COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS: IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE WHAT WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE?



THE SUSTAINABLE BOATING PROJECT

We wanted to engage local businesses to self-determine their own sustainable practices. The boating & fishing industry and recreation groups were a perfect fit.



catalyst... it provided necessary ups and councils. There was vast networking between exhibitors

We partnered with the Marina Industries Association and engaged eight marinas, and achieved Clean Marinas accreditation for 4 of them.

BUILDING CAPACITY WITHIN COUNCILS:



LESSONS:

BARRIERS ARE SOCIAL, NOT TECHNICAL

- # Sustainability is fundamentally about human behaviour. The barriers to more sustainable practices are primarily SOCIAL rather than technical, and CONNECTIONS THROUGH NETWORKS and the capacity for action are critical ingredients in changing to more sustainable practices in organisations and households.
 - * The LGRSI has provided knowledge, skills and plans for action to enable organisations and households to confidently engage in new and more sustainable practices.

Lower Georges River

Sustainability Initiative

We had a \$2 million grant ...

We wanted to improve the health of the Lower Georges River catchment through:

> Water Sensitive urban Design in council policies and works.

Organisations integrating their planning and project management.

Adopting sustainability policies and practices in council activities.

sustainable practices in businesses and households.

Improved bushland. biodiversity and riparian health.



The Team







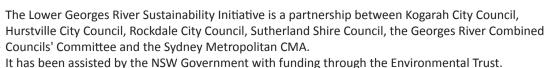














WHAT WE DID

IN 2009, WE SAID ...

BUT THERE WERE BARRIERS ...

50 WE ...

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED ...

1. SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

Nater management s important and timely...

...Water sensitive urban Design (WSUD) seems the right response.

Previous (mostly social) barriers.

plans have dentified

BUT ...

we are unsure of the extent of commitment to WSUD among council

management.

We suspect community interest has drifted.

conducted a rapid assessment of institutional capacity for wsub within each council, to ensure we had plans and commitments for action.

...Convened a group to coordinate activities to ensure we were acting effectively, and collaborated with the River Health program and four councils in on-ground projects.

> ... conducted an assessment of organisational effectiveness in councils to ensure councils were aware of priorities for improvement.

... supported existing groups to plan for and conduct projects to ensure they could take the next steps in fostering more sustainable practices

...Developed and

within their communities.

* 4 x WSUD Action Plans

- * 2 x follow-up workshops
- * 4 x council implementation of WSUD
- ➤ 1 roof garden
- > 1 wetland rehabilitation
- ➤ 2 Hydrocon pipe systems
- > 20 Stormwater re-use tree pits * Won a Stormwater Industry Award
- * 4 x Quarterly WSUD newsletters

* Georges River Conference Cruise

* Georges River Estuary Handbook

> 14,250 native plants planted

* 4 riparian regeneration projects

➤ 10,765 m² weeded

We've created tools that other councils are using.

Action Plans are in place to guide councils.

2.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) INTEGRATION

need better monitorina and reliable reporting of NRM projects.

There is a desire to use resources more effectively.

We suspect the community is unaware of and/or confused by the range of NRM project activities.

BUT ...

AND ...

AND ...

There is no overarching framework for managing the Lower Georges River.

There appears to be a lot of overlap in funding sources and aspirations.

supporting a new integrated framework: * Convened Botany Bay Coordination group * Identified and collated baseline studies

- ~ GRCCC's Management & Implementation Plan
- ~ Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Plan, and
- ~ Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan

3.

ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAM

There is a framework (Brown) which identifies critical elements of organisational capacity.

Barriers are social, technical. BUT ...

Each council is a different animal, and has different cultures, structures and processes, which are difficult to change.

***** 4 Council Organisational Profiles

* 4 Action Plans based on **Organisational Profiles**

- * Four council groups with a sustainability agenda
- * 4 Sustainable Choice or Green with Env-E training activities
- * Sustainable Events and Sustainable Purchasing policies

4 council groups have been developed which drive a sustainability agenda.

4 £ 5

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM GETTING GREENER!

There are many communitybased players in existing groups, each with an existing structure, networks and membership.

BUT ...

While councils have sustainability processes, it's not clear how the community could plan or act for sustainability.

* 32 Training or Community days held

* > 1300 People attending events

* > 450 People who've changed their practices

***** 40 New members to community groups

* 740 Native plants established

1 4 Clean Marina accreditations

6 groups have plans for the future, and improved implementation skills.