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Latest news from the REC

The REC has recently released its 2015-16 annual report. Electronic copies of the report are available by emailing Neil Dufty, REC Executive Officer ndufty@molinostewart.com.au

Nominations for the 2016 NSW Roadside Environmental Management Award, sponsored by the REC, have just closed. News of the finalists and the award ceremony will be included in the November REC Newsletter.

Chainsaws Assisting in Superb Parrot Recovery



Central Tablelands Local Land Services has partnered with the Environment & Waterways Alliance to engage an arborist to create around 200 hollows in standing trees across the Central Tablelands region. This is being done using the hollow augmentation technique, a method where hollows are cut into standing trees to create habitat.

The Project Support Officer for the Environment & Waterways Alliance, Mr Mick Callan, says that this technique creates a much more natural hollow structure than traditional nest boxes.

“What we see with nest boxes is that many species of hollow dependent fauna choose not to use them for a variety of reasons. The hollow augmentation technique provides a much more natural hollow structure for hollow users with better insulative properties, a more natural appearance and the absence of unnatural square edges and manufactured materials not found in natural hollows.”

“It takes around 100 years for a small hollow to form naturally in our woodland communities and around 200 to 300 years for large hollows to develop that can support large animals such as cockatoos and owls” explained Mr Callan.

“Due to historic land clearing and in many cases the absence of old, mature trees in our landscape we are witnessing a decline in the numbers and distribution of many hollow dependent species. Creating these hollows utilising the hollow augmentation technique allows us to create a solution to habitat loss in the medium to long term while revegetation plantings mature and begin to generate hollows naturally.”

The Superb Parrot project will see hollows created in the Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra and Orange Local Government Areas with all of these Councils partnering in the project. In coming weeks these Councils, as well as Local Land Services offices across the region, will be distributing educational materials relating to the Superb Parrot including stickers and brochures.

For more information contact Mick Callan on 02 6333 2323 Email: mick.callan@lls.nsw.gov.au



A Superb Parrot hollow being created by a qualified arborist

Riverina travelling stock reserve biodiversity project

Riverina and Murray Local Land Services are currently working together on a joint project to increase the biodiversity of flora and fauna on travelling stock reserves. Riverina Local Land Services is fortunate to manage some of the rarest and most diverse landscapes in this region.

Many of these areas are in excellent condition and are home to various endangered animals such as the Superb Parrot and Endangered Ecological Communities such as Sandhill Pine and Buloke Woodlands.

Riverina Local Land Services is currently engaging in activities that will protect and enhance these valuable areas. Management of stock, revegetation, animal and pest plant control are strategies that are employed to improve our grazing management into the future.

For further information contact Michael Fayle 0409 784 752 or michael.fayle@lls.nsw.gov.au



Regeneration on Weenya Reserve, Hillston

LGNSW Council Roadside Reserves Survey

LGNSW is undertaking a short survey to seek input from NSW councils on the current management of their roadside reserves and tools needed to assist them in the future.

Survey responses will assist LGNSW in the development of a rapid assessment tool for roadside vegetation and will also form part of an evidence based framework to help councils achieve best practice in roadside environmental management.

Respondents are also being invited to join the LGNSW roadside reserves network, to receive regular updates on the project and notification of grant funding opportunities once they are available.

The survey is being undertaken as part of LGNSW's Council Roadside Reserves Project (CRR) funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

Online information

[Take the survey](#)

[Council Roadside Reserves Project](#)

Survey closes Friday 19 August 2016

Contact Kathy Godfrey, CRR Project Officer kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au

Legal Roads Network Project

The Legal Roads Network team has now drawn 62 plans identifying over 13,000 kilometres of Shire road and 2713 kilometres of restricted easements to landlocked properties in the Western Division.

The project is still working in Wentworth Shire, where plans representing 90% of the shire's roads are either completed or in preparation.

Over the next few months the team will be focusing on closing the previously dedicated Western Division Roads (WDRs) in the shires of Bourke and Cobar in cases where the road no longer accurately defines the road easement and a new, dedicated, public road has been opened in the correct location.

Affected landholders should have received correspondence from the Team over the last 6 months requesting approval to add the closed WDRs to their adjoining Western Lands Leases.

For more information contact Department of Primary Industries – Lands (Far West) Phone 02 6883 5417 or 02 6883 5436

Source: 'The Western Newsletter', Local Land Services

Illegal firewood collecting on travelling stock reserves

Hunter Local Land Services is closely monitoring travelling stock reserves (TSRs) in the region for illegal firewood collection, and is encouraging the public to help.

TSRs are parcels of Crown land reserved under legislation for use by travelling and grazing stock, which can be beneficial for farmers in times of drought, bushfire or flood.

Some of the reserves contain sensitive, high conservation assets and removal of firewood can have negative environmental impacts, such as disturbing or removing vital habitat for native wildlife including koalas and owls.

Dumping rubbish and dirt bike riding on TSRs is illegal, and camping is prohibited at all times unless accompanying travelling stock.

Local Land Services is responsible for maintaining these public assets and protecting them from illegal activities.

Fines of up to \$5,500 can apply to people caught carrying out illegal activity on TSRs under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

Local Land Services is using surveillance cameras, staff inspections and public reports to identify and fine offenders.

Members of the community can report illegal activity to Local Land Services on 1300 795 299, or to local police. Please record as much detail as possible, including registration numbers, descriptions, locations and dates, to help locate and fine those responsible.

Special use permits are available from Local Land Services for a range of non-destructive recreational activities.

People can collect firewood from selected state forests with a firewood permit. For more information, visit www.forestrycorporation.com.au

Source: Hunter Local Land Services Newsletter

Squirrel Glider Rescue

Whilst on route to an overbridge renewal inspection, a John Holland Rail Environment Coordinator observed a distraught Squirrel Glider caught in a barbed wire fence. Squirrel Gliders are a threatened species listed under NSW environment legislation. When freed it was discovered the glider had sustained significant abdominal injuries.

The glider was transported to Taronga Zoo Dubbo where it underwent surgery and was nursed back to health. The glider made a full recovery and was released back to its "home range" woodlands two weeks later.



Squirrel Glider caught in fence



Glider release

Conference on Restoring Ecological Processes



A Conference on Restoring Ecological Processes: Ecosystems and Landscapes in a Changing World

5-9 February 2017,

University of New England, Armidale NSW Australia

The restoration and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems has never been more important and challenging, given humankind's growing reach throughout the biosphere and the resulting acceleration of local and global change. Over five days in February 2017, you are invited to the University of New England to contribute to our joint understanding of the challenges and successes in restoration, revegetation and reintroduction in a fast-changing world, with some of Australia's and the world's leading practitioners, scientists, consultants, advisers and artists working in this space.

The program includes three and a quarter days of plenary presentations, themed symposia, open forums and a poster session, integrated with trade exhibits, displays and an industry expo on-site; a day-long workshop for postgraduate students; a welcoming reception; a three-quarter day conference excursion integrating practical and theoretical perspectives; preconference tours; a conference dinner in a rural bushland setting with transport provided; an arts program to engage delegates intellectually and emotionally and encourage reflection on alternative means of communicating some of the most important issues of our time, and additional social activities.

For more details and registration go to
<http://conferencecompany.com.au/revegconf2017/>

Review of the North Sydney Street Tree Strategy

North Sydney Council prides itself on effective Urban Forest management. Council has a number of strategic documents that guide the management of this vital urban resource. One of these is the North Sydney Street Tree Strategy.

First developed in 1997, the North Sydney Street Tree Strategy has been guiding the management of street trees for nearly 20 years and Council is proud to boast that over this period the canopy cover over the very heavily developed North Sydney LGA has increased from 19% to over 31%.

The Street Tree Strategy has been reviewed a number of times and the most recent 2016 draft is currently on public exhibition. To make this document the best it can be we are seeking input from all relevant parties. If you are interested and have the time, we would appreciate your feedback.

The document can be found on Council's website at
[http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Have Your Say/Draft Street Tree Strategy](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Have_Your_Say/Draft_Street_Tree_Strategy) and any feedback can be emailed to
Council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Source: North Sydney Council media release

LLS Strategic Plans released

Local Land Services has mapped out how it will focus on being a customer-oriented business that enables improved primary production and better management of natural resources over the next 10 years with the adoption of its State Strategic Plan.

We exist to provide valuable, practical and relevant services to you—our customers, stakeholders and investors. We are committed to delivering an outstanding service to everyone we work with and will tailor our services to meet the needs of the local community.

Our integrated and independent service delivery model provides greater opportunities to work with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes. With the adoption of the 2016-26 State Strategic Plan and local strategic plans, we have clear direction on the way forward.

We recognise that land managers across NSW are constantly facing challenges, particularly with the uncertainty of weather conditions that see some parts of the state in drought while others are responding to the impact of floods.

We also acknowledge that we need to support land managers to do more with less and to enable innovation through the use of technology. One of our goals is to ensure that land managers have access to the latest information and evidence to target their agricultural practices in the most effective and efficient way.

The 11 Local Land Services regions' local strategic plans nest under the state strategy, with all 12 plans aligned to achieve the organisation's mission of resilient communities in productive, healthy landscapes. The local plans define specific actions and priorities that have been tailored to address the issues, risks and opportunities that characterise the communities, industries and landscapes of each region.

Local Land Services is working with the Natural Resources Commission to develop a method of performance evaluation that drives a consistent approach across and between regions. It will rely on a consistent set of metrics to guide internal business performance, direction setting and adaptation, to meet multiple investor needs, and to promote innovative and commercially-driven transformation over time.

Over the next 10 years we will work to deliver the goals and strategies outlined in the State Strategic Plan and together deliver and achieve great things for rural communities and NSW. Find out how we are building resilient communities in productive healthy landscapes by downloading the [State Strategic Plan](#).

Source: Tim de Mestre, Chair Local Land Services

Clever koalas learn to cross the road safely



Koalas have quickly learned to use wildlife passageways to cross busy roads in Queensland as they move between habitats. A new study tracked 72 koalas living near six wildlife crossings, specially installed by the Queensland government between 2010 and 2013. It was the first study to test the effectiveness of the crossings, which were part of a \$20 million retrofit project to help stop roadway deaths of the vulnerable marsupial.

"I was really sceptical about whether the animals would use them," says Prof Darryl Jones, a behavioural ecologist at Griffith University in Brisbane who studies the impact of roadways on wildlife. "I have to admit straight up that I thought koalas were going to be a pretty dumb animal. They spend most of their time stoned on eucalyptus oil."

"But that's not the case. This proves they really can innovate," he says. "No koala has ever walked under a road on a ledge ever before in its evolutionary history, and indeed they were doing it within a couple of months. They were able to learn new tricks far faster than anyone would have thought."

Source: BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-36891868>

New Road Rule Could Help Save Native Wildlife

Calls are growing for variable speed limits on Kangaroo Island in wildlife hotspots on Kangaroo Island in order to protect native wildlife and prevent collisions. If implemented, the speed limit would be reduced in these locations during dusk and dawn, when visibility on the roads is decreased and animals tend to be more active. Similar restrictions have already been implemented in parts of Tasmania and Victoria.

The majority of crashes on the island occur on roads with a speed limit of 100km/h. Recent studies from the Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide have shown that a reduction in speed of just 10 percent has the potential to reduce vehicle crashes by 20 percent.

Source: Huffington Post Australia
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/06/28/this-simple-new-road-rule-could-save-our-native-wildlife/>

The aim of this newsletter is to share information about the management of NSW linear reserve environments and profile the NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC). For more information on the REC, including how to develop roadside vegetation management plans, go to:

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/what-we-do/committees/roadside-environment-committee.html>

Please contact the REC Executive Officer if you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe.



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