

4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY GROUP

The Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA's local government partnership program supports local councils in the catchment to carry out natural resource projects to address priorities identified in the Catchment Action Plan. Projects are designed to address issues of river health, biodiversity, estuary and saltmarsh rehabilitation.

In 2006/07, the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA **invested \$2.01 million in projects** that were part of Round 4, 5 and 6 funding of the local government partnership program. Council contributions of another \$2.53 million ensured **a total \$4.53 million was invested in council environmental projects for the year.**

This program is a partnership between the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments with funding provided from the Strategic Reserve.

A critical partner in this process is the Local Government Advisory Group (LGAG), which represents 23 councils in the catchment. In June 2005, the LGAG and the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA established a memorandum of understanding, the first agreement of its kind in NSW. The benefits of the partnership includes: operational efficiencies by combining resources, joint development of strategic plans, and combined work to identify priorities in catchment.

Regular LGAG meetings provide a forum for building skills, knowledge sharing and capacity among councils, especially in areas of stormwater management, project management and best practice implementation. These forums provide opportunities for catchment councils to adopt a common approach to NRM implementation across council boundaries.

In June 2006, the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA announced \$1,916,790 funding as part of the previous Round 5 of the Local Government Partnership Program. This funding went to 24 projects (detailed in the 2005/06 annual report).

The outcomes and achievements of Round 5 funding delivered in 2006/07 include:

- **329.7 hectares of native vegetation** rehabilitated and protected
- **66 kilometres of riverbank vegetation** rehabilitated and protected
- **291.75 hectares of pest plant control** carried out
- **204 hectares of pest animal control** carried out
- **4000 native plants** established
- **1210 participants** in community education/information days

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Round 6 local government projects approved in 2006/07

PROJECT	Council	Funding
Corroboree Creek riparian restoration project	Upper Lachlan	\$21,333
Woolshed Creek riparian restoration project	Upper Lachlan	\$12,000
Yarramundi Reserve - rehabilitation & community access project	Hawkesbury	\$168,862
Cattai Creek fish passage project	Baulkham Hills	\$261,250
Upland swamp rehabilitation program	Blue Mountains	\$72,000
Management of shale based Endangered Ecological Communities at a subcatchment scale in the Penrith and Blue Mountains local government areas	Blue Mountains and Penrith	\$60,025
Berrima school to Wingecarribee River rehabilitation project	Wingecarribee	\$22,920
Improved riparian condition as part of the Great River Walk	Penrith	\$34,034
TOTAL		\$652,424