26th July also at Alexandra Street Park.

**Working Bees for July 2015:**

Bong Bong Road: 9-11am Sunday 12th July : Julia Woinarski 4464 2084.

Broughton Vale: 2-4pm Sunday 5th July : Philip Thorniley 4464 2198.

Bundewallah Bushcare: 2-4pm Sunday 26th July : John Clark 4464 3911.

Camp Quality: 9-11am Sunday 19th July : Jeanne Highland 4464 1271.

David Berry Hospital Landcare: 2-4pm Saturday 18th July. Leslie Pigott 4464 3241.

Mount Coolangatta: 1-3 pm Saturday 18th July at end of Roxbrough Rd, Far Meadow. Be on time to get a lift to site : Myke Cunningham 0418 297 435 or mcunningham@pci.cx.

Mark Radium Park: 9-10am Friday 24th July : Rodney Cole 4464 1475.

Princess Street: 10:00-12:00am Tuesday 21st July : Gail Paton.

Tindalls Lane: 2-4 pm Sunday 12th July : Harvey Blue 4464 1880 or Jim Jefferis 4464 2988.

**Visit our pages at: www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/berry-landcare for more on Berry Landcare.**