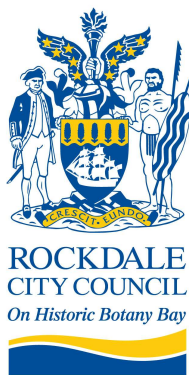




Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative



Annual Report to GRCCC
October 2010



Background

The Strategic Sustainability Plan identified in the Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative (LGRSI) project application was completed in June 2010. It contains 4 Action Plans which describe the “next steps” towards achieving the desired outcomes of the project.

Desired Outcomes

The Intermediate Outcomes of the LGRSI, which identify the impact that will be observable from meeting the LGRSI project objectives in terms of changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, awareness, and practices are:

1. More effective institutional arrangements within partner councils (to enable and enhance sustainable practices).
2. More effective urban water management
3. More integrated planning and implementation of NRM programs within the LGR catchment
4. More sustainable practices of community and business.
5. Improved bushland, biodiversity and riparian health.

Action Plan activities to date (September 2009 to October 2010)

WSUD Action Plan	
More effective urban water management	
Activity	Status
1 group council WSUD Leadership workshop	Completed
4 council Action Planning workshops	Completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 draft WSUD Action Plans produced• Rapid Assessment and Action Planning Tool housed on SMCMA website
4 staff WSUD awareness events	Not completed. (due in 2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 DA assessor workshops held• 1 WSUD leadership course (5 attended)
4 WSUD demonstration projects	Not completed. (Due in 2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 projects currently being scoped for implementation in 2011
4 WSUD case studies	Not completed. (due in 2011)
4 councilor WSUD awareness events	Not completed. (due in 2011)

Community Partnerships Program Action Plan	
More sustainable practices of community and business.	
Activities	Status
Sustainability options and opportunities document	Completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 distributed; 72 GRCCC web downloads
Project Planning workshop	Completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 workshops (21 and 14 attending)
2-12 Project Plans	Completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Project Plans submitted
2-12 Project Partnership Agreements	Part completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Agreements completed; 2 pending
2-12 sustainable practices, bushland, riparian health projects	Not completed (due in 2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 getting greener! projects • 4+ River Health Monitoring site restoration projects
2-12 Most Significant Change case studies	Not completed (due in 2011)
Organisational Effectiveness Action Plan	
More effective institutional arrangements within partner councils (to enable and enhance sustainable practices).	
Activities	Status
4 council Organisational Profiles	2 completed (CRSI); 2 underway
4 Action Plans based on Organisational profiles	Not completed. (due 2011, after review)
4 planning workshops	Not completed. (due 2011, after review)
* staff awareness events, * meetings, * fora	Not completed. (due 2011, after review)
4 reviews of purchasing policies	Not completed (due March 2011)
4 reviews of illegal dumping policies	Not completed. (due 2011, after review)
4 Sustainable Choice or Green with ENV-E activities (or similar)	1 Green with Envy commenced 1 (modified) Sustainable Choice commenced

Integrated NRM Action Plan	
More integrated planning and implementation of NRM programs within the LGR catchment	
Activities	Status
Participate in Botany bay Coordination group	Completed. (and ongoing)
Botany Bay projects 4-pager	Not completed. (due Dec 2010)
Baseline Foraminifera survey	Not completed. (contracted for June 2010 delivery)
Support Estuary Management Plan	Not completed. (underway)
Promote projects on GRCCC website	Not completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • getting greener! promoted May 2009

NB: The Intermediate Outcome of Improved bushland, biodiversity and riparian health will be addressed to a small extent by projects within the Community Partnerships Program, but primarily through projects identified by the GRCCC River Health Monitoring Project and implemented by councils.



*“Aren’t LogFrames fabulous!” Discussing ideas at the **getting greener!** project planning workshop:*

Cheryl Gleave, Matt Heffernan, Graham Lalchare and Kim Wagsta

Scheduled Activities to October 2011

	Scheduled major activity	Timing
Engagement and Communications Officer	Review of LGRSI Engagement and Communications Plans, then identified media and promotion.	Nov 2010
	GRCCC website updates	Regular
	Communications, media and strategy support to getting greener! project groups	Nov 2010 – Oct 2011
	Video stories of getting greener! projects	Oct 2010 – Oct 2011
Urban Water Management Sub-Program	Approval of \$900,000 WSUD on-ground works in 4 x councils	Nov 2010
	On-ground works	To Dec 2011
	SIA Conference paper and presentation	Nov 2010
Community Partnerships Program: <i>getting greener!</i>	Support project partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carss Park Community Garden • Oatley Flora & Fauna • Sydney FoodConnect • Botany Bay Oyster growers • St George Migrant Resource Centre and St George Community Housing • Permaculture St George & Sutherland 	To Dec 2011
Organisational Effectiveness Program	Complete Organisational Profiling at Sutherland Shire Council and Kogarah City Council	January 2011
	Support Kogarah City Council with sustainability assessment	February 2011
Evaluation	Conduct of Most Significant Change video interviews (getting greener! and WSUD)	Oct 2010 – Oct 2011
	Social Return on Investment forecast report for 1 getting greener! project	Dec 2010
Reporting	Submission of Env Trust milestone reports	Dec 2010-10-14 May 2011

Budgeting

Project budget: \$ 1,999,506 (plus interest plus contributions)

Expenditure to 30 Sept 2010 \$ 203,745

\$ 1,795,761

Major project expenses for 2011	\$ 900,000	WSUD on-ground works
	\$ 300,000	getting greener! projects
	\$ 120,000	River Health projects
	\$ 48,000	EMP and forum survey
	\$ 35,000	Organisational Profiling

\$1,403,000



David Dekel facilitates some WSUD soul-searching with Bankstown City Council staff

Overview

The LGRSI is on track. The remaining 15 months to January 2012 provide sufficient time for planned activities to be completed.

The **getting greener!** program has piloted the use of a novel project planning process whereby proponent groups create project plans (ie LogFrames, gantt charts and budgets) rather than grant applications.

The resignation of Jessica Grantley, while limiting the media promotion of the LGRSI, has not compromised the delivery of the **getting greener!** program. The recent appointment of David Kuhn will ensure the media promotion of the LGRSI is appropriate, and that **getting greener!** groups are supported in their communication and promotion needs.

The WSUD Rapid Assessment and Action Planning process delivered by the LGRSI has been made publicly available as a tool for use by other organizations via the SMCMA website, and was Highly Commended in the recent NSW Stormwater Industry Association awards. The LGRSI councils are currently following WSUD Action Plans developed through this process.