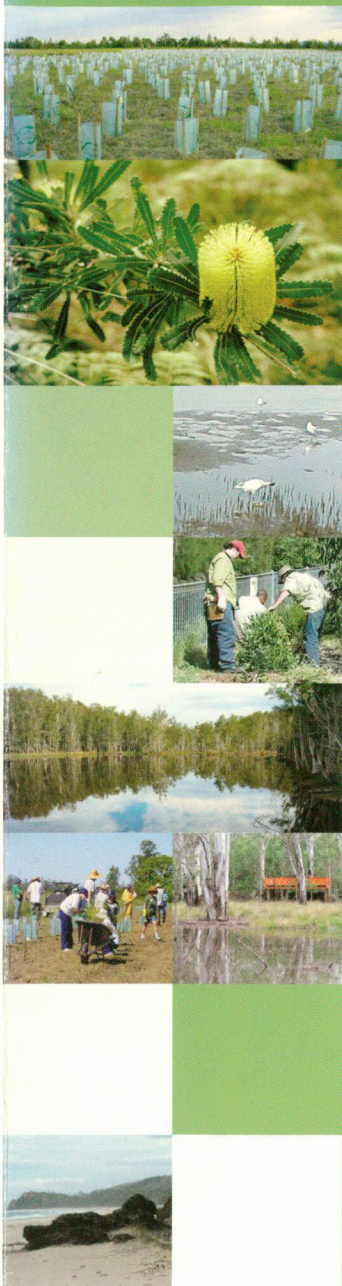


NSW City and Country Environment Restoration Program

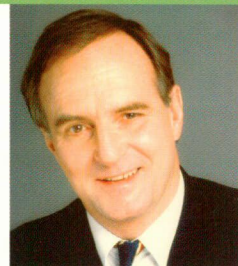


Strategic Environmental Trust Grants



Minister's message

The NSW City and Country Environment Restoration Program was announced by Premier Iemma in November 2005. It provides funding of \$439 million to be spent over five years. It will allow us to tackle our most significant environmental challenges. Under this program, we will work towards restoring our icon wetlands ... protecting our marine environment ... securing the high conservation values of our crown lands ... and reducing the ecological footprint of our urban centres. This new program will also send a strong economic signal about the importance of avoiding the creation of waste and the need to recover, reuse and recycle our valuable resources.



Much of the City and Country Environment Restoration Program will be implemented by the Environmental Trust. The Trust has an excellent record over many years supporting exceptional environmental projects that have increased the community's knowledge and skills about the environment and sought to promote behaviour change.

Community organisations, local councils, schools and Aboriginal communities have all undertaken environmental projects benefiting their communities.

The City and Country Environment Restoration Program provides \$76 million to be spent over five years on the continuation of these Strategic Environmental Trust grants. This will allow the Trust to continue in its efforts to help the people of NSW to protect and restore their environment.

BOB DEBUS
Minister for the Environment

Environmental Trust

The Environmental Trust is an independent statutory body established by the NSW Government to support exceptional environmental projects that do not receive funds from the usual government sources. The Trust is empowered under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, and its main responsibility is to make and supervise the expenditure of grants. The Trust is administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

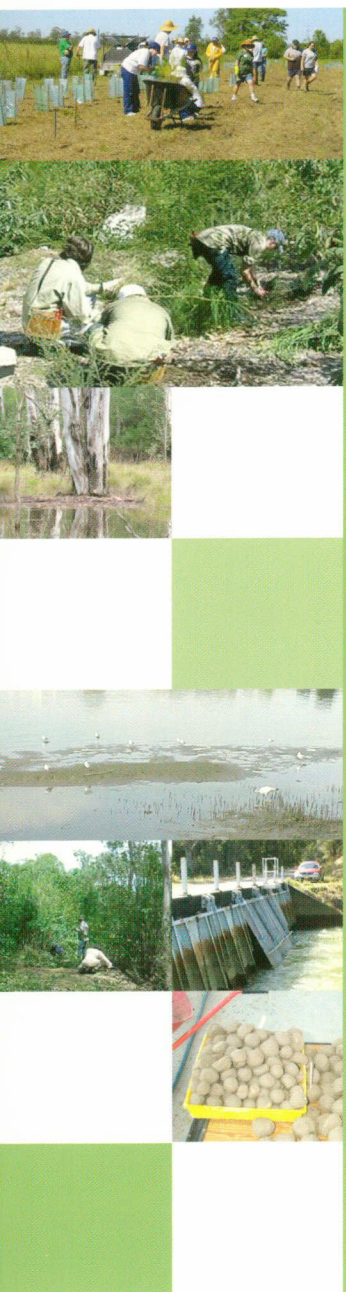
The Trust is chaired by the Minister for the Environment. Members are the Director General of DEC and representatives from the Local Government and Shires Associations, the Nature Conservation Council and NSW Treasury.

Objectives

The objectives of the Environmental Trust are:

- to encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects
- to promote research into environmental problems of any kind
- to promote environmental education in both the public and private sectors
- to fund the acquisition of land for the national parks estate
- to fund the declaration of areas for marine parks and for related purposes
- to promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management (including funding enforcement and regulation and local government programs)
- to fund environmental community groups
- to fund the purchase of water entitlements for the purpose of increasing environmental flows for the State's rivers and restoring or rehabilitating major wetlands.





The **Strategic Environmental Trust Grants** are part of the City and Country Environment Restoration Program.

In 2006 the Trust will offer grants for environmental education, restoration and rehabilitation, research and school and Aboriginal environmental projects.

All applications will open on 22 April 2006, but check below for closing dates.

Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation grants

Aim of the program

The aim of the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation program is to fund projects of significant environmental benefit to NSW run by community organisations and State and local government bodies. Through these projects, we aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

Objectives

The objectives of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program are to:

- restore degraded environmental resources, including rare and endangered ecosystems
- protect important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna
- prevent or minimise future environmental damage
- enhance the quality of specific environmental resources.

Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation grants offered in 2006 will involve:

Grants of \$5000 to \$100,000 available to:

Community organisations and non-profit associations (total program \$1.5 million)

State and local government bodies (total program \$1.5 million).

Closing date for applications 23 June 2006.

Environmental Research grants

Aim of the program

The aim of the Environmental Research program is to support research projects that help address environmental problems in NSW.

Objectives

The objectives of the Research program are to:

- generate new knowledge or information to facilitate local solutions to environmental problems
- discover new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment
- provide knowledge about general environmental problems
- assess environmental degradation.

Environmental Research grants offered in 2006 will involve a two-stage application process for the major and minor research grant categories below – expression of interest then application by invitation only.

Major category: Grants up to \$200,000 – Waters and Catchments.

Minor categories: Grants up to \$100,000 – Hazardous Substances and Waste and Environmental Noise (funds available \$900,000 for major and minor categories).

Seeding grants: Grants up to \$20,000 for 'proof of concept' projects (funds available \$100,000, one-stage application process). Grants only available for projects in one of the above three major and minor categories.



Environmental Research Grants offered in 2006 will total \$1 million and be available to community organisations, universities and research institutes.

Closing date for expressions of interest and Seeding Grant applications 26 May 2006.

Environmental Education grants

Aim of the program

The aim of the Environmental Education program is to support educational projects or programs that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour.

Objectives

The objectives of the Education program are to:

- help attain one or more of the outcomes in the NSW Government's Environmental Education Plan, *Learning for Sustainability*
- facilitate changes in behaviour of individuals and groups that improve specific environmental problems
- develop and promote education projects that improve the environment.

Environmental Education grants offered in 2006 will involve a two-stage application process – expression of interest then application by invitation only.

Grants of \$5000 to \$100,000 available to:

Community organisations and non-profit associations (total program \$500,000)

State and local government bodies (excluding schools) (total program \$500,000)

Closing date for expressions of interest 26 May 2006.

Eco Schools grants

Aim of the program

The Eco Schools program provides grants to schools to give them the opportunity to involve their students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects.

Eligibility

Schools that did not receive an Environmental Trust grant in the previous year are eligible to apply. Please note that preschools are not eligible to apply.

Eco Schools Grants offered in 2006 will involve:

60 grants of \$2500 each (total program \$150,000).

Closing date for applications 9 June 2006.

Protecting Our Places grants

Aim of the Program

The aim of the Protecting Our Places program is to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and to support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life.

Objectives

The objectives of the Protecting Our Places program are to:

- restore or rehabilitate Aboriginal land or land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people
- educate Aboriginal and other communities about the local environment and the value Aboriginal communities place on their natural environment.

Protecting Our Places Aboriginal grants in 2006 will involve:

Grants of \$2000 to \$35,000

Available to any Aboriginal community group or organisation (total program \$500,000)

For assistance with these grants, please contact the Aboriginal Liaison Officer on (02) 8837 6399.

Guidelines, application forms and more information are available on the Trust website:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust

Closing date for applications 23 June 2006.

Further information

For further information on Environmental Trust programs, please contact:

Phone (02) 8837 6093

Email envirotrust@environment.nsw.gov.au

Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust

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