



## August 2018 Edition 35

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### Latest news from the REC

The REC will be again sponsoring the NSW Roadside Environmental Management Award as part of Local Government NSW's Excellence in the Environment Awards. The Awards will be presented in Sydney, on Monday 3 December 2018 at Waterview, Bicentennial Drive, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park. More details at <https://www.lgnsw.org.au/event-s-training/environment-awards>

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## Councils integrating natural assets into asset management

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LGNSW's Council Roadside Reserves Project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust is undertaking a project to investigate the opportunity to value natural assets in roadside reserves and embed them into the asset management systems of councils.

The project will investigate current activities under way in managing natural assets in the context of broader asset management undertaken by councils. This includes investigation and assessment of the current tools and approaches councils (and others) are using to manage their natural assets as a component of broader asset management systems. The research will address: the key points of difference in managing natural assets and other assets; incentives and disincentives (financial and other) to combining natural and built asset management into one system; and consideration of the current asset management systems (including software programs) used by councils and their ability to incorporate natural assets.

Councils and other asset managers are invited to share their experiences including the challenges and opportunities faced, and experience across all natural assets not specific to roadside areas. Councils and other land managers with experience in natural asset management that would be interested in being

involved in the project, please contact [kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au). A final report and recommendations will be available in September 2018.



*This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.*

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### **Recycled roadwork debris creates new habitat for fish at Cowra**

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A habitat restoration project at Cowra has recycled roadwork debris into new fish habitat while creating flow on benefits downstream for the town's key pump site.

Sedimentation has been causing serious problems for native fish and for Cowra Shire Council's water pumps on the Lachlan River.

"A sediment slug is moving down the river filling natural holes that are habitat for fish, and that's also making extraction of town water supplies difficult, particularly during times of low flow," said Dirk Wymer, Infrastructure & Operations Director with Cowra Council.

The Council has worked together with Central Tablelands Local Land Services, local Fishing Clubs and DPI Fisheries to come up with a solution that will enhance both fish habitat and water quality.

"With funding and support from project partners and the NSW Government's Recreational Fishing Trust, we've used recycled trees and boulders to restore habitat and recreate a natural scouring process in stream," explained Local Land Services project leader, Casey Proctor.

The trees and granite boulders removed during recent road widening works have been turned into a snag complex just upstream from the Cowra town water supply intake.

Native fish species, including Murray cod which lay their eggs on large woody structures to breed, will benefit substantially from this model example of road work recycling.

"The strategically placed snags and a rock groyne in the river bed create velocity and turbulence, to restore the deep water holes that were once common in the river."

Building on local engagement in the project, the Bila Galari indigenous land management team has been contracted to carry out weed control and riparian replanting on the banks of the site to enhance the natural environment.

For more information about the 'Comfortable Cod for Cowra' project, contact Casey Proctor on 0429 110 072.



*Works for the 'Comfortable Cod for Cowra' project*

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### **Presentations from 2018 Australasian Network for Ecology and Transportation (ANET) Conference**

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The 2018 Australasian Network for Ecology and Transportation (ANET) Conference, which explored the theme "CONNECTING NATURE CONNECTING PEOPLE", was held at the RACV Goldfields in Creswick, Victoria on 30 April to 2 May 2018.

There were many presentations of interest to linear reserve environmental managers including:

- Approaches to positioning crossing structures to facilitate emu movements across a major highway
- The long and winding road to better ecological outcomes
- Metro Tunnel: Embedding urban ecology performance targets in infrastructure projects
- Recent innovations in microbat mitigation on road projects in NSW
- Sourcing biodiversity offsets within a market based system
- Using innovative method to assess development impacts and biodiversity offset requirements in NSW
- Taking the landscape view: from ad hoc to strategic offsets
- How effectively can we mitigate the barrier impacts of roads on wildlife movement? A global assessment and meta-analysis
- How did the frog cross the road? Design standards for road crossings
- Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade koala management
- 2017 Reform of native vegetation laws in VIC & NSW: Legal update for linear infrastructure



- Vegetation management in the Central Queensland Coal Network Rail system
- Restoring threatened native plant communities to roadsides
- Driving vegetation management along transport corridors
- Cover, carpet and continuity: Expanding the role of vegetation and furniture to enhance the use of crossing structures
- Mitigating the ecological impacts of transportation infrastructure: A compilation of global case studies

The presentations can be accessed at <https://www.eianz.org/resources/conference-presentations/2018-anet-conference-presentations>

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### ABC News article on the future of travelling stock routes

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*Ecologist Phil Spark examines one of the rare grasses, *Digitaria porrecta*, found along the stock routes (source: ABC News: Dominique Schwartz)*

According to a recent ABC News article, Australia's iconic stock routes are languishing after years of neglect and are in danger of being privatised,

Travelling stock routes (TSRs) are parcels of Crown land, used to move cattle and sheep. Drovers and graziers pay to use the stock routes, but say many are falling into disrepair

The historic network of reserves for travelling sheep and cattle are etched into the national psyche by writers Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson.

They're also a refuge for endangered flora and fauna, and are rich in Indigenous heritage.

"I'd say there's been a rapid decline, really, in the last three years — they've just got worse and worse," laments drover Brad Brazier. The drover has been on the road with 600 cattle around New South Wales for the past year.

The routes cover 45,000 square kilometres of New South Wales and Queensland, with 76,000 kilometres of tracks in the Sunshine State alone.

Access the article at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-30/drovers-say-australian-outback-cattle-routes-in-peril/9916168>

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## Poem on travelling stock routes

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**The Never-Never Country** by Henry Lawson, 1905

The drovers of the Great Stock Routes

The strange Gulf country know —

Where, travelling from the southern drought

The big lean bullocks go;

And camped by night where plains lie wide,

Like some old ocean's bed,

The watchmen in the starlight ride

Round fifteen hundred head.

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## Regional Roadshows on Biodiversity and Climate Change

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The [NSW Adaptation Hub's Biodiversity Node](#), led by Macquarie University and the Office of Environment & Heritage, is hosting several regional roadshow events across NSW in September and October 2018.

Each roadshow event will focus on adaptation planning for species and ecosystems and will present the latest research, new initiatives, methods, case studies and web tools to support adaptation planning for species and ecosystems in your local region.

Natural resource managers, decision-makers, adaptation practitioners, planners, scientists and conservation practitioners are invited. Please feel free to share with your networks.

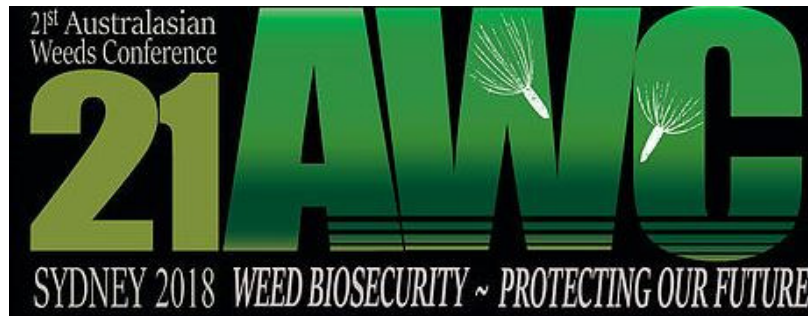
Come and engage with leading biodiversity adaptation researchers and other practitioners from across NSW!

Registration is free. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/biodiversity-node-of-the-nsw-adaptation-research-hub-17485725232>

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## 21st Australasian Weeds Conference

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The [Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.](#), on behalf of the [Council of Australasian Weed Societies Inc.](#), will be hosting the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference in the popular Sydney beach side suburb of Manly from 9 - 12 September 2018. An assortment of field trips will be hosted on Thursday 13 September 2018

The conference attracts over 250 delegates from across Australasia and globally. Delegates will come together to network with peers, engage with industry sponsors, listen and participate in presentations and field trips on a variety of topics including:

- New technologies in weed management
- Biological, mechanical, and chemical weed control and research
- Herbicide resistance
- Weeds of crops and pastures
- Environmental weeds and Weeds of National Significance.

More details at <https://www.21awc.org.au/>

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*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 about the REC: <https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/nsw-roadside-environment-committee/>*

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



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