



living environment

Environmental Management

Council manages over 1,100 hectares of bushland, four coastal lagoons, six rock pools and nine beaches. Our environmental management service protects waterways, stormwater infrastructure, trees, coastline, lagoons, bushland and floodplains. Much of the funding for these programs comes from Council's Environment and Stormwater Special Rate (ESSR) which represents 6.9% of rates.

Dee Why/Long Reef Beach won the 2007 Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge Award for overall Cleanest Beach in the Sydney region. Warringah's beaches recorded good water quality conditions this year. All swimming sites recorded 100% compliance with Beachwatch water quality standards during summer with the exception of Birdwood Park and all recorded 100% compliance during winter with the exception of Birdwood Park, North Curl Curl and Davidson Park.

The Wildlife Protection Area at Long Reef was extended this year to cover the entire headland including Long Reef Golf Club in an effort to protect threatened flora and fauna and to link it with the Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. Over the past ten years Council and Reefcare volunteers have carried out extensive bush regeneration on the headland. Over 140 bird species were sighted there this year including 40 listed as threatened or protected.

Manly Dam (Manly Warringah War Memorial Park) is the largest individual bushland reserve managed by a local council on the northern beaches and covers 375 hectares. Manly Dam is a major recreational area for a wide range of activities such as swimming, kayaking, fishing, water skiing, cycling and walking.

Manly Dam attracts up to 500 visitors a day during summer with playgrounds, barbecues and picnic areas. The fifth Celebrating Manly Dam Community Day was held in November with interactive stormwater action models, live native animals, War Memorial heritage, guided Aboriginal heritage and wildflower bushwalks.

A three year \$1.5million project is currently underway to support bush regeneration, protect water quality and educate local residents on how to look after the waterway and surrounding bushland.

New initiatives this year include a booklet, education kit for schools, maps, posters, educational shelter, interpretive signage, school excursions, early morning bird watching walks, after dark spotlight walks and weed workshops. The 'Keeping Our Dam Alive' project received a runners-up award in the Environmental Partnerships category in the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Award program.

A \$2million grant under the State Government's 'City and Country Environment Restoration Program' was awarded to Warringah and Pittwater Councils for projects to protect the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment. The Councils will work in partnership with Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment on a series of works and programs to be run over the next three years. These works will protect the catchment of the largest coastal lagoon in the Sydney region.

The grant funds will support existing programs through sustainable living education, remediation works and bush regeneration as well as providing new community events such as bushwalks and spotlight walks. The new program of works will improve the lagoon and surrounding bushland to save this iconic area for future generations.

During the year Warringah Council prepared a concept design and undertook preliminary environmental assessment as part of the first stage of works for the Narrabeen Lagoon Restoration Project. The project will restore the natural water depths around the central basin of the lagoon while protecting and enhancing existing habitats. An investigation was also undertaken into the ecological effects of infilling deep holes left by former dredging operations adjacent to Wimbledon Island.



Threatened Species

Warringah is home to 75 threatened plant and animal species and 16 endangered ecological communities. Council is actively improving habitats in Council managed reserves with community education programs, bush regeneration, noxious weed removal, feral animal control, fencing and other protection measures.

Council continues to participate in ongoing feral animal monitoring and control programs with seven foxes and 23 feral cats removed from bushland reserves, golf courses, open space recreational areas and private properties. Council also conducted six successful rabbit control programs as part of the threat abatement program with 500 rabbits removed from selected reserves.

Council has successfully completed trials which investigated the success of trapping Indian Mynas. Residential trapping proved more successful than the target program and Council now has traps available for loan to residents. Council will continue to work with the Australian National University to deter and capture some of Warringah's larger roosting colonies such as those in Oaks Ave, Dee Why.

This year Council implemented a recovery plan for the threatened Southern Brown Bandicoot and undertook fox control in Council managed reserves around known populations. Council Rangers patrol the Duffy's Forest area for unleashed dogs.

More than 200 students from five schools were involved in Council's 'Protecting our Threatened Species Duffy's Forest Environmental Education Program' this year. The program, encouraging students to appreciate and care for bushland areas and native animals, won the national Silver Environs Sustainability Award in September.

This year Warringah's Friends of the Bush volunteers carried out over 6,000 hours of work to assist the conservation and restoration of many bushland reserves. More than 300 volunteers worked on 50 different sites and planted 8,000 native plants.

Bushcare volunteers working at Stony Range Flora and Fauna Reserve were rewarded with the reserve being officially recognised as a botanic garden this year.

Environmental Education

Warringah Council's World Environment Day Youth Expo attracted 1,500 school students who participated in interactive workshops over two days in May. Almost 20,000 people attended a Community Expo Day at Dee Why's James Meehan Reserve on Sunday 27 May. A range of activities were on display to show the community how they can reduce their impact on the environment.

As part of the Northern Beaches Sustainable Living Program 16 sustainability workshops and 18 guided walks were conducted on topics such as sustainable shopping, weed removal, eco renovations and permaculture gardening.

More than 800 residents enjoyed the 11th year of the popular Hilltop to Headland Environmental Lecture Series with the free lectures complemented by hands-on workshops. The series covered a wide range of topics including wildlife friendly gardens and frog ponds, green cleaning and nocturnal animals.

Warringah Council received a Highly Commended Award in the Community Engagement category of the NSW Sustainable Water Challenge for the 'Water is Life – Don't Waste a Drop' water conservation campaign.

More than 300 students from ten primary schools participated in the Shopping Championships as part of our World Environment Day Youth Expo examining a variety of toys and products for environmental rating based on life cycle analysis. Five schools also participated in composting and recycling workshops.

Each year Council provides funding to schools for environmental projects under the Eco Schools Grant Program. Schools can apply for up to \$2,500 for environmental projects such as vegetable or native gardens, installation of rainwater tanks and environmental excursions. More than \$52,000 was provided to 22 local schools this year.

Local schools also received copies of Council's Warringah Environmental Education Newsletter (WEEN) each term and schoolchildren participated in the Warringah Kids Care Calendar designing posters on environmental issues.

Council's Waste Education team conducted workshops at 36 schools and 1,500 students from 14 schools participated in Waste Watchers in collaboration with Keep Australia Beautiful. Six primary and preschools also participated in the regional 2006 North Shore Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge with three local schools taking out prizes in the challenge.

Council's Waste Education team promoted the importance of avoiding, reducing and recycling waste at 16 community events and 17 courses or workshops. Compost bins were also donated to five unit blocks to assist residents to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill and thousands of reusable shopping bags were given away to residents.

Warringah has amongst the best performing waste services in Australia in terms of recycling recovery and environmental benefit. The total amount of waste collected this year decreased slightly to 61,228 tonnes with recycled waste accounting for nearly half of all waste collected.

On average Warringah residents created 47.5kg of garden waste per person, 218kg of landfill waste and 130kg recyclable waste.

Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre is a solid waste landfill site operated by Warringah, Manly, Mosman and Pittwater Councils. Processes developed at Kimbriki resulted in only 26% of the 211,000 tonnes of waste material received at the site being landfilled. In 2006/07 Kimbriki recycled 56,000 tonnes of vegetation, 77,000 tonnes of concrete/brick and 2,800 tonnes of metal products with 48,000 tonnes of waste going to landfill.