

**HCCREMS STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2013**

*Italicized dot points – not yet complete but due for completion 30 June 2010*

<b>(A) SUSTAINABILITY</b>			
<b>Current program outputs delivered by end 2009/10</b>	<b>Year 1: 2010/2011</b>	<b>Year 2: 2011/2012</b>	<b>Year 3: 2012/13</b>
<p><b>1. Energy &amp; Water Efficiency</b>  <i>( Strategic Focus –Establishing a regional baseline; deliver energy &amp; water savings in council facilities- where programs are not already in place)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active and ongoing network of facilities managers and staff that coordinate energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction programs established.</li> <li>SWOT analysis completed to identify the current status, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for councils in relation to energy and water efficiency programs for their own operations and facilities.</li> <li>FOCUS on Facilities Project Fund established to assist Councils to improve their capacity to deliver cost efficiencies, utilities savings and greenhouse gas reductions in the medium to long term.</li> <li>Delivery of In house training to councils on metering &amp; billing analysis and reporting (Port Stephens, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter &amp; Lake Macquarie).</li> <li>Delivery of workshop - Aquatic facilities– efficiencies in facility management.</li> <li>Delivery of workshop - energy &amp; water efficiency in council depots – Lower Hunter Councils</li> <li>Facilitated regional environmental educators network to develop and implement regional sustainability education projects. Group met 4 times during 2009 and implemented regional Power Meter Program</li> <li>Offer provided to councils for HCCREMS to facilitate carbon footprint assessments for each council. NB no councils pursued this opportunity – they have opted for direct mentoring program as an alternative.</li> <li><i>Delivery of workshop – sports fields and stormwater harvesting.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Energy &amp; Water Efficiency</b>  <i>( Strategic Focus – Provide support and assistance to councils to deliver energy &amp; water savings in council facilities)</i></p> <p>Assist Councils implement energy &amp; water efficiency measures through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing co-ordination of facilities managers and staff that coordinate energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction programs.</li> <li>Delivery of Forum – energy &amp; water efficiency in council administration buildings</li> <li>Facilitate access to technical guidelines on Best Management Practices and ongoing mentoring and reporting</li> <li>Resource the development of corporate knowledge and tools to embed savings actions into Councils procedures and practices.</li> <li>Continue direct financial and mentoring support to Council energy and water saving activities through FOCUS on Facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope the potential to assist councils to deliver a regional energy and water savings program (eg recognition awards) targeting industry, businesses and schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>1. Energy &amp; Water Efficiency</b>  <i>( Strategic Focus – Provide support and assistance to councils to deliver energy &amp; water savings in council facilities)</i></p> <p>Assist Councils implement energy &amp; water efficiency measures through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing co-ordination of facilities managers and staff that coordinate energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction programs.</li> <li>Document &amp; promote instances of Best Practice Management</li> <li>Support Councils to capture future funding opportunities.</li> <li>Increase access to technical guidelines on Best Management Practices and ongoing mentoring and reporting</li> <li>Resource the development of corporate knowledge and tools to embed savings actions into Councils procedures and practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>1. Energy &amp; Water Efficiency</b>  <i>( Strategic Focus – Provide support and assistance to councils to deliver energy &amp; water savings in council facilities)</i></p> <p>Assist Councils implement energy &amp; water efficiency measures through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing co-ordination of facilities managers and staff that coordinate energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction programs.</li> <li>Document &amp; promote instances of Best Practice Management</li> <li>Support Councils to capture future funding opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced</b></p>

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<p><b>2. Internal council sustainability program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – Promoting &amp; supporting all Councils to adopt corporate sustainability framework and/or initiatives)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research &amp; audits on corporate sustainability frameworks &amp; systems completed by USSA.</li> <li>• Sustainability Tools Workshop delivered to Councils to promote uptake of sustainability models / tools appropriate to their needs.</li> <li>• Commenced concept planning for regional sustainability conference</li> <li>• <i>Design Councillor Sustainability briefing – Phase 2: focussing on climate change land use planning (Gloucester, Greater Taree, Upper Hunter, Dungog &amp; Lake Macquarie have nominated interest in being involved).</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Internal Council Sustainability Program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – Promoting &amp; supporting all Councils to adopt corporate sustainability framework and/or initiatives)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of Stage 2 Councillor Sustainability Briefings</li> <li>• Design and commence Implementation of Sustainability Games</li> <li>• Prepare staff induction materials regarding sustainability</li> <li>• Design Councillor Sustainability briefing Phase 3 (demand &amp; content TBC with councils)</li> <li>• Design and potentially deliver Regional Sustainability Conference</li> <li>• Establish / facilitate a regional Integrated Planning &amp; Reporting Network to encourage information sharing and integration of sustainability issues within Council Community Strategic Plans</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>2. Internal council sustainability program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – Promoting &amp; supporting all Councils to adopt corporate sustainability framework and/or initiatives)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of Councillor Sustainability Briefings Stage 3</li> <li>• Implementation and wrap up of sustainability games</li> <li>• Facilitate adoption / implementation of sustainability framework and reporting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>2. Internal council sustainability program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – Promoting &amp; supporting all Councils to adopt corporate sustainability framework and/or initiatives)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of Councillor Sustainability Briefings for new Councillors</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced</b></p>
<p><b>3. Illegal Dumping (waste)</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – research, trial &amp; identify optimum regional model to address illegal dumping)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chaired Hunter Region Illegal Dumping Group (HRIDG) until September 2009 (withdrawal at CEO direction).</li> <li>• Contributed directly to the design, coordination and resourcing of blitz campaigns targeting illegal dumping in the Wyong, Cessnock &amp; Lake Macquarie LGA's. This included developing the media and education strategies to accompany these events.</li> <li>• Standard operating procedures completed and delivered to councils for delivery of enforcement blitzes</li> <li>• Design and construction of first iteration of purpose built regional illegal dumping database completed</li> <li>• Research largely completed into Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads and their potential application in the region. Finalisation subject to receipt of information from DECCW.</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. Illegal Dumping (waste)</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – research, trial &amp; identify optimum regional model to address illegal dumping)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete research into regional illegal dumping management models.</li> <li>• Develop model for regional (sub-regional) management of illegal dumping for consideration of Councils.</li> <li>• Continue trialling enforcement campaigns</li> <li>• Continue maintenance of Regional illegal dumping database; evaluate regional database information &amp; integrate data to pro-active information enforcement campaign</li> <li>• Trial preservation/ deterrence measures (e.g. track closures)</li> <li>• Community engagement (Media awareness education)</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>3. Illegal Dumping (waste)</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – research, trial &amp; identify optimum regional model to address illegal dumping)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support regional management of illegal dumping initiatives</li> <li>• Support joint enforcement campaigns</li> <li>• Community engagement (Media awareness education)</li> <li>• Implement and report on regional database information</li> <li>• Continue to promote and utilise regional illegal dumping database.</li> <li>• Setup formal ongoing Illegal regional / sub regional illegal dumping model</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>4. Illegal Dumping (waste)</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Support the implementation of regional / subregional illegal dumping model)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support regional management of illegal dumping initiatives</li> <li>• Support joint enforcement campaigns</li> <li>• Community engagement (Media awareness education)</li> <li>• Support the regional / subregional illegal dumping model as required</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced</b></p>

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<p><b>4. Resource Efficiency / Waste Reduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research completed on the purchasing systems and policies of councils in collaboration with the LGSA sustainable choice program and Hunter Regional Procurement.</li> <li>Draft ESD purchasing schedule prepared for inclusion in council contracts - completed with assistance from Hunter Regional Procurement.</li> <li>Work commenced with Hunter Councils Procurement program on formal incorporation of sustainable procurement in their practices.</li> <li>Online resource library / toolkit of sustainability education materials established</li> <li>Completed development of a sustainable procurement information brochure</li> <li>Completed research on adoption levels of 'Waste Not' DCP's in member Councils.</li> <li><i>Developed resource library of National waste reduction initiatives and provide access to all Councils</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Resource Efficiency / Waste Reduction</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – support councils to implement resource efficiency programs relating to sustainable procurement and waste management)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with Hunter Councils Procurement department on inclusion of sustainable procurement into systems and develop appropriate supporting documentation &amp; resources.</li> <li>Deliver Regional capacity building - Sustainable procurement for procurement officers – linked to ESD schedule and its use.</li> <li>Work with Councils without Waste Not DCP's to see if there is a way that similar provisions can be adopted.</li> <li>Develop sustainable procurement policy.</li> <li>Litter and waste reduction elements to be incorporated within regional sustainability education campaign.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>4. Resource Efficiency / Waste Reduction</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – support councils to implement resource efficiency programs relating to sustainable procurement and waste management)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with Hunter Councils Procurement department on inclusion of sustainable procurement into systems.</li> <li>Seek adoption of sustainable procurement policy by all member Councils by October 2011</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>4. Resource Efficiency / Waste Reduction</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – support councils to implement resource efficiency programs relating to sustainable procurement and waste management)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a review of the Sustainable procurement systems employed by councils with the aim to make system improvements where necessary.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>
<p><b>5. Sustainable Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Participate / provide support to establishing the scope and focus of the regional tracks and trails project.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>5. Sustainable Transport</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – to support councils to implement programs supporting the adoption of sustainable transport alternatives for the community and council staff.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research staff travel-to-work programs and promote options to Councils for consideration / adoption.</li> <li>Provide support to participating councils involved in the Regional Tracks and Trails Project</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>5. Sustainable Transport</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – to support councils to implement programs supporting the adoption of sustainable transport alternatives for the community and council staff.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support to participating councils involved in the Regional Tracks and Trails Project</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>5. Sustainable Transport</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – to support councils to implement programs supporting the adoption of sustainable transport alternatives for the community and council staff.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support to participating councils involved in the Regional Tracks and Trails Project</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>
<p><b>6. Natural Asset Management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Support Councils to consider the potential strategic integration of natural assets into the management and planning systems for built assets)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research completed into council needs, tools,</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Natural Asset Management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Support Councils to consider the potential strategic integration of natural assets into the management and planning systems for built assets)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue facilitation or Regional Network of</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Natural Asset management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Support Councils to consider the potential strategic integration of natural assets into the management and planning systems for built assets)</i></p>	<p><b>6. Natural Asset management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Support Councils to consider the potential strategic integration of natural assets into the management and planning systems for built assets)</i></p>

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<p>good practice and knowledge gaps in regard to valuing and managing natural assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Network of council Natural Asset Managers established.</li> <li>Developed program of activities to support delivery of a Stage 1 Capacity Building Program – Managing Natural Assets (street trees, creeks, wetlands, bushland, parks all on Council land).</li> <li>Assisted councils to source external funding to support implementation of best practice natural asset management in urban environments.</li> <li>Delivered workshop – Decision Support Tools for Strategic Planning around urban creek managements</li> <li><i>Delivered workshop – Decision Support Tools for Strategic Planning around bio retention systems</i></li> </ul>	<p>council Natural Asset Managers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop natural asset decision support tools to fill strategic knowledge gaps</li> <li>Continue to deliver workshops on strategic planning issues around the management of natural assets (wetlands, bushland, parks on Council land)</li> <li>Continue to assist councils to source external funding for the implementation of best practice natural asset management in urban environments.</li> <li>Complete research and development of tools around condition assessment, prioritisation and “how to value” natural assets on council land</li> <li>Investigate opportunities for regional Urban Forest / Green Space initiatives</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue facilitation or Regional Network of council Natural Asset Managers.</li> <li>Identify need for and deliver where necessary further workshops re strategic planning issues around the management of natural assets.</li> <li>Continue to assist councils to source external funding for the implementation of best practice natural asset management in urban environments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue facilitation or Regional Network of council Natural Asset Managers.</li> <li>Identify need for and deliver where necessary further workshops re strategic planning issues around the management of natural assets.</li> <li>Continue to assist councils to source external funding for the implementation of best practice natural asset management in urban environments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>
<p><b>7. Regional Compliance Program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To develop, promote and support a regionally consistent approach to environmental compliance, and to enhance the compliance policy, management systems and practises of Councils)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active Compliance Officers network established and maintained, including 3 meetings, 3 e-newsletters, and 4 capacity building events</li> <li>HCCREMS staff provided direct assistance to councils (Singleton, Port Stephens &amp; Newcastle) to complete self assessments of Council compliance departments.</li> <li>Standard operating procedures completed and delivered to councils for evidence gathering.</li> <li>Draft regional compliance policy developed and provided to councils for peer review.</li> <li>Research completed to identify the training needs of council compliance staff.</li> <li>Design and delivery of a 2 training sessions on evidence gathering and investigative interviewing.</li> <li>Delivery of 1 training session on writing enforceable DA consent conditions delivered with the support of DECC &amp; AELERT Network.</li> <li>Research completed on existing council education and information materials pertaining to compliance issues and existing gaps identified.</li> </ul>	<p><b>7. Regional Compliance Program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To develop, promote and support a regionally consistent approach to environmental compliance, and to enhance the compliance policy, management systems and practises of Councils)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain active Compliance Officers Network</li> <li>Continued development of technical regulations and procedures related to Compliance Policy and develop in consultation with Council Officers.</li> <li>Develop and deliver Councillor briefing on legal responsibilities to enforce legislation (to resource compliance and importance of policy and procedures).</li> <li>Work with councils to understand issues around adoption of Compliance Policy and procedures.</li> <li>Develop model environmental clauses for contract documentation, tender scoring systems to ensure Council contractors are committed to environmental management on construction sites.</li> <li>Develop and deliver accredited training (5 day course) on investigation skills</li> <li>Develop and deliver staff training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promoting environmental compliance</li> <li>monitoring and assessing environmental compliance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>7. Regional Compliance</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To develop, promote and support a regionally consistent approach to environmental compliance, and to enhance the compliance policy, management systems and practises of Councils)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain active Compliance Officers Network.</li> <li>Develop campaign with tree loppers and land clearers on clearing approvals required.</li> <li>Assist Councils to adopt Compliance Policy and procedures.</li> <li>Prepare a Future Directions Paper for continued development of compliance management in the HCC Region.</li> <li>Continue to roll out training on Compliance issues.</li> <li>Conduct reassessments (self assessments) of Council compliance departments; collate results to inform the regional Compliance Program and compare to results in year 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>7. Regional Compliance</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To develop, promote and support a regionally consistent approach to environmental compliance, and to enhance the compliance policy, management systems and practises of Councils)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain active Compliance Officers Network.</li> <li>Facilitate implementation of recommendations contained in Future Directions Paper</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collated Council information toolkit to support Council compliance activities (education materials, model policies, guidelines, fact sheets, etc.) on issues such as land clearing and filling, building standards, illegal dumping, erosion and sediment control, pollution etc.</li> <li>• Delivered 2 detailed training sessions on writing enforceable DA conditions (focusing on WSUD and biodiversity)</li> <li>• Developed Guidelines on writing “enforceable” conditions.</li> <li>• Delivered 1 training session on evidence gathering and investigative interviewing</li> <li>• Delivered NSW Ombudsman’s training on ‘managing difficult complainants’.</li> <li>• Prepared model policy to assist councils in the management of issues raised for sites overseen by Private Certifiers.</li> <li>• Researched, compiled and assessed the range of local consent conditions around land clearing and filling to explore potential for a coordinated regional response.</li> <li>• Prepared a regional options and opportunities report for the capture and beneficial reuse of organic waste.</li> <li>• <i>HCCREMS staff provided direct assistance to councils (Dungog, Gloucester, Gosford &amp; Greater Taree) to complete self assessments of Council compliance departments.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compliance management principles for managers</li> <li>• Develop and pilot joint enforcement campaigns (sub-regionally) to deliver inspections on construction sites targeting biodiversity preservation, sediment and erosion control and waste management.</li> <li>• Continued roll out of identified training courses.</li> <li>• Liaise with DECCW to encourage delivery of training on waste compliance at construction sites.</li> <li>• Continue to conduct individual council ‘compliance system capacity’ self assessments</li> <li>• Develop regional guidelines on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigations and case management</li> <li>• Record keeping</li> <li>• Enforcement and prosecution</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop regional Incident prioritisation methodology.</li> <li>• Continue to collate Council information toolkit to support Council compliance activities</li> <li>• Develop regional standard DA conditions for environmental issues including installation of WSUD devices and biodiversity protection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>		

<b>(B) ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING &amp; ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>Current program outputs delivered by end 2009/10</b>	<b>Year 1: 2010/2011</b>	<b>Year2: 2011/2012</b>	<b>Year 3: 2012/2013</b>
<p><b>1. Water Sensitive Urban Design</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Build on existing work to promote and embed Integrated Water Cycle management considerations at all levels of plan making and implementation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and design work completed for revamped Urbanwater.info website.</li> <li>• Training program on MUSIC (water modelling software) developed and delivered to council development assessment staff.</li> <li>• Facilitated ongoing regional `community of practice` to identify council activities relating to WSUD</li> <li>• <i>Revamped urbanwater.info website activated</i></li> <li>• <i>Commence review &amp; update of WSUD Model Planning Provisions</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Water Sensitive Urban Design</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Build on existing work to promote and embed Integrated Water Cycle management considerations at all levels of plan making and implementation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate ongoing regional `community of practice` to identify council activities relating to WSUD</li> <li>• Complete review, update &amp; delivery of WSUD Model Planning Provisions</li> <li>• Deliver workshops and tools to increase access to the latest understanding / application of technical guidelines and related materials on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lifecycle management of WSUD devices (retrofitting, design for structural measures and constructed wetlands)</li> <li>• conceptual design of neighbourhood and subdivision scale developments</li> <li>• tools for translating catchment monitoring into catchment plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop regional standard DA conditions relating to installation of WSUD devices</li> <li>• Continue to update urbanwater.info website with program outcomes</li> <li>• Research on available hydrological monitoring tools and their relevance to council functions</li> <li>• Research existing tools and case studies on monitoring waterways and prioritising catchment management actions</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>1. Water Sensitive Urban Design</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Build on existing work to promote and embed Integrated Water Cycle management considerations at all levels of plan making and implementation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate ongoing regional `community of practice` to identify council activities relating to WSUD</li> <li>• Continue to update urbanwater.info website with program outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>1. Water Sensitive Urban Design</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Build on existing work to promote and embed Integrated Water Cycle management considerations at all levels of plan making and implementation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate ongoing regional `community of practice` to identify council activities relating to WSUD</li> <li>• Continue to update urbanwater.info website with program outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>

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<p><b>2. Biodiversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Series of regional mapping layers provided to all councils for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seamless soils mapping</li> <li>woody vegetation extant</li> <li>slope class</li> <li>aspect</li> <li>riparian vegetation extent</li> <li>Atlas of NSW Wildlife data</li> </ul> </li> <li>API based vegetation mapping provided to Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Port Stephens Councils</li> <li>Vegetation mosaic mapping layer delivered to Upper Hunter, Singleton &amp; Muswellbrook councils</li> <li>Model developed that can produce LGA scale bushfire mapping layers</li> <li>Direct assistance provided to Port Stephens Council with development of the Conservation Assessment Tool (CAT).</li> <li>Expert workshop summit convened to identify improved strategies and processes to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes in the region.</li> <li>Indicative EEC Mapping completed for Upper Hunter, Singleton &amp; Muswellbrook councils</li> <li><i>Bushfire Mapping Layers provided to councils that have requested this product.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Biodiversity</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Continue to provide councils with data and resources to assess and manage impacts of development and council activities on biodiversity)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and deliver interim GIS/mapping layers (eg EECs, Regionally Significant Vegetation, Regionally Significant Ecosystems, Corridors) for Council planning purposes. These are based on best available information and will be updated pending completion of the Regional Vegetation Mapping Program.</li> <li>Upgrade Flora &amp; Fauna Guidelines &amp; expand to cover all 14 LGAs and incorporating new data &amp; mapping layers.</li> <li>Deliver sub regional Corridor Planning workshops for councils to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities for collaboration in regional corridor identification, mapping and management</li> <li>Identify principles re definition and planning process to conserve regional, sub regional and local corridors</li> </ul> </li> <li>Deliver workshop to identify, evaluate and prioritise mechanisms of most value to councils to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes in the region. Research identified mechanisms and include within a centralised resource library</li> <li>Deliver training workshops to council's on the nature and applicability of mechanisms to promote biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>Work with Councils on development and implementation of local biodiversity strategies that utilise mechanisms identified to deliver conservation outcomes and identify opportunities for subregional collaboration and implementation.</li> <li>Investigate potential interest and scope from councils for preparation of a regional biodiversity offsets policy and development of tools, information and resources to facilitate delivery</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>2. Biodiversity</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Continue to provide councils with data and resources to assess and manage impacts of development and council activities on biodiversity)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver workshops to promote the use of Flora &amp; Fauna Guidelines. Seek adoption by all Councils</li> <li>Deliver training workshops to council's on the nature and applicability of mechanisms to promote biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>Work with Councils on development and implementation of local biodiversity strategies that utilise mechanisms identified to deliver conservation outcomes and to identify opportunities for subregional collaboration and implementation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>2. Biodiversity</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Continue to provide councils with data and resources to assess and manage impacts of development and council activities on biodiversity)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update and deliver GIS/mapping layers (eg EECs, Regionally Significant Vegetation, Regionally Significant Ecosystems, Corridors) for Council planning purposes in light of Regional Vegetation Mapping outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>
<p><b>3. GIS &amp; Data Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity Building workshop delivered to Muswellbrook Council staff on use and application of GIS /mapping layers</li> <li><i>Deliver GIS training to Dungog Council</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>3. GIS &amp; Data Management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Continue to build the capacity of Council GIS resources to inform decision making processes to enhance environmental outcomes)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop data compendium</li> <li>Deliver 2 sub-regional workshops on the use and application of data compendium.</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. GIS &amp; Data Management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Continue to build the capacity of Council GIS resources to inform decision making processes to enhance environmental outcomes)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Capacity Building Workshops on use &amp; application of GIS</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. GIS &amp; Data Management</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –Continue to build the capacity of Council GIS resources to inform decision making processes to enhance environmental outcomes)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Capacity Building Workshops on use &amp; application of GIS /mapping layers (subject to council interest).</li> </ul>

<b>(B) ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING &amp; ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>Current program outputs delivered by end 2009/10</b>	<b>Year 1: 2010/2011</b>	<b>Year2: 2011/2012</b>	<b>Year 3: 2012/2013</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Capacity Building Workshops on use &amp; application of GIS /mapping layers (subject to council interest).</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	/mapping layers (subject to council interest).	<b>Resourced</b>
<b>4. Review of Environmental Factors Template</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop computer based REF Template and supporting documentation</li> </ul>	<b>4. Review of Environmental Factors Template</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To provide councils with the tools and capacity to meet legislated environmental assessment requirements for council activities)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot and refine computer based REF Template &amp; supporting documentation</li> <li>Deliver introductory training on the use of the REF Template.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver comprehensive training on REF template and its integration with other environmental best practice tools and resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced (pending Environmental Trust application)</b></p>	<b>4. Review of Environmental Factors Template</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To provide councils with the tools and capacity to meet legislated environmental assessment requirements for council activities)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver introductory training on use of the REF Template</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver comprehensive training on REF template and its integration with other environmental best practice tools and resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced (pending Environmental Trust application)</b></p>	<b>4. Review of Environmental Factors Template</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – To provide councils with the tools and capacity to meet legislated environmental assessment requirements for council activities)</i>
<b>5. Industrial / Commercial Sustainability Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commenced research into development of sustainability assessment methodology</li> </ul>	<b>5. Industrial / Commercial Sustainability Assessment</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – to work with councils to develop a sustainability assessment methodology to be considered when assessing commercial and industrial development applications).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete development of Industrial assessment methodology</li> <li>Development of Guidelines &amp; Workshops.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<b>5. Industrial / Commercial Sustainability Assessment</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – to work with councils to develop a sustainability assessment methodology to be considered when assessing commercial and industrial development applications).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement training workshops</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<b>5. Industrial / Commercial Sustainability Assessment</b> <i>(Strategic Focus – to work with councils to develop a sustainability assessment methodology to be considered when assessing commercial and industrial development applications).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review processes and implementation of the assessment methodology to identify any system improvements possible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced</b></p>

**(C) CLIMATE CHANGE**

<p><b>1. Research &amp; Information</b>  <i>(Strategic Focus –building on Stage 1 research to deliver individual climate change profiles to councils and industry groups throughout the region – to assist with risk assessment and adaptation planning)</i></p> <p>(i) Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research completed identifying historic and projected climate change specifically for the Hunter, Central and Lower North Coast region.</li> <li>• Climate profiles developed that identify historic and projected climate change impacts at a sub regional scale (ie for coastal, central and western climate zones)</li> <li>• LGA scale climate profiles completed tailoring regional research outcomes to individual councils areas.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Communication of research findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub regional briefings on research findings delivered to council and state agency staff and community representatives at Gloucester (x2), Lake Macquarie, Wyong, Taree and Newcastle.</li> <li>• Research Methodology and Fact Sheet distributed to all HCCREMS Councils</li> <li>• All research reports and communication materials posted on HCCREMS website</li> </ul> <p>(iii) Case Studies completed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts of Climate Change on the Hunter Valley Wine Industry</li> <li>• Bushfire Risk</li> <li>• Human Health (Extreme Heat)</li> <li>• <i>Extreme Events in the Coastal Zone</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Research &amp; Information</b>  <i>(Strategic Focus – Continue to design and deliver further research and information to assist councils adapt to climate change)</i></p> <p>(i) Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify regional land use vulnerability to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>• Develop a regionally significant agricultural lands map that reflects projected changes in the region’s climate</li> <li>• Extend coastal Smartline mapping to include all estuarine foreshores in the region.</li> <li>• Risk assessment to identify vulnerability of LHCC region to new &amp; existing weed incursions arising from climate change</li> <li>• Identify susceptibility / vulnerability of coastal wetland communities to sea level rise, including development of predictive mapping.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Case Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weeds</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Agricultural Industries</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced (subject to outcomes of current Environmental Trust applications)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Research &amp; Information</b>  <i>(Strategic Focus – Continue to design and deliver further research and information to assist councils adapt to climate change)</i></p> <p>(i) Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver regional research priorities identified within regional risk assessment and adaptation reports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced</b></p>	<p><b>1. Research &amp; Information</b>  <i>(Strategic Focus – Continue to design and deliver further research and information to assist councils adapt to climate change)</i></p> <p>(i) Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver regional research priorities identified within regional risk assessment and adaptation reports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not resourced</b></p>
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<p><b>2. Council risk assessment and adaptation planning</b> <i>Strategic Focus- to build the capacity of councils to identify and manage the risks posed to their activities and communities by climate change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Forum – Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Planning delivered December 2009</li> </ul> <p>Rural Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of individual rural council risk assessment workshops and reports</li> <li><i>Delivery of rural council adaptation planning workshops</i></li> <li><i>Preparation of organisational adaptation plans</i></li> <li><i>Completion of report detailing key common risk and opportunities for collaborative adaptation action across rural councils</i></li> </ul> <p>Coastal Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Delivery of regional risk assessment workshops (to synthesise individual council risk assessment outcomes)</i></li> <li><i>Completion of report detailing key common risk and opportunities for collaborative adaptation action across coastal councils</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Council risk assessment and adaptation planning</b> <i>Strategic Focus- to build the capacity of councils to identify and manage the risks posed to their activities and communities by climate change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate implementation of collaborative adaptation strategies identified through regional risk assessment and adaptation planning process</li> <li>Co-ordinate regional Sea Level Rise / coastal council's network to facilitate consistent / collaborative adaptation responses by councils.</li> <li>Co-ordinate rural councils network to facilitate consistent / collaborative adaptation responses by councils (pending identification of common need for this out of rural councils risk assessment and adaptation planning project)</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced (facilitation only)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State wide Project – climate change toolkit</li> </ul> <p><b>Subject to Funding Application</b></p>	<p><b>2. Council risk assessment and adaptation planning</b> <i>Strategic Focus- to build the capacity of councils to identify and manage the risks posed to their activities and communities by climate change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate implementation of collaborative adaptation strategies identified through regional risk assessment and adaptation planning process</li> <li>Co-ordinate regional Sea Level Rise / coastal council's network to facilitate consistent / collaborative adaptation responses by councils.</li> <li>Co-ordinate rural councils network to facilitate consistent / collaborative adaptation responses by councils (pending identification of common need for this out of rural councils risk assessment and adaptation planning project)</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>2. Council risk assessment and adaptation planning</b> <i>Strategic Focus- to build the capacity of councils to identify and manage the risks posed to their activities and communities by climate change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate implementation of collaborative adaptation strategies identified through regional risk assessment and adaptation planning process</li> <li>Co-ordinate regional Sea Level Rise / coastal council's network to facilitate consistent / collaborative adaptation responses by councils.</li> <li>Co-ordinate rural councils network to facilitate consistent / collaborative adaptation responses by councils (pending identification of common need for this out of rural councils risk assessment and adaptation planning project)</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>
<p><b>4. Capacity Building and Education initiatives</b> <i>Strategic Focus – To facilitate regionally consistent and collaborative education initiatives to raise awareness and capacity to respond to climate change by council staff &amp; the community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Power Meter program designed and delivered across all 14 LGA's.</li> <li>Regional Forum delivered August 2009 – National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS) &amp; Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) - Implications for Councils</li> <li>Development and provision to councils of a regional climate change (community focused) PowerPoint presentation. Training provided to education staff and presentation updated twice during 2009 to reflect newly available information and resources.</li> <li><i>Environmental education communication package to be developed for councils on regional climate change projections (subject to council interest)</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Capacity Building and Education initiatives</b> <i>Strategic Focus – To facilitate regionally consistent and collaborative education initiatives to raise awareness and capacity to respond to climate change by council staff &amp; the community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued promotion and management of Power Meter Program</li> <li>Update community PowerPoint presentation in light of council risk assessment adaptation planning session and facilitate use by councils</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>4. Capacity Building and Education initiatives</b> <i>Strategic Focus – To facilitate regionally consistent and collaborative education initiatives to raise awareness and capacity to respond to climate change by council staff &amp; the community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued promotion and management of Power Meter Program</li> <li>Continue to update community PowerPoint and facilitate use by councils</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>4. Capacity Building and Education initiatives</b> <i>Strategic Focus – To facilitate regionally consistent and collaborative education initiatives to raise awareness and capacity to respond to climate change by council staff &amp; the community</i></p>

<b>(D) BIODIVERSITY</b>			
<b>Current program outputs delivered by end 2009/10</b>	<b>Year 1: 2010/2011</b>	<b>Year 2: 011/2012</b>	<b>Year 3: 2012/2013</b>
<p><b>1. Regional Vegetation Mapping</b> <i>(Strategic Focus- complete the third and final stage of region-wide vegetation mapping project)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed an agreed methodology with DECCW for regional vegetation mapping that effectively integrates with local scale planning (ie to facilitate ongoing development of finer scale mapping).</li> <li>Completed assessment of all API based vegetation mapping that exists in the region</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Regional Vegetation Mapping</b> <i>(Strategic Focus- deliver the third and final stage of region-wide vegetation mapping project)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence delivery of Stage 3: region-wide vegetation mapping program</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced (pending approval)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Regional Vegetation Mapping</b> <i>Strategic Focus-Build the capacity of councils to utilise the outcomes of the regional vegetation mapping project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete delivery of Stage 3: region-wide vegetation mapping program</li> <li>Commence development of materials (field keys, electronic keys, planning layers derived from mapping, biodiversity planning strategic analysis, conservation assessments).</li> <li>Deliver mapping and training to Councils.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced (pending approval)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Regional Biodiversity Strategy</b> <i>Strategic Focus-Identify key priorities, opportunities and mechanisms for strategic regional scale biodiversity conservation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research constraints and opportunities for strategic regional conservation planning (in light of vegetation mapping outcomes), including impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Design Regional Biodiversity Strategy (Local Government focussed).</li> <li>Develop framework for offsets and incentives (corridors, private land) contributing to biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced (pending approval)</b></p>
<p><b>2. Regional Weeds Strategy</b> <i>(Strategic Focus: Completion of strategy to restructure regional program to deliver a landscape/ecosystem approach)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of Expert Review Panel to provide technical oversight to development and implementation of the Regional Weeds Strategy</li> <li>Regional funding pro-actively sought to implement strategy goals, objectives and actions</li> <li>Research opportunities and partnerships pursued to improve scientific knowledge and management of weeds in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross regional Alligator Weed project</li> <li>Climate change research</li> </ul> </li> <li>Regional strategy &amp; implementation plan finalised</li> <li>Assistance provided to Regional Weed Managers Group to prepare 5 year budget for Industry and Investment Grant funding</li> <li>Criteria developed for prioritisation of regionally significant sites for collaborative on ground works by councils</li> <li>Application submitted for changes to noxious weed classifications at a regional level.</li> <li>Criteria developed for prioritising regional weed surveillance / inspectorial priorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Regional Weeds Strategy</b> <i>(Strategic Focus: Implementation of Regional Weeds Strategy)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate active collaboration between councils and other stakeholders to deliver collaborative management projects.</li> <li>Identify priority sites for on ground works</li> <li>Continue to proactively seek regional funding to implement strategy goals, objectives and actions</li> <li>Continue to pursue research opportunities and partnerships to improve scientific knowledge and management of weeds in the region</li> <li>Produce regional weed strategies and action plans for high priority landscape units</li> <li>Co-ordinate implementation of regional surveillance / inspectorial program</li> <li>Standardise data capture and reporting procedures for regional weed species and priority projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence implementation of cross regional Alligator Weed Containment project</li> <li>Commence implementation of professional training for councils staff re holistic approach to weed management</li> <li>Commence research project on impacts of Alligator Weed on Endangered Ecological Communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced (subject to successful grant applications)</b></p>	<p><b>2. Regional Weeds Strategy</b> <i>(Strategic Focus: Implementation of Regional Weeds Strategy)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate active collaboration between councils and other stakeholders to deliver collaborative management projects.</li> <li>Proactively seek regional funding to implement strategy goals, objectives and actions</li> <li>Continue to pursue research opportunities and partnerships to improve scientific knowledge and management of weeds in the region</li> <li>Continue develop regional weed strategies and action plans for each individual landscape unit</li> <li>Assist the development of a strategic regional education strategy</li> <li>Co-ordinate ongoing implementation of regional surveillance / inspectorial program</li> <li>Analyse and interpret regional datasets to inform ongoing priorities and to monitor management outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>2. Regional Weeds Strategy</b> <i>(Strategic Focus: Implementation of Regional Weeds Strategy)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate active collaboration between councils and other stakeholders to deliver collaborative management projects.</li> <li>Proactively seek regional funding to implement strategy goals, objectives and actions</li> <li>Continue to pursue research opportunities and partnerships to improve scientific knowledge and management of weeds in the region</li> <li>Continue develop regional weed strategies and action plans for each individual landscape unit</li> <li>Assist the development of a strategic regional education strategy</li> <li>Co-ordinate ongoing implementation of regional surveillance / inspectorial program</li> <li>Analyse and interpret regional datasets to inform ongoing priorities and to monitor management outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Part Resourced</b></p>

<p><b>3. Regional Roadside Environment Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed and distributed to councils Roadside Environment Toolkit (Policy, Guidelines, template REF's, training module)</li> <li>Completed Stage 1 Roadside marker program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>3. Regional Roadside Environment Program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –To reduce the impacts of roads and road management practices on environmental values)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate implementation of strategic on-ground works targeting conservation of state and commonwealth threatened species occurring in and adjacent to roadside environments.</li> <li>Develop and deliver capacity building initiatives for council staff that incorporate opportunities for cross council information sharing (eg case studies) and experience based learning opportunities (eg demonstration sites)</li> <li>Identify and audit 'water crossing' sites in priority catchments to identify nature of road impacts on water quality and aquatic health.</li> <li>Investigate potential / pursue opportunities for extending application of the roadside program tools and resources to other areas of council activity (eg management of community open space)</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced (subject to outcome of Environmental Trust applications)</b></p>	<p><b>3. Regional Roadside Environment Program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –To reduce the impacts of roads and road management practices on environmental values)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate on ground works / changes in road management practices to reduce impact of 'water crossings' on water quality and aquatic health</li> <li>Deliver Stage 2 roadside marker program targeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>additional roadside environments of ecological significance</li> <li>additional roadside management issues (eg water crossings, Acid Sulfate Soils, salinity, Highly Erodible Soils)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Continue to develop and deliver capacity building initiatives for council staff</li> <li>Facilitate implementation of strategic on-ground works such as erosion &amp; sediment control, remnant vegetation rehabilitation, restoration of fish passages etc in roadside environments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>	<p><b>3. Regional Roadside Environment Program</b> <i>(Strategic Focus –To reduce the impacts of roads and road management practices on environmental values)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to facilitate implementation of strategic on-ground works such as erosion &amp; sediment control, remnant vegetation rehabilitation, restoration of fish passages etc in roadside environments.</li> <li>Continue to develop and deliver capacity building initiatives for council staff</li> </ul> <p><b>Not Resourced</b></p>
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<b>(E) AIR QUALITY</b>			
Current program outputs delivered by end 2009/10	Year 1: 2010/2011	Year 2: 011/2012	Year 3: 2012/2013
	<p><b>1. Regional Air Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify the issues and needs of councils in regard to regional air quality issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resourced</b></p>		