

CRFWG
Annual Report
2005

Printing instructions:

(1) Do not print this page.

(2) This Annual Report is formatted to be printed two-sided and bound for best viewing.

The first page (next after this page) is the front cover. The following page ('About the CRFWG') should be printed on the inside front cover.

To save paper, please print the last page (p16) on the inside back cover.



Annual Report 2004 - 2005



**Cooks River
Foreshores Working Group**

About the CRFWG

The Cooks River Foreshores Working Group (CRFWG) is a voluntary association of municipal councils and State Government agencies who are working together to bring about a more holistic and coordinated approach to the management of Cooks River and its foreshores. (See list of Members and contact officers for each organisation at the back of this report.)

Guided by the vision, objectives and strategies of the *Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan* (CRFSP) (Clouston 1997), the CRFWG promotes and facilitates regional collaboration between key stakeholders for the improvement and enhancement of Cooks River and its foreshore open space corridor.

The CRFSP identifies 121 strategies for improving, revitalizing and better managing the Cooks River and its foreshores to realise their potential as a valuable natural, recreational, cultural and educational resource for the community and the environment.

Taking an holistic approach, the CRFSP strategies address the whole gamut of relevant issues, from access and recreation, to natural conservation and restoration (biodiversity), water quality, riverbank rehabilitation, cultural heritage and interpretation, as well as the planning, coordination and administrative measures needed to move from strategies on paper to actions on the ground.

The CRFWG today plays a pivotal role in driving Cooks River improvement initiatives. It also plays a crucial role in the implementation of the NSW Government's Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (CRFIP), by facilitating communication between DIPNR and the foreshore councils, and by bringing the councils together to generate and deliver collaborative regional projects, which meet the objectives of both the CRFSP and the CRFIP.

The Vision of the Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan

The Cooks River will be a vital and dynamic river system, representing, in all its dimensions, a healthy natural environment within its urban landscape.

The river and its foreshores will provide a rich recreational resource valued by both the local and wider community, catering for all interests from dog walkers to joggers, sports groups to picnickers and anglers to boat users; It will also be recognized as an important regional cycle link between Homebush Bay and Botany Bay.

As a generous river corridor, the foreshores will create an ideal opportunity to restore and conserve a range of native plant communities and wildlife habitats, establishing a link from the River's beginning in Bankstown to its issue into Botany Bay.

The river and its catchment will be managed to assist the natural recovery of the water quality, aquatic life and riverbed profile, enhanced by riverbanks that reflect a more natural character.

In all of its dimensions, the long Aboriginal and European history of the river will be recognised through informative, educational and artistic programmes and features along the river's length, bringing to the community that shares and enjoys its many attractions, a sense of pride in helping to secure a sound future for this valuable city landscape.

Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan (Clouston 1997)

Acknowledgments/Abbreviations

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Cover Photo by Judy Pincus

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

CRFWG	Cooks River Foreshores Working Group
CRFSP / Foreshores Strategy	The Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan
DIPNR	NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources
CRFIP	Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program
CREW	Cooks River Enviro Workers (Project)
The River	The Cooks River
Sydney Metro CMA / SMCMA	Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

Executive summary

The previous CRFWG Annual Report (2004), being our first, covered projects and activities of the CRFWG and its member organisations from the Group's inception in 1997, to the end of the 2004 calendar year.

In keeping with the conventional year-to-year reporting adopted by local government, this 2004 - 05 report has reverted to financial year reporting and covers the year ending 30 June 2005.

To avoid duplication with the 2004 Annual Report, the highlight section below focuses primarily on significant developments since January 2005.

HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY – JUNE 2005

First CRFWG Annual Report released

In April, the CRFWG released its first Annual Report. Conceived as an important informational, promotional and archival document for the CRFWG, the 2004 Annual Report provided both an overview of the Working Group's history and descriptions of all of the regional and many local projects, which have been initiated by the CRFWG and its member organisations since the Group's launch in 1997, until the end of 2004.

The Report can be downloaded from the Cooks River website, CookNet, at <http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/CookNet>.

World Environment Day 2005 Award Finalist

In May, the CRFWG was selected as one of four finalists in the United Nations Association of Australia (Victoria) World Environment Day 2005 Awards, in the category, Local Government – Excellence in Overall Environmental Management.

Though not the ultimate winner of the award, which was announced in June 2005, it was a great honour for the work of the CRFWG to have received such recognition in this nationwide competition, which involves some of the best environmental management initiatives by local government in Australia!

Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program

A total of \$312,500 in funding was approved for seven Cooks River foreshore improvement projects in the second round of grants under the NSW Government's Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Program (CRFIP). Announced by the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and

Natural Resources in June 2005, this funding will be put to work in the coming fiscal year.

Among the awards was a second grant supporting coordination of the CRFWG, demonstrating the Government's continuing recognition of the essential role played by the CRFWG in facilitating regional collaboration, delivering on-ground results and assisting DIPNR with implementation of the CRFIP.

All of the projects that have received funding through the CRFIP to date are listed in the table on the following page. Details for each project can be found in the project descriptions which follow.

Applications for Round 3 funding were due for submission in July 2005, with grant announcements expected in the spring. A fourth round of grants will be offered in 2006.

Regional Project Highlights

Three new regional initiatives received funding under Round 2 of the CRFIP, including projects to:

- develop an interpretation strategy for Cooks River;
- implement the foreshore signage strategy being developed under an existing project; and
- develop guidelines for landscaping the foreshores and managing mangroves and other riparian vegetation.

The CRFWG is managing the first two projects, while DIPNR will be overseeing the latter.

Two regional projects have been addressing the 'Water and Riverbank Management' objectives of the CRFSP. **RiverScience** will be the first scientific research program to establish, benchmark and monitor the ecological health of the Cooks River and its main tributaries. During 2004 – 05, a research brief was developed and distributed to prospective consultants. It is expected that consultants will be engaged in

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Projects funded by the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (as of 30 June 2005)

PROJECT NAME	COUNCIL	Project status as of 30/6/05	CRFIP Funding
CRFIP Round 1 funding - announced June 2004			
Councils Collaborating for Cooks River 1 (Coordination of CRFWG)	Strathfield Council (on behalf of all CRFWG Councils)	Completed	\$33,360
Cooks River Pedestrian and Cycle Path Improvement Study	Strathfield Council (on behalf of all CRFWG Councils)	Active	\$21,000
RiverScience	Marrickville Council (including Canterbury, Kogarah and Rockdale Councils)	Active	\$30,000
Planting the Seed	Marrickville Council (including Canterbury and Rockdale Councils)	Active	\$109,000
Cooks River Foreshore Master Plan	Burwood Council	Active	\$30,000
Cooks River Bikepath (Stage One)	Canterbury City Council	Active	\$45,000
Plan of Management for the Campsie Bushland	Canterbury City Council	Completed	\$10,000
Kendrick Park	Marrickville Council	Active	\$30,000
Dean Reserve River Crossing and Stage 3 Upgrade	Strathfield Municipal Council	Active	\$150,000
CRFIP Round 1 TOTAL:			\$458,360
CRFIP Round 2 funding - announced June 2005			
Councils Collaborating for Cooks River 2 (Coordination of CRFWG)	Strathfield Council (on behalf of all CRFWG Councils)	To commence FY2005-06	\$35,000
Cooks River Interpretation Strategy	Burwood Council (on behalf of 5 CRFWG Councils)	Active	\$25,000
Cooks River Bikepath Improvement works - Homer St to Bankside Ave	Canterbury City Council	To commence FY2006-07	\$35,000
Wolli Creek Bush Regeneration (Harthill-Law Ave, Earlwood)	Canterbury City Council (on behalf of Wolli Creek Preservation Society)	Active	\$12,500
Tempe Lands Revegetation	Marrickville Council	Active	\$150,000
Development of Foreshore Landscape and Riparian Vegetation Management Guidelines	All Councils	To commence FY2005-06	\$20,000
Implementation of the Cooks River Signage Strategy	All Councils	To commence FY2005-06	\$35,000
CRFIP Round 2 TOTAL:			\$312,500
Total CRFIP funding awarded as of 30 June 2005:			\$770,860

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July 2005, to develop monitoring methodology and collect baseline data. The program is set to conclude in February 2006.

In October 2004, the CRFWG launched the first ongoing, regionally coordinated program to remove litter and gross pollutants from Cooks River. **CREW** (Cooks River Enviro Workers) pools resources from six CRFWG councils, the Georges Riverkeeper Program of the Georges River Combined Councils Committee, and the Periodic Detention Program of the NSW Department of Corrective Services, to provide a low-cost, end-of-pipe response to community frustration over the River's persistent litter problem. In 2004 – 05, the CREW team removed an estimated 176 m³ of litter and over 46 tonnes of litter and larger dumped objects (shopping trolleys, car parts, etc) from the river and foreshores.

Planting the Seed will provide important information and planning needed to achieve some of the **'Natural Conservation and Restoration'** objectives of the CRFSP. The project will enable more strategic management of local provenance indigenous plant resources to ensure there will be enough plant materials available to meet the growing demand for local species for local and regional ecological restoration, revegetation and foreshore improvement projects.

'Access, Recreation and Use' objectives are being addressed through the **Cooks River Pedestrian and Cycle Path Improvement Study**. This project brings together all seven councils located along Cooks River and the Alexandra Canal and three State Government agencies, to identify safety, access and other issues and recommend an improvement strategy for the iconic Bay-to-Bay Cycleway route, which is one of the oldest shared pedestrian and bicycle paths in Sydney. Consultants were engaged in June 2005 to carry out the study and are expected to provide recommendations for future improvements and development of the path by the end of the year.

Community volunteers, trained through the **RiverLife Interpretive Tour Program**, have continued to inspire a love of Cooks River in tour participants, with their popular walking, cycling and kayaking tours. A second training for volunteer tour guides was held in January 2005 and funding was secured in June, for further guide training and to employ a part-time project officer to coordinate and support the volunteers' efforts. The unique and interesting tours offered by the RiverLife volunteers provide a fun and creative approach to the **'Interpretation and**

Promotion' of the River recommended in the CRFSP.

Sydney Metropolitan CMA funding for Cooks River project

The Cooks River catchment has been identified as one of the four "icon" areas of the CMA's catchment. In June 2005, the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources approved the allocation of \$100,000 of Sydney Metro CMA funds for on-ground works in the Cooks River Catchment.

The CRFWG and its member councils are working closely with CMA representatives to identify priority projects suitable for this funding.

EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) was officially established in September 2004. Recruitment for the positions of Chairperson, Board Members and General Manager began in May 2005.

The purpose of the CMA is to lead and coordinate efforts to deliver natural resource management outcomes in the urban Sydney region.

The new CMA is keen to see improvements to Cooks River and is very supportive of the efforts of the CRFWG.

Steel Sheet Piling Removal and Replacement Program

Though significantly behind schedule, the NSW Government has advised the CRFWG and the foreshore councils, that the \$2.9 million Steel Sheet Piling Removal and Replacement Program, which it announced as a pre-election promise in March 2003, is still scheduled to go ahead. The funds are to be used for the design and construction of more ecologically viable, safe and aesthetic bank treatments to replace the existing steel sheeting embankments.

It is understood that the first \$1.1 million will be made available in FY2005-06, for preliminary studies and consultations, including soil investigations, prioritisation of areas to be treated, trialling of different treatments and community consultation.

Executive summary

The project is expected to be run by DIPNR's Sydney South Coast Office, in conjunction with the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, and in consultation with Marrickville and Canterbury Councils and the CRFWG.

Rezoning of former Cooks River County Road Reservation

In June 2005, Canterbury Council placed on public exhibition a draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP), which calls for the rezoning of land within and near to the former Cooks River County Road Reservation, in order to provide appropriate land use zonings for previously affected land and to preserve existing and provide new open space to enhance the Cooks River foreshore parklands.

The preparation of this plan was the culmination of years of strategic work and stakeholder consultation undertaken by Council since the State Government announced its abandonment of the Cooks River County Road Reservation east of Second Avenue, Campsie, in 1998.

The LEP will be finalized following completion of the exhibition period in August 2005, and review by Council of the comments and submissions received.

Rezoning of the Cooks River County Road Reservation to enhance the foreshore open space corridor was a specific recommendation of the *Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan*.

Community initiatives

During the year, the community demonstrated growing interest in seeing more rapid and significant improvements to the health and amenity of the Cooks River.

In September 2004, a group of concerned local residents affiliated with the **Hurlstone Park Community Group**, drew a crowd of over 200 people to their first annual public forum on the Cooks River. Organised with the support of Linda Burney, Member for Canterbury, their Cooks River Forum gave interested members of the community an opportunity to hear from State and Federal parliamentarians, local councillors and other experts, as well as to express their views regarding strategies to improve the health of the River. The Group is seeking to reactivate the **Cooks River Valley Association**, with a view towards becoming an important vehicle for community lobbying and action in support of improving the Cooks River.

The long-active **Wolli Creek Preservation Society** (WCPS) became a partner in two regional CRFWG projects (Riverscience and Planting the Seed) and, with the support of Canterbury Council, received a grant in Round 2 of the CRFIP for its bush regeneration work at Bray Avenue, Earlwood, within the Wolli Creek Regional Park (see project descriptions below). The Society is committed to the conservation, enhancement and expansion of bushland in the Wolli Creek and Bardwell Creek catchments and seeks to improve community behaviours to protect bushland and creek quality.

The WCPS also held its own public forum in November 2004, at which some 60 people, including representatives from State agencies, local Councils and community groups and individuals, exchanged information about the current state of the creek's health, the responsibilities of various State agencies for the creek and other issues. The forum uncovered several possibilities for bi-lateral cooperation between the various government agencies (eg, to improve access and land management, remove litter and dumped rubbish and undertake stream health monitoring and improvement), which the WCPS intends to pursue.

CRFWG OPERATIONS

Officers from Bankstown, Burwood, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils, NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, Sydney Water and RailCorp participated actively in CRFWG meetings and activities throughout the year.

Greater Council contributions and financial assistance from the NSW Government for coordination of the CRFWG helped to increase the capacity of the CRFWG to handle its growing workload in FY2004 - 05. In the coming year, an expected further increase in support will enable full-time employment of a Coordinator for the first time in CRFWG history.

LOOKING AHEAD

Some regional priorities for the coming year include:

- Assisting councils in planning and securing funding for new local and regional projects through the CRFIP and other sources;
- Preparation of an interpretation strategy to guide councils and other stakeholders in

Executive summary

protecting, enhancing and fostering appreciation of the River's natural and cultural heritage;

- Improving access to and within the foreshore open space corridor by enhancing the path network and improving signage and foreshore amenities;
- Reporting to the community on the ecological health of the River based on the findings of the RiverScience project, and promoting improvements to water quality;
- Working for the best possible outcomes for the environment and the community from the State Government's Steel Sheet Piling Removal and Replacement Project;
- Assisting DIPNR in the preparation of an Open Space Plan and foreshore landscape and riparian vegetation management guidelines, which will help guide future riverbank restoration and foreshore landscaping works;
- Continuing to build an effective partnership with the new Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority to achieve desirable outcomes for Cooks River.
- Updating CookNet, the Cooks River website.



'The Bicycle Thieves' - by local photographer, Sharon Zwi.
Reproduced with permission of the artist.

Regional projects

Regional projects which have been active during FY 2004 – 05, are described below. Projects are organised according to the principal strategic area they address (based on the categories used in the CRFSP) but most address a far broader range of objectives. Projects are also grouped by their status, ie, 'new' (started in 2004-05), 'continuing' (ongoing from previous years) and 'completed' (completed in 2004-05).

Funding amounts shown represent the total amount invested (including cash and estimated in-kind contributions, excluding GST) in the project to date. The figures provided are based on the best information available at the time of printing.

ACCESS, RECREATION AND USE PROJECTS

NEW

Development of a Cooks River Open Space Plan

(2005 – 06)

Project Description

This project will provide guidance for Councils in developing regional parklands along the river, by identifying key regional parklands and appropriate recreational uses to meet the recreational needs of residents.

Partners

- DIPNR (Project Management)
- CRFWG
- Councils and other stakeholders (to be determined)

Funding

- DIPNR (Sydney Regional Development Fund): \$50,000

Status

In conjunction with Round 2 of the CRFIP, DIPNR approved the allocation of Sydney Regional Development Fund monies for this project, which is expected to complement and add value to the outcomes of the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program. DIPNR's Metro Open Space Team will manage the project in the coming year, in consultation with the CRFWG, the foreshore councils and other stakeholders.

CONTINUING

Cooks River Pedestrian & Cycle Path Improvement Project

Project Description

The increasingly popular Bay-to-Bay Cycleway is one of Sydney's oldest shared walking and cycling paths and is in need of considerable upgrading. This project brings together the seven councils responsible for managing the foreshores of the Cooks River and the Alexandra Canal, and three State Government agencies, to identify safety, access and other issues and recommend improvement strategies for the Cooks River section of this iconic route, including its linkages to other intersecting routes.

The project aims to provide a regional perspective on the functionality and design of the path, to guide future works by the councils and ensure a more coordinated, coherent and strategic approach to its future maintenance, servicing and development.

Partners

- CRFWG (Project Management)
- Burwood, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils
- NSW Roads & Traffic Authority
- Sydney Water

Funding

- Burwood, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils: \$24,000+ (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$21,000
- City of Botany Bay (in-kind)
- NSW Roads & Traffic Authority (in-kind)
- Sydney Water (in-kind)

Status

Consultants were engaged in June 2005 to undertake a study of the route from Parramatta Rd, Strathfield, along the Cooks River to the river mouth at Botany Bay, Rockdale, and along the Alexandra Canal. The study will provide

Regional projects

recommendations on safety, route development, path design and amenities provision. Considerable stakeholder and community consultation is planned as part of the study, and the final report, expected near the end of 2005, will be exhibited for public comment in early 2006.

NATURAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

CONTINUING

Planting the Seed

Project Description

Planting the Seed addresses the need to strategically manage local provenance indigenous plant resources to ensure there will be enough plant materials available to meet the growing demand for local species in future local and regional ecological restoration, revegetation and foreshore improvement projects.

The project will (1) assess the current capacity of existing seed collection and nursery resources to produce local provenance plants; (2) estimate demand for these plants in all Cooks River Foreshore council areas for the next 5-10 years; and (3) recommend actions to address gaps and meet future demand.

Planting the Seed builds upon the work started under the Cooks River Seedbank and Remnant Restoration Project (1998 – 2003).

Partners

- Marrickville Council (Project Management)
- Canterbury and Rockdale Councils
- Wolli Creek Preservation Society
- CRFWG
- DIPNR
- Sydney Metro CMA

Funding

- Councils: \$109,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$109,000

Status

A part-time project coordinator was recruited and commenced work in late June 2005. A consultant will be engaged in the coming year to undertake mapping and analysis of local provenance resources and needs.

WATER AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

NEW

Cooks River Enviro Workers (CREW)

Project Description

CREW represents the first collaborative ongoing regional effort to remove litter and other gross pollutants from Cooks River and its tributaries. It responds to community dissatisfaction with the large quantities of litter, which end up in the river system due to ongoing littering behaviour and the limitations of existing gross pollutant traps.

Modelled on the successful Georges River clean-up program, CREW brings a team of trained volunteers, from the Periodic Detention Program of the NSW Department of Corrective Services, to the river two days a week to remove rubbish from the water and banks. Participating councils provide tools and supplies for the workers and dispose of the rubbish collected. Georges Riverkeeper and PDC staff train the team and coordinate and supervise their work. The CRFWG Coordinator administers and assists with coordination of the project.

The CRFWG gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Georges River Combined Councils Committee in making available the resources of the Georges Riverkeeper to help us establish and run this program for Cooks River.

Partners

- CRFWG (Project management)



And this is the Cooks River in Canterbury, not Cambodia!!

(Photo: Canterbury Council)

Regional projects

- Bankstown, Burwood, Canterbury (financial administration), Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils
- Georges River Combined Councils Committee - Georges Riverkeeper Program
- NSW Department of Correctional Services, Periodic Detention Program

Funding

- Georges River Combined Councils Committee - Georges Riverkeeper Program: (in-kind)
- NSW Department of Correctional Services, Periodic Detention Program: (in-kind)
- Bankstown, Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils: \$8,000 plus in-kind
- Sydney Water Corporation: (in-kind)
- CRFWG: (in-kind)

Status

CREW began working in the Rockdale area in July 2004, and was extended to the other council areas after its official launch in October 2004. Altogether during the year, the CREW team filled over 2,940 clean-up bags with an estimated 176 m³ or 44.1 tonnes of litter, and removed well over 2.5 tonnes of larger dumped objects, such as car parts, shopping trolleys and motor bikes, from the foreshores and river bed.

The impact of these efforts has become quite noticeable in those areas where the CREW team has been able to work. However, because access to the (concrete) channelised section of the River, which is owned and managed by Sydney Water, was denied until near the end of the first year, the channelised section remains extremely degraded with large quantities of litter trapped in the mangroves. As this litter gets released into the stream by tidal action and heavy flows during rain events, it regularly re-pollutes areas previously cleaned downstream.

In June 2005, Sydney Water granted permission for the CREW team to commence work in the concrete channel. The Georges Riverkeeper helped make this possible by preparing a Work Safety Plan for this purpose, as required by Sydney Water.

With access to the channel now possible, it is hoped that, once the channel is cleared, the general appearance of the river as a whole will improve greatly and that far less effort will be required to keep the River clear of new litter entering the system in the future.



'Once was litter' - collected, bagged and left by the CREW team for Rockdale Council's Cleansing Services staff to pick up and dispose. (Photo: Rockdale Council)

CONTINUING

RiverScience

Project Description

RiverScience is a scientific research program to establish, benchmark and monitor the ecological health of the Cooks River and its main tributaries.

The RiverScience objectives are:

- to provide information for councils, State Government agencies, universities and other stakeholders regarding the ecological health of the River;
- to develop a monitoring framework that will contribute to State of the Environment reporting and long-term management of the Cooks River;
- to develop a set of key indicators consistent with the National SoE indicator framework, which will allow better understanding of the ecological attributes and processes of the Cooks River;
- to guide the management of aquatic and riparian habitat; and
- to inform future capital works along the riverbanks.

The RiverScience project aims to determine the ecological health of the River using indicators specific to the Cooks River. The indicator set includes:

- aquatic plants (macroflora): salt marsh, sea grass and mangroves;
- sessile aquatic invertebrates; molluscs, oysters and barnacles and soft sediments fauna; crabs and other yet to be determined animals; and

Regional projects

- sediment characterisation, sediment geochemical analysis and sediment micro-organism analysis.

By establishing baseline data on the indicators, such as the population of oysters at a specific sampling site, councils will have a reference point for all future sampling, with which to gauge changes in ecological health. The health of the River is directly connected to the way the catchment and the various activities occurring within it are managed, many of which can be influenced by local government.

Partners

- Canterbury, Kogarah, Marrickville and Rockdale Councils
- University of New South Wales
- Sydney Water
- NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
- Australian Museum
- Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Funding

- Canterbury, Kogarah, Marrickville and Rockdale Councils, University of New South Wales, Sydney Water, NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries: \$30,000 (in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$30,000
- RailCorp: \$5,000
- Wolli Creek Preservation Society: \$500

Status

With technical assistance from specialists from Sydney Water, NSW Fisheries and UNSW, the joint council working group managing this project targeted the three core indicator components mentioned above and prepared a research brief, which was distributed to prospective consultants with a call for proposals in June. It is expected that Consultants will be engaged in July to develop monitoring methodology and collect baseline data. The program is set to conclude in February 2006. Negotiations are underway between Landcare Australia and Australand, which owns a major development near the junction of Cooks River and Wolli Creek, to

provide a further \$15,000 to extend the research and monitoring capabilities of the RiverScience project.

CHARACTER AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECTS

NEW

Cooks River Foreshore Landscape & Riparian Vegetation Management Guidelines

2005 –

Project Description

Following a review of current best practice in foreshore development projects and soft-engineering techniques, this project will develop a series of landscape design guidelines to assist the foreshore councils in planning and implementing future works to enhance the foreshores and manage mangroves and other riparian vegetation. This project will integrate landscape character objectives with objectives for natural conservation and restoration, access, recreation and interpretation.

Partners

- DIPNR (Project management)
- CRFWG
- Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils

Funding

- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Program (Round 2): \$20,000

Status

This project will be managed by DIPNR, in consultation with the foreshore councils and the CRFWG. Work is scheduled to begin in the coming year.

INTERPRETATION AND PROMOTION PROJECTS

NEW

Cooks River Interpretation Strategy

2005 –

Project Description

This project aims to develop an integrated interpretation strategy, which will inspire and guide the foreshore councils and other stakeholders in interpreting, conserving, protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural values of the Cooks River and its foreshore corridor, including the major tributaries of the River. The strategy will guide the development of signage, arts, events, etc, aimed at increasing public enjoyment and appreciation of the River and understanding of the impacts of human activity upon it.

Partners

- CRFWG (Project management)
- Burwood Council (Financial Administration)
- Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils
- DIPNR (technical assistance)

Funding

- Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils: \$25,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Program (Round 2): \$25,000

Status

Funding was secured in June 2005. A Consultant will be engaged in the coming year to work with the councils and other stakeholders to develop the strategy.

Implementation of the Cooks River Foreshores Signage Strategy

(2006 –)

Project Description

Production and installation of new orientation and directional signage along the foreshores, based on designs developed for a new regional

system of signage under the Cooks River Signage Strategy project (see below).

Partners

- CRFWG
- Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils

Funding

(subject to approval of matching funding in councils' FY 2006 – 07 budgets)

- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Program (Round 2): \$35,000
- Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils: \$35,000

Status

DIPNR committed funding, in Round 2 of the CRFIP, to assist councils with the implementation of signage utilising designs being developed under the Cooks River Signage Strategy project. Councils will be seeking matching funding in their FY2006 – 07 budgets.

CONTINUING

Cooks River Foreshores Signage Strategy (formerly CRF Interpretive Trail)

2001 –

Project Description

Five foreshore councils are participating in this collaborative initiative to develop generic style guidelines and produce signs for a new coordinated system of interpretive and orientation signage for the foreshore path from Strathfield to Botany Bay.

The project is based on recommendations in the CRFSP and the Cooks River Signage Audit (2000).

Partners

- CRFWG (Project management)
- Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils

Funding

- CRFWG (Project management)
- Burwood, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils \$63,180 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Metropolitan Greenspace Program: \$63,180

Regional projects

Status

A new Cooks River logo has been developed. Style guidelines for the new regional signage, for adoption by all foreshore councils, are currently being finalised.

The project has experienced delays due to difficulties encountered during the development of maps for the orientation signs and due to the insufficient resources available for project management. Project completion is now a top priority for 2005 - 06.

RiverLife Interpretive Tour Program

2003 -

Project Description

The Riverlife Interpretive Tour Program links the community to the Cooks River through a program of interpretive tours that promote leisure and increased understanding of sustainability, ecological values and cultural heritage of the River. Riverlife tours are designed and led by volunteer community educators who have been trained in interpretive guiding skills with a focus on the Cooks River.

The RiverLife Interpretive Tour Program arose out of the original RiverLife stormwater education project funded by the NSW Government's Stormwater Trust in 2002 – 2003.

Partners

- Marrickville Council (project management)
- Canterbury and Strathfield Councils
- Community volunteers



RiverLife volunteer Tour Guides (Photo: Marrickville Council)

- NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
- CRFWG

Funding

- NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, 'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing' Program grant (June 2005): \$64,919
- Marrickville Council (in-kind)
- Community Volunteers (in-kind)

Status

A second group of community volunteers were trained as Riverlife Interpretive Tour Guides in January and have continued to deliver a program of engaging Riverlife Tours. Twenty Riverlife Tours have been delivered since January 2005, with over 150 participants from the community taking part in walks, cycling, and sketching along the Cooks River.

Funding secured in June 2005, from the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation's 'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing Program', will be used in the coming year to: provide Sustainability Training for Riverlife Tour Guides; hold a third Interpretive Tour Guide Training Program; and employ a part-time project officer to coordinate the program and support the volunteers' efforts.



'Sketching along Cooks River Tour' run by RiverLife Tour Guide and local artist, Ellen Fiedler, at Kendrick Park, Tempe. (Photo: Sue Stevens, RiverLife Tour Guide)

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

NEW

Councils Collaborating for Cooks River

2004 -

Project Description

This project expands the capacity of the Cooks River Foreshores Working Group to facilitate regional collaboration, assist councils in translating strategic objectives into on-ground results and assist DIPNR and the councils with implementation of the CRFIP.

Partners

- CRFWG (Project management)
- Bankstown, Burwood, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils
- DIPNR
- Sydney Water
- RailCorp

Funding

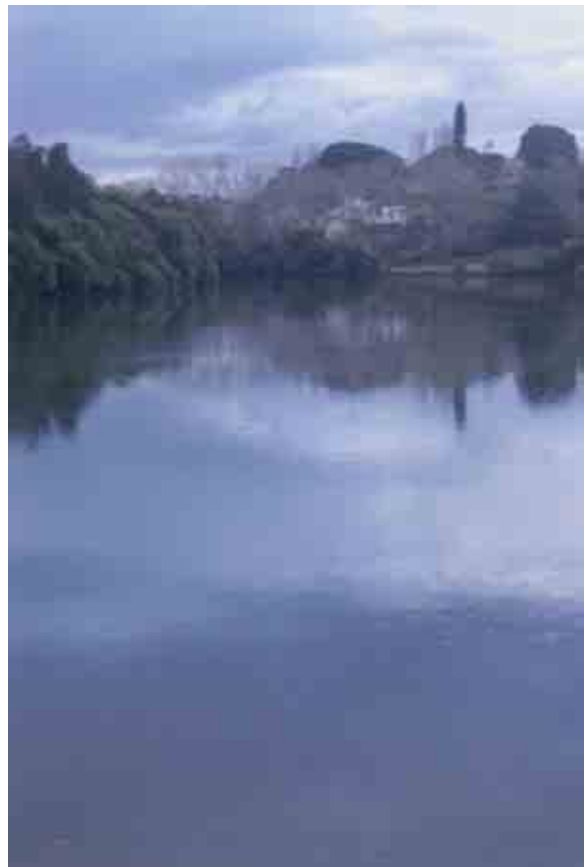
- Bankstown, Burwood, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils (2004 – 05): \$33,360 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Program (Round 1): \$33,360 (for 2004 – 05)

Status

Thanks to the additional resources provided by the CRFIP grant, the CRFWG Coordinator's working hours were increased from three to four days per week from late September 2004, increasing the capacity of the Coordinator to facilitate the achievement of CRFWG, CRFSP and CRFIP objectives, including the management of a number of regional projects.

The outcomes of this work are reflected throughout this Annual Report.

A second CRFIP grant for \$35,000, to assist with coordination of the Working Group, was announced in June 2005. This funding will enable employment of the CRFWG Coordinator on full-time basis in the coming year.



'Manet, Manet, Manet' by local photographer, Anni Turnbull. Reproduced with permission of the artist.

Member projects

The following is a partial listing of projects initiated, run and/or supported by CRFWG members during FY2004 – 05, to implement strategies from the *Cooks River Foreshores Strategic Plan*.

ACCESS, RECREATION AND USE PROJECTS

NEW

Kyeemagh Boat Ramp Reserve Foreshore Restoration Improvement Project (Stage 1)

Project Description

This project is to increase the open green space along an 80m length of the Cooks River Foreshore at the Kyeemagh Boat Ramp Reserve at Mutch Avenue, Kyeemagh, by the removal of an existing roadway and its replacement with landscaping, a pedestrian and cycle path and picnic facilities. The proposed works would enhance use of this regional boat ramp and raise community awareness and enjoyment of Cooks River foreshore open space.

The proposed works would implement the Kyeemagh Boat Ramp Reserve Landscape Improvement Plan (2000) and the Kyeemagh Boat Ramp Reserve Plan of Management (2002) previously prepared by Council.

Contributors/Partners

- Rockdale Council

Funding

- Rockdale Council: \$50,000

Status

Council was unsuccessful in its application for funding under Round 2 of the CRFIP, but intends to continue seeking external funding (through the CRFIP and other sources) to assist with the implementation of landscaping and civil works planned for the Reserve.

Tempe Recreational Reserve - Pedestrian & Traffic Improvements

2004 – (2006)

Project Description

This project will see additional pedestrian / cycle path and recreational facility improvements at

Tempe Recreational Reserve, including establishing connections to new open space created at the adjacent Tempe Lands Remediation site and improving access along Holbeach Avenue to Kendrick Park.

Partners

Marrickville Council

Funding

- Marrickville Council: \$90,000
- DIPNR, Metropolitan Greenspace Program: \$90,000 (pending)

Status

Traffic management studies are underway and new cycleway works will be undertaken following completion of the Tempe Lands project.

Dean Reserve River Crossing and Stage 3 Upgrade, Strathfield 2004 -

Project Description

This project will see the design and construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across Cooks River near Dean Reserve to improve access to the Bay-to-Bay Cycleway from the western side of the river. Associated works will include construction of a shared access pathway and planting of indigenous vegetation along the western bank and further enhancements to Dean Reserve, a former garbage tip site which Council has rehabilitated and is gradually transforming into a regional public park.

Partners

- Strathfield Council

Funding

- Strathfield Council: \$150,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$150,000

Status

Community consultations held for the preparation of a plan of management for the site elicited strong support for the plan from the community. Council is preparing a draft of the plan to present to the community for comment and will undertake various cultural, heritage and environmental studies for the site in 2005.

Member projects

Cooks River Bike Path Improvement Works - Homer Street to Bankside Avenue

2006 -

Project Description

Improvements to the foreshore path between Homer Street and Bankside Avenue, Undercliffe, including associated bank stabilisation works and improved access to the path and foreshore from Homer Street.

Partners

- Canterbury City Council

Funding

- Canterbury City Council: \$35,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 2): \$35,000

Status

Grant funding to assist with project costs was awarded through the Round 2 of the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program in June 2005. Works are scheduled to begin in FY2006-07.

CONTINUING

Tempe Recreational Reserve Redevelopment

2000 -

Project Description

Redevelopment of Tempe Reserve as a major regional recreational facility, which incorporates water sensitive urban design features and provides foreshore access and environmental education opportunities.

In previous years, the landform was altered and bio-swales created to direct stormwater and flood runoff through an artificial wetland constructed on site. The wetland provides water filtration and storage/detention to prevent negative impacts on Cooks River from stormwater run-off from the site and to provide habitat for migratory birds. Pedestrian and cycle paths have been created to provide access to the foreshores and the indoor and outdoor sport and recreational facilities constructed as part of this project. See also 'Cooks River Valley Garden'.

Partners

- Marrickville Council

Funding

- Marrickville Council: \$6.2 million
- Grants: \$800,000
 - Metropolitan Greenspace Program
 - NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
 - NSW Government, Estuary Management Program
 - NSW Waterways Authority

Status

Built elements of the redevelopment were completed in 2003. Planting activities continue to further enhance the landscape and biodiversity values of the site.

Cooks River Bikepath (Stage One), Waterside Crescent, Earlwood

2004 - 05

Project Description

Construction of a new sealed pedestrian and cycle path along the south bank of Cooks River from Thompson St to Younger Ave, Earlwood.

Partners

- Canterbury Council

Funding

- Canterbury Council: \$45,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$45,000

Status

Construction was completed in FY2004 - 05. The project will be completed following final reporting, as required for the grant funding.

COMPLETED

Cooks River Cycle Path Improvement Project, Burwood

2004 - 05

Project Description

A detailed route risk assessment and benefit/cost study was undertaken to identify priorities for improving the safety of sections of the foreshore path east Georges River Rd, in Walsh

Member projects

Ave Reserve and Whiddon Reserve, and priority works were undertaken.

Partners

- Burwood Council

Funding

- Burwood Council: \$40,000 (cash and in-kind)
- RTA: \$40,000

Status

Improvement works were completed in early 2005, included realignment and regrading of sections of the path immediately east of Georges River Road underpass in Walsh Avenue Reserve and immediately east of Walsh Avenue in Whiddon Reserve.

Cooks River Path Improvements, Canterbury Road to Charles Street, Canterbury

2004 - 05

Project Description

Improvements to the pedestrian and cycle path along the north bank of Cooks River from Canterbury Road to Charles Street.

Partners

- Canterbury City Council

Funding

- RTA: \$75,000

Status

Improvement works, including path widening and replacement of asphalt with concrete, commenced and were completed in FY2004 - 05.



The Bray Avenue site in 2004. The weed vines have since been removed. (Photo: Noberto Meijome, Wollie Creek Preservation Society)

NATURAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

CONTINUING

Wollie Creek Bush Regeneration – Bray Avenue, Earlwood

2003 -

Project Description

The Wollie Creek Preservation Society (WCPS), with in-kind assistance from Canterbury Council, has been undertaking a bush regeneration project at a site near the junction of Harthill-Law and Bray Avenues, Earlwood, since February 2003. The site is located within the Wollie Creek Regional Park and was given high priority in the Regional Park Plan of Management, as it contains the last remaining off-stream wetland in the Wollie Valley. The regeneration project has concentrated on removal of weeds in the wetland and around the edges.

Partners

- Canterbury Council
- Wollie Creek Preservation Society

Funding

- Canterbury Council and Wollie Creek Preservation Society (committed for 2005 – 06): \$14,855 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 2): \$12,500

Status

With assistance from Canterbury Council, the project received a grant in Round 2 of the CRFIP, which will enable the WCPS to:

- buy extra tool sets (so they can include more volunteers);
- hold training days for volunteers; and
- engage a professional bush regeneration team to support the work and begin removing the larger privets from the wetland area.

Results to date are impressive. Already native species are re-establishing themselves in areas previously infested with weeds. A community planting session is planned for July 2005 to establish a new barrier of native plants between the bushland and the nearby grassed park. Council's in-kind support has included disposal of weeds removed from the site and grant administration.

Member projects

A further grant application to continue this work was submitted to DIPNR under Round 3 (2005-06) of the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program.

Cooks River Valley Garden

2001 -

Project Description

Located within Tempe Recreational Reserve, this living museum showcases over 80 species native to the Cooks River Valley. Plant selection has been based on the book, *Missing Jigsaw Pieces* (Sydney Royal Botanic Garden), produced by the CRFWG in 1999. Planting and maintenance work are performed by the local community, with support from Council. Residents also have the opportunity to join the Friends of the Cooks River Valley Garden and contribute to the ongoing planting and care of the local native garden.

Partners

- Marrickville Council
- Marrickville Community Nursery (plants)
- Community volunteers

Funding

- Marrickville Council: \$50,000+ (cash and in-kind)
- Commonwealth Government, Natural Heritage Trust: \$9,900
- Greenweb Sydney (devolved NHT grant): \$16,800
- Community volunteers (in-kind)

Status

The garden is extensive and growing beautifully. Visitors can see and, with the help of informational signage, learn about local native species and find out which plants are suitable for planting in their gardens. The Friends of the Cooks River Valley Garden was established in May 2005, and meets on a monthly basis as part of Marrickville's Environmental Volunteer Program.



Volunteers working at Cooks River Valley Garden. (Photo: Marrickville Council)

Tempe Lands Remediation and Revegetation

2004 -

Project Description

Remediation, landscaping and revegetation of a former tip site to create a new public park. Remediation works included measures to prevent further contamination of Alexandra Canal by leachates from the site.

Partners

- Marrickville Council

Funding

- Marrickville Council: \$17 million
- DIPNR, CRFIP Round 2 (2004-05): \$150,000

Status

Remediation works and extensive planting have been completed and further planting and landscaping works are underway or planned. It is expected that the site will be made publicly accessible in December 2005.

COMPLETED

Plan of Management for Campsie Bushland, Canterbury

Project Description

Preparation of a Plan of Management for the foreshore reserve at the end of Third Ave, Campsie. The site contains remnants of the Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest Endangered Ecological Community and is threatened by weed-infestation and its proximity to urban development.

Partners

- Canterbury Council

Funding

- Canterbury Council: \$10,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1, 2003-04): \$10,000

Status

The Plan of Management was completed in May 2005. An application for funding to implement actions in the plan was submitted to DIPNR under Round 3 of the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program. The actions will

Member projects

complement Council's existing bush regeneration program with the National Trust (NSW).



The Campsie Bushland is one of the few remaining examples of original bushland occurring on the Cooks River (photo: Canterbury City Council)

WATER AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

CONTINUING

Kendrick Park Foreshore Restoration Project

2002 -

Project Description

Detailed design and on-ground works for the rehabilitation of eroding banks and restoration of salt marsh and other local native riparian vegetation along the foreshores at Kendrick Park.

The design work builds upon preliminary studies and treatment recommendations provided during Stage One of the Cooks River, Bank Restoration Project, which was initiated and managed by the CRFWG.

Partners

- Marrickville Council

Funding

- Marrickville Council: \$130,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Estuary Management Program: \$100,000

- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$30,000

Status

Council has engaged Clouston Associates to assess feasibility and prepare concept and master plans for Kendrick Park, incorporating foreshore restoration and refurbishment of the path network and park facilities.

Draft Masterplan options and traffic analysis for cycleway and road traffic are being prepared for completion in September 2005 for approval by agencies and Council in October - December 2005.

Cooks River Bank Restoration, Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe 2002 -

Project Description

Design and construction of works to stabilise and rehabilitate eroding banks along Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe. Ecologically sensitive treatments are proposed, including revegetation with salt marsh and other native riparian vegetation.

The design work builds upon preliminary studies and treatment recommendations provided during Stage One of the Cooks River, Bank Restoration Project, which was initiated and managed by the CRFWG.

Partners

- Canterbury Council

Funding

- Canterbury Council: \$150,000
- DIPNR, Estuary Management Program: \$150,000

Status

Consultants engaged by Canterbury Council completed a Concept Plan and Statement of Environmental Effects for the project in April 2004. Council completed detailed designs in October and submitted a Development Application in November to undertake works. The DA was approved in April 2005. Specifications are currently being prepared to enable tenders to be called for the construction works.

Member projects

COMPLETED

Cooks River Bank Restoration, Freshwater Park, Strathfield (Stage 2)

2003 - 2005

Project Description

Design and construction of bank stabilisation and riparian corridor restoration works along a highly unstable section of the last remaining natural / non-channelised reach of Cooks River in Strathfield.

This project represents the second of three stages of work aimed at managing erosion and flooding and enhancing biodiversity in Freshwater Park. It continues Council's implementation of the Freshwater Park Demonstration Project proposed in the CRFSP.

Partners

- Strathfield Council (Project management)
- Sydney Water Corporation
- Strathfield Golf Club
- DIPNR (technical advice)
- NSW Fisheries (technical advice)
- CRFWG

Funding

- Stormwater Trust, NSW Government: \$268,126
- Sydney Water, Stormwater Environmental Improvement Program (Project No. 29): \$55,700
- Strathfield Council: \$58,800 plus in-kind

Outcomes

Detailed designs and tender / contract documentation were completed in March 2004. Construction and planting began in November 2003 and were completed in March 2005.

Banks were battered back to reduce channel steepness and geotextiles, placed rock and dense plantings were used to stabilise the bed and banks. A variety of local provenance indigenous species were planted to re-establish the riparian corridor, providing habitat for native fauna and a source of seed for future restoration projects.

Strathfield Council will be maintaining the site, with assistance from Strathfield Golf Club, to ensure the successful establishment of the riparian vegetation corridor.

Council is also seeking assistance through the CRFIP for further planting and minor structural works to stabilise the banks and restore native habitat from the upper limit of Stage 2 works to Centenary Drive.



Completed bank works at Freshwater Park, April 2005. (Photo: Strathfield Council.)

PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

NEW

Cooks River Foreshore Master Plan, Burwood

2005 -

Project Description

This project involves preparation of a Master Plan for the Cooks River foreshores within the Burwood Local Government Area, to ensure that future developments protect and enhance landscape, visual, recreational, natural and cultural values. The Master Plan will include recommendations for improving paths and on-road traffic facilities for path users.

Partners

- Burwood Council

Funding

- Burwood Council: \$30,000 (cash and in-kind)
- DIPNR, Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program (Round 1): \$30,000

Status

In progress.

CRFWG operations

Active participants

Officers from Bankstown, Burwood, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils, NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, Sydney Water and RailCorp participated actively in CRFWG meetings and activities throughout the year. A full list of CRFWG members is shown on the following page.

Meetings

Meetings of the full Working Group were held six times during the year. In June 2005, Core Members also began to meet separately, prior to the full group meetings, to focus on administrative and other issues of particular concern to the Councils. Meetings were hosted by the member organisations on a rotating basis.

Management of regional projects

The CRFWG Coordinator managed or coordinated planning to develop four regional projects during the year: CREW, the Cooks River Foreshore Signage Strategy, the Cooks River Interpretation Strategy and the Cooks River Pedestrian and Cycle Path Improvement

Study. Canterbury, Strathfield and Burwood Councils provided assistance with the financial administration of these projects.

Employment support

Marrickville Council continued to administer and provide managerial support for the employment of the CRFWG Coordinator during the year and Strathfield Council has continued to host the Coordinator's position.

Funding for CRFWG coordination

Financial and in-kind contributions provided to support coordination of the CRFWG in FY 2004 – 05, and commitments for FY2005 – 06, are shown in the table below.

In June 2004, DIPNR provided its first financial contribution towards coordination of the CRFWG, in the form of a \$33,360 CRFIP Round 1 grant award. Together with a small increase in CRFWG councils' contributions, this funding enabled an increase in the working hours of the CRFWG Coordinator from three to four days per week from September 2005.

The award of a second CRFIP grant of \$35,000, for FY 2005 – 06 (announced in June 2005), combined with further increases in council contributions, will make full-time employment of the CRFWG Coordinator possible in the coming year for the first time in the CRFWG's history.

Financial and in-kind contributions for CRFWG Coordination

Contributor	Cash contribution FY2004-05	Cash commitment FY2005 - 06	In-kind contributions
Bankstown City Council	\$0	\$2,000	Staff time and meeting support
Burwood Council	\$1,000	1,000	Staff time and meeting support
Canterbury City Council	6,000	9,000	Staff time and meeting support
City of Sydney Council	2,000	2,000	Staff time and meeting support
Marrickville Council	5,000	10,000	Staff time and meeting support. Administration and overhead for employment of Coordinator
Rockdale City Council	2,000	2,000	Staff time and meeting support
Strathfield Municipal Council	3,000	5,000	Staff time and meeting support Hosting of Coordinator's position
Ashfield Council	300	0	
DIPNR (CRFIP grant)	33,360	35,000	Staff time
Sydney Metro CMA	0	0	Staff time
Sydney Water	0	0	Staff time
RailCorp	0	0	Staff time
Total	\$52,360	\$68,000	

CRFWG operations

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS / PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVES

Core Members

Bankstown City Council	Nerida Williams, Catchment Management Officer
Burwood Council	Marnee Harlour, Environmental Project Officer Peter Cormican, Manager Engineering
Canterbury City Council	David Bell, Team Leader Environmental Issues Louise Rhodes, Environmental Policy Officer
City of Sydney	Peter Donley, Manager Transport and Support Kathryn Cassidy, Environmental Development Officer
Marrickville Council	Nell Graham, Acting Manager Environmental Services Leigh Trevitt, Landscape Coordinator
Rockdale City Council	Colin Mable, Executive Engineer Nadine Croker, Landscape Architect
Strathfield Municipal Council	Jon Stiebel, Natural Resources Officer Matt Williams, Environmental Projects Officer

Participating Members

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources	Daylan Cameron / Arthur Michos, Senior Natural Resource Officer, Coasts & Estuaries, DIPNR - Sydney/South Coast Region
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Peter Dixon, Acting Executive Officer Judy Christie, Regional Natural Resource Management Facilitator
Sydney Water Corporation	Guy Hodgson, Stormwater Programs Project Coordinator
RailCorp	Peter Semple, Senior Natural Resources Officer

Corresponding Members

City of Botany Bay	Oman Wijayaratna, Senior Engineer
Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation	Leanne King, Chairperson
Georges Riverkeeper Program of the Georges River Combined Councils Committee	Simon Annabel, Georges Riverkeeper
NSW Department of Environment and Conservation	Kieran Horkan, Principal Officer Sydney Catchments Ray Fowke, Conservation Planning Officer, NPWS
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Jeanine McGregor, Fisheries Officer
NSW Waterways Authority	Graeme Dunlavia, Operations Manager, Botany Bay Port Hacking
Total Environment Centre	Leigh Martin, Urban Campaigner

CRFWG Employees

Coordinator	Judy Pincus
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Cooks River Foreshores Working Group
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Bankstown, Burwood, City of Sydney, Canterbury, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield Councils, in partnership with
NSW Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources, Sydney Water and RailCorp.