IMPROVING PROSPECT CREEK FOR WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
PROJECT NUMBER – 2008/USW/0005

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

2013

Holroyd City
Built Around People

FairfieldCity
Celebrating diversity

BANKSTOWN
City of Progress

GRCCC
Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

NSW
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Summary

The Improving Prospect Creek (IPC) project is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and involves the collaboration of Bankstown, Fairfield and Holroyd City Councils and the Georges River Combined Council's Committee (GRCCC). The IPC project was developed as a result of the concern for the condition of the creek. The Prospect Creek Catchment is located in Sydney's south west and covers an area of 98 square kilometres. Prospect Creek is approximately 26 km long and flows from the Prospect Reservoir to the Georges River at Georges Hall.

The project had two key stages. The first stage involved the development of a Strategic Management Plan (SMP) and the second stage involved the implementation of the key recommendations from the SMP. The Strategic Management Plan outlines the existing condition and key management issues for the creek and also provides a strategic framework for the coordinated management of the creek by the three Councils. A Draft Rehabilitation Plan has been developed to guide the ten-year implementation of the SMP including actions to improve local biodiversity and habitat, such as weeding, bush regeneration and planting, as well as actions to stabilise the creek banks and improve water quality.

The implementation stage of the project involved implementing the highest priorities identified in the SMP using grant funds from May 2011 to March 2013.

The aim of this report is to summarise the activities conducted during the Improving Prospect Creek for Water Quality and Habitat project, in which funding was sourced in 2008 through the NSW Environmental Trust. The project number 2008/USW/0005 and the funding allocated to the project was $550,776.

Background and Objectives of the Project

The Improving Prospect Creek project was funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, originally over a three year timeframe but extending to a five year timeframe due to two project extensions. The project involved the collaboration of Bankstown (BCC), Fairfield (FCC) and Holroyd (HCC) City Councils as well as the Georges River Combined Council's Committee (GRCCC). The objectives of the project are to:

1. Improve the condition and extent of native vegetation communities along the Prospect Creek riparian corridor

2. Increase understanding of the current biological values of the creek's riparian corridor

3. Identify, assess and prioritise Local Government management actions to rehabilitate the ecological functions of Prospect Creek

4. Develop relationships between land managers, indigenous groups and community members to better manage Prospect Creek

5. Increase awareness of the significance of Prospect Creek and encourage greater participation in the rehabilitation of the creek by the local community

The project had two key stages. The first stage involved the development of a Strategic Management Plan (SMP) and the second stage involved the implementation of the key recommendations from the SMP. The Strategic Management Plan outlines the existing condition and key management issues for the creek and also provides a strategic framework for the coordinated management of the creek by the three Councils. A Draft Rehabilitation Plan has been developed to guide the ten-year implementation of the SMP including actions to improve local biodiversity and habitat, such as weeding, bush regeneration and planting, as well as actions to stabilise the creek banks and improve water quality.

The community was engaged in a number of different activities throughout the project duration. A key aim of the project was to increase community interest and capacity with regards to the management of the creek.

Project Activities Undertaken

The project has recently completed the second stage of implementing the key recommendations from the SMP.

The last IPC steering committee meeting was attended on Thursday the 8th of March, 2012 at the Fairfield City Council chambers by representatives of FCC, BCC and the GRCCC.

All IPC committee members conducted a suite of work within each Local Government Area within the Prospect Creek Catchment.

Fairfield City Council

FCC conducted a number of different activities for the IPC project within the Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA), using a mix of council funding and grant funding. Activities included:

- Bush regeneration and revegetation work in five IPC target areas
- Ongoing bush regeneration work along the entire length of Prospect Creek through FCC's 'Creek Care' program
- Design and Construction of four Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) in key IPC areas
- Rehabilitation of De Freitas Wetland, wetland of Prospect Creek
- Maintenance of four existing GPTs
- Detailed design of three additional GPTs earmarked for future construction
- Erosion control work at the Little Street stormwater outlet
- Proactive and reactive creek cleaning activities, through councils 'Creek Cleaning' program and the GRCCC 'River Keeper' program
- Coordinated 11 working bees / information days with the wider community

These activities are expanded on below:

Bush Regeneration and Revegetation Work in Five IPC Target Areas

Primary weed removal and revegetation work was conducted in five SMP target areas along Prospect Creek to enhance and increase riparian corridor. Over 20 000 local provenance plants were planted. Photographs and maps of these areas are located in Appendix C.

Ongoing bush regeneration work along the entire length of Prospect Creek through FCC's 'Creek Care' program

Bush regeneration work was conducted during the grant period and will continue along the entire length of Prospect Creek under FCC's creek care program.

Design and Construction of four Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) in key IPC areas

FCC has designed and constructed four GPTs along Prospect Creek at Bellinger's Drain and De Freitas Wetland in Fairfield, Smithfield Main Drain in Smithfield and recently at Little Street in Smithfield. FCC has also commenced the detailed design of three GPTs at Gipps Road and Chifley Street, Smithfield. These GPT locations were recommended locations for additional WSUD devices within the SMP.

Rehabilitation of De Freitas Wetland, wetland of Prospect Creek

FCC completed the rehabilitation the De Freitas Wetland in 2011. The wetland was owned by the De Freitas family until Council took ownership in the early 1990s. It is an important part of Fairfield's history and is the only remaining natural wetland on Prospect Creek below Prospect Dam.

The rehabilitation works involved removing aquatic weeds and decades of accumulated sediment. Gross pollutant traps were installed on both stormwater pipes entering the wetland. Over 10000 native wetland plants were planted to improve water quality and provide habitat for native wildlife.

Maintenance of four existing GPTs

FCC has continued maintaining the GPTs mentioned above, plus other GPTs (litter booms, nettech traps) at Vine Street, Fairfield, Kiola Street, Widemere Street and Smithfield Wetland, Smithfield. Maintenance of GPTs requires regular removal and disposal of rubbish that has been caught in the stormwater system prior to entering Prospect Creek.

Erosion control work at the Little Street stormwater outlet

As a part of the Little Street GPT construction, erosion control and bank stabilisation was required at the stormwater outlet to Prospect Creek. This heavily eroded outlet was a key priority erosion control area in the SMP. The outlet was stabilised with a mixture of sandstone stabilisation, jute matting and

revegetation.

Proactive and reactive creek cleaning activities, through councils 'Creek Cleaning' program

During the course of the IPC project, FCC has coordinated the collection and appropriate disposal of approximately 231 tonnes of rubbish from Prospect Creek, through proactive and reactive work under FCC's 'Creek Cleaning' program. These statistics are taken from Creek Clean 'sweeps' where workers walk the length of Prospect creek and also from the cleaning of the GPTs.

Coordinated 11 working bees / information days for the wider community

Council organised a tree planting day with community members at Gipps Rd, Smithfield on 25th June, 2011 to improve the riparian zone of Prospect Creek. A total of 10 volunteers assisted, 5 of which were university students, totalling 40 volunteer hours. Approximately 200 trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted along 3,000 m^2 of the riparian zone of Prospect Creek.

A working bee was held 6 March 2011 as part of Clean-up Australia Day. The Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC) hosted and supervised the clean up, which brought together a willing group of community members and who produced great results by giving up just a few hours of their time. Bankstown and Fairfield City Councils contributed in the event and the works were conducted along Burns Creek which is a tributary of prospect Creek.

The FCC Spring Environment Tour on Saturday 15th October 2011 included a Gross Pollutant Trap site and provided information on the impact of litter entering our creeks, including Prospect Creek for some 45 local residents.

A community planting day was organised by FCC at De Freitas Wetland in Fairfield on Saturday the 10th of December 2011. 15 volunteers attended the event, planting approximately 1500 tube stock. An additional 4000 tube stock were planted by bush regeneration contractors in February and March 2012

15 Open Training Education Network (OTEN) horticulture students conducted bush regeneration work in Upper Prospect creek in March 2012.

A Clean Up Australia Day event was organised for Sunday the 20th of May 2012 within Fairfield Park, Fairfield. Prospect Creek runs through the park. 12 bags of rubbish were collected by ten volunteers.

A community planting day was conducted in Cook Avenue Reserve on Prospect Creek on Saturday the 23rd of June. 15 volunteers planted 2000 plants on Prospect Creek.

FCC coordinated a student tree planting day downstream of De Freitas Wetland in September 2013 on Prospect Creek with Patrician Brothers College, raising awareness of the environmental importance of Prospect Creek and planting over 200 plants.

FCC ran an education workshop in September 2012 with Our Lady of the

Rosary Primary School, aimed at raising awareness on the effect of littering on Prospect Creek, and tips on recycling.

The FCC Spring Environment Tour on Saturday 13th October 2012 included the Cook Avenue revegetation site and presented information on the importance of biodiversity in Prospect Creek for 50 local residents.

A rubbish collection and weed removal working bee was conducted on Saturday 1st December 2012. Approximately ten volunteers collected 15 bags of rubbish and weeds.

Appendix A contains a number of newspaper articles and working bee advertisements from the community working bees.

Holroyd City Council

FCC and HCC coordinated primary weed removal using grant funding in June 2011 in an Upper Prospect Creek target area (between Gipps Road and the Cumberland Highway, Smithfield), removing old growth Privet, Blackberry Green Cestrum and Lantana. Appendix 3 displays the specific area that was targeted.

HCC was conducting in-kind bush regeneration activities on Prospect Creek during the project until the end of financial year 2011/12. Unfortunately HCC has not allocated any in-kind funding to bush regeneration work for Prospect Creek in the 2012/13 financial year.

Bankstown City Council

Bankstown City Council has been continuing bush regeneration activities with a mixture of in-kind and grant funding within Mirambeena Regional Park, an IPC priority area in Lower Prospect Creek. Appendix 3 displays the specific area within the park that was targeted, and pictures of the site.

In-king bush regeneration has been continuing within this area.

Georges River Combined Councils Committee

The GRCCC River keeper program has been continuing within the Prospect Creek catchment, with rubbish collection activities occurring within the FCC and BCC local government areas.
The GRCCC currently visits 8 sites along Prospect Creek.

Table 1 – Summary of Milestone Commitments

Updates on the Milestone status from the Fifth Milestone Report		
Milestone	**Milestone Achieved**	**Status**
Restoration Plan	Yes	The Strategic Management Plan was developed following a review of existing information on the project area and field validation. Community knowledge and input was then incorporated, with 25 community members attending open-invite workshops and over 120 surveys completed. Two community meetings were held to ensure that all community members had an opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan. The finalisation of the SMP occurred in September 2011 after comments from the Community and the Stakeholders were incorporated and the actions are beginning to be implemented. A Draft Rehabilitation Plan has been developed to guide the ten-year implementation of the Strategic Management Plan including actions to improve local biodiversity and habitat, such as weeding, bush regeneration and planting, as well as actions to stabilise the creek banks and improve water quality. The highest priorities were implemented using grant funds in 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years. The works were finalised in March 2013. **Fairfield City Council** FCC conducted a number of different activities for the IPC project within the Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA), using a mix of council funding and grant funding. Activities included: o Bush regeneration and revegetation work in five IPC target areas o Ongoing bush regeneration work along the entire length of Prospect Creek through FCC's 'Creek Care' program o Design and Construction of four Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) in key IPC areas o Rehabilitation of De Freitas Wetland, wetland of Prospect Creek o Maintenance of four existing GPTs o Detailed design of three additional GPTs earmarked for future construction o Erosion control work at the Little Street stormwater outlet o Proactive and reactive creek cleaning activities, through councils 'Creek Cleaning' program and the GRCCC 'River Keeper' program These activities are expanded on below:

		Bush Regeneration and Revegetation Work in Five IPC Target Areas Primary weed removal and revegetation work was conducted in five SMP target areas along Prospect Creek to enhance and increase riparian corridor. Over 20 000 local provenance plants were planted. Photographs and maps of these areas are located in Appendix C. ***Ongoing bush regeneration work along the entire length of Prospect Creek through FCC's 'Creek Care' program*** Bush regeneration work was conducted during the grant period and will continue along the entire length of Prospect Creek under FCC's Creek care program. ***Design and Construction of four Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) in key IPC areas*** FCC has designed and constructed four GPTs along Prospect Creek at Bellinger's Drain and De Freitas Wetland in Fairfield, Smithfield Main Drain in Smithfield and recently at Little Street in Smithfield. FCC has also commenced the detailed design of three GPTs at Gipps Road and Chifley Street, Smithfield. These GPT locations were recommended locations for additional WSUD devices within the SMP. ***Rehabilitation of De Freitas Wetland, wetland of Prospect Creek*** FCC completed the rehabilitation the De Freitas Wetland in 2011. The wetland was owned by the De Freitas family until Council took ownership in the early 1990s. It is an important part of Fairfield's history and is the only remaining natural wetland on Prospect Creek below Prospect Dam. The rehabilitation works involved removing aquatic weeds and decades of accumulated sediment. Gross pollutant traps were installed on both stormwater pipes entering the wetland. Over 10000 native wetland plants were planted to improve water quality and provide habitat for native wildlife. ***Maintenance of four existing GPTs*** FCC has continued maintaining the GPTs mentioned above, plus other GPTs (litter booms, nettech traps) at Vine Street, Fairfield, Kiola Street, Widemere Street and Smithfield Wetland, Smithfield. Maintenance of GPTs requires regular removal and disposal of rubbish that has been caught in the stormwater system prior to entering Prospect Creek. ***Erosion control work at the Little Street stormwater outlet*** As a part of the Little Street GPT construction, erosion control and bank stabilisation was required at the

		stormwater outlet to Prospect Creek. This heavily eroded outlet was a key priority erosion control area in the SMP. The outlet was stabilised with a mixture of sandstone stabilisation, jute matting and revegetation. ***Proactive and reactive creek cleaning activities, through councils 'Creek Cleaning' program*** During the course of the IPC project, FCC has coordinated the collection and appropriate disposal of approximately 231 tonnes of rubbish from Prospect Creek, through proactive and reactive work under FCC's 'Creek Cleaning' program. These statistics are taken from Creek Clean 'sweeps' where workers walk the length of Prospect creek and also from the cleaning of the GPTs. **Holroyd City Council** FCC and HCC coordinated primary weed removal using grant funding in June 2011 in an Upper Prospect Creek target area (between Gipps Road and the Cumberland Highway, Smithfield), removing old growth Privet, Blackberry Green Cestrum and Lantana. Appendix 3 displays the specific area that was targeted. HCC was conducting in-kind bush regeneration activities on Prospect Creek during the project until the end of financial year 2011/12. Unfortunately HCC has not allocated any in-kind funding to bush regeneration work for Prospect Creek in the 2012/13 financial year. **Bankstown City Council** Bankstown City Council has been continuing bush regeneration activities with a mixture of in-kind and grant funding within Mirambeena Regional Park, an IPC priority area in Lower Prospect Creek. Appendix 3 displays the specific area within the park that was targeted, and pictures of the site. In-king bush regeneration has been continuing within this area. **Georges River Combined Councils Committee** The GRCCC River keeper program has been continuing within the Prospect Creek catchment, with rubbish collection activities occurring within the FCC and BCC local government areas. The GRCCC currently visits 8 sites along Prospect Creek.
Community Engagement Strategy	No	***Coordinated 11 working bees / information days for the wider community*** Council organised a tree planting day with community members at Gipps Rd, Smithfield on 25th June, 2011 to improve the riparian zone of Prospect Creek. A total of 10 volunteers assisted, 5 of which were university students, totalling 40 volunteer hours. Approximately

		200 trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted along 3,000 m^2 of the riparian zone of Prospect Creek. A working bee was held 6 March 2011 as part of Clean-up Australia Day. The Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC) hosted and supervised the clean up, which brought together a willing group of community members and who produced great results by giving up just a few hours of their time. Bankstown and Fairfield City Councils contributed in the event and the works were conducted along Burns Creek which is a tributary of prospect Creek. The FCC Spring Environment Tour on Saturday 15th October 2011 included a Gross Pollutant Trap site and provided information on the impact of litter entering our creeks, including Prospect Creek for some 45 local residents. A community planting day was organised by FCC at De Freitas Wetland in Fairfield on Saturday the 10th of December 2011. 15 volunteers attended the event, planting approximately 1500 tube stock. An additional 4000 tube stock were planted by bush regeneration contractors in February and March 2012 15 Open Training Education Network (OTEN) horticulture students conducted bush regeneration work in Upper Prospect creek in March 2012. A Clean Up Australia Day event was organised for Sunday the 20th of May 2012 within Fairfield Park, Fairfield. Prospect Creek runs through the park. 12 bags of rubbish were collected by ten volunteers. A community planting day was conducted in Cook Avenue Reserve on Prospect Creek on Saturday the 23rd of June. 15 volunteers planted 2000 plants on Prospect Creek. FCC coordinated a student tree planting day downstream of De Freitas Wetland in September 2013 on Prospect Creek with Patrician Brothers College, raising awareness of the environmental importance of Prospect Creek and planting over 200 plants. FCC ran an education workshop in September 2012 with Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, aimed at raising awareness on the effect of littering on Prospect Creek, and tips on recycling. The FCC Spring Environment Tour on Saturday 13th October 2012 included the Cook Avenue revegetation site and presented information on the importance of biodiversity in Prospect Creek for 50 local residents. A rubbish collection and weed removal working bee was conducted on Saturday 1st December 2012. Approximately ten volunteers collected 15 bags of rubbish and weeds. Appendix A contains a number of newspaper articles and working bee advertisements from the community working bees.

Progress Report	Yes	Submitted with Milestone Report 4.

Table 1 summarised the status of the agreed milestones from Schedule A of the contract documentation.

Projected Outcomes of the Project

The projected outcomes from Schedule C of the contract are included in Table 2. Table 2 shows the projected targets as compared to the targets achieved during the first year of the project. There are some noticeable differences that were made with regards to the Projected Outcomes of the first year and what has actually occurred. These differences are explained in Table 3.

Table 2 – Schedule C **Question**	**Unit of measurement**	**Year 1 Projected (2010/11)**	**Yr 1 Achieved (2010/11)**	**Yr 2 predicted (2011/12)**	**Year 2 Achieved (2011/12)**	**Yr 3 Projected (2012/13)**	**Year 3 Achieved (2012/13)**	**Project Total projected**	**Project Total Achieved**
What area will be regenerated as a result of your project	Square metres			21,500	56,037	21,500	18555		
If your project will be regenerating a natural area, identify the type of environment your project will focus on? **Please select one or more types from the following list:** Terrestrial (rainforest, bushland, rangeland, desert) Riparian (rivers, creeks and their riparian vegetation) wetlands (freshwater wetlands, upland wetlands, estuarine wetlands, coastal lakes); Marine and estuarine waters Agricultural and urban land	Riparian								
If you have more than one type of natural area, add it here	Type 2								
Of the project area described above, what is:									
The area from which introduced plant species will be removed ;	Square metres weeded		50,000	21500	56,037	21500	18555		
Of the above total area, what will be the NEW area planted each year									
Of the above total area, what will be the area maintained each year									
Will your project be restoring or rehabilitating Aboriginal owned land or sites of cultural significance? If so, please estimate the extent of the area.	Square metres			21500		21500			

Table 2 – Schedule C **Question**	**Unit of measurement**	**Year 1 Projected (2010/11)**	**Yr 1 Achieved (2010/11)**	**Yr 2 predicted (2011/12)**	**Year 2 Achieved (2011/12)**	**Yr 3 Projected (2012/13)**	**Year 3 Achieved (2012/13)**	**Project Total projected**	**Project Total Achieved**
If your project involves the *management of waste*, please provide an estimate of the total waste reduced or removed.	Tonnes			6.5	8.2	5	24		
What percentage of this project funding is likely to result in a measurable improvement in the catchment water quality?	%of this project funding intended to improve CWQ	80%	**N/A**						
How many individuals will your project will engage?	Number of individuals		**145**	25	35	25	80	50	260
How many will be new participants?	Number of individuals			20	15	20	60	40	75
How many people in total will be engaged through the year?	Number of individuals			25	35	25	80		
How many Trust funded staff will be employed as part of the project?	Number of individuals	1	**0**	1		1		1	1
	Number of hours contributed	1950	**N/A**	1950	0	1950		5850	
How many non-Trust funded paid are part of the project team?	Number of individuals	5	**5**	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Combined hours contributed	570	**1,000**	570	1000	570	1000	1710	3000
How many will be volunteers?	Number of individuals	0	0						

Table 2 – Schedule C **Question**	**Unit of measurement**	**Year 1 Projected (2010/11)**	**Yr 1 Achieved (2010/11)**	**Yr 2 predicted (2011/12)**	**Year 2 Achieved (2011/12)**	**Yr 3 Projected (2012/13)**	**Year 3 Achieved (2012/13)**	**Project Total projected**	**Project Total Achieved**
	Combined hours contributed	0	0						
How many students will be involved?	Number of individuals			15	15	15	20	30	35
Please distinguish between primary, secondary and tertiary.	describe majority			Secondary	Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary		
	Combined hours contributed			360	80	360	120		
How many people will be sharing, giving or receiving, traditional Aboriginal knowledge and *Caring For Country*?	Number of people					20			
How many individuals in your target audience will your communication and dissemination strategy reach?	Number of people			15000		15000			
How many people will be trained as a result of your program?	Number of individuals								
How many training sessions will you run?	Number of sessions								
for how many training sessions will a Registered Training Organisation be engaged in the delivery of your training?	Number of sessions that a Registered Training Organisation will be engaged								
		Multiple Choice on Seven Priority Themes.							

Table 2 – Schedule C **Question**	**Unit of measurement**	**Year 1 Projected (2010/11)**	**Yr 1 Achieved (2010/11)**	**Yr 2 predicted (2011/12)**	**Year 2 Achieved (2011/12)**	**Yr 3 Projected (2012/13)**	**Year 3 Achieved (2012/13)**	**Project Total projected**	**Project Total Achieved**
Will your project be addressing the priorities themes identified in *Learning for sustainability: NSW Environmental Education Plan 2007–10?*	Choose one or as many as apply from the drop down list attached to each of these cells.	Landscape management		Biodiversity conservation					
No of partnerships established to incorporate Aboriginal land management techniques?	Number of partnerships	9	**Please refer to Table** 3						
Will you be establishing any partnerships that will cont that you hope to maintain beyond the life of the project?	Number of partnerships	9	**5**						
How many organisations do you anticipate will engage to improve the environment?	Number of organisations	9	**5**	22	5				
What are the names of the *stakeholder* groups you hope to engage in your project? Please list the stakeholder groups and the number of each	Make a list	Local Govt. - 4 State Govt. - 5 Community - 6 Industry/Private Sector - 16							
Contracted?	Number of organisations	1	**1**	2	4		6		
Engaged on a voluntary basis?	Number of organisations			2	2		1		
How many organisations will adopt more sustainable policies and practices as a result of your project?	Number of organisations			6		7			
Will your organisation work to change public policy and adopt improved representational decision-making	Yes/No	Yes - Holistic Restorati	**50%**						

Table 2 – Schedule C Question	Unit of measurement	Year 1 Projected (2010/11)	Yr 1 Achieved (2010/11)	Yr 2 predicted (2011/12)	Year 2 Achieved (2011/12)	Yr 3 Projected (2012/13)	Year 3 Achieved (2012/13)	Project Total projected	Project Total Achieved
processes?		on Plan							

Table 2 – Schedule C shows the projected outcomes as well as the actual outcomes achieved for the first stage of the project.

Table 3 – Variations from Projected Outcomes in Schedule C

Questions from Schedule C	Explanation for Variation
How many Trust funded staff will be employed as part of the project?	There has been a variation in this aspect of the project. At the outset of this project, it was anticipated that a permanent Project Manager would be appointed to manage the project. As the project has evolved this has not occurred and the project management has been completed at the cost and time of the participating Councils. About 3,000 hours of staff time has been allocated to the project by the participating Councils.
How many individuals will your project engage?	At the outset of the project there was no figure provided for the first year. However, approximately **260** people have been engaged through the community workshops, guided tours, surveys Community Planting Days and Clean-up Australia Day events.
No of partnerships established to incorporate Aboriginal land management techniques?	Schedule C states that 9 partnerships would be established to incorporate Aboriginal land management techniques. During the development of the Strategic Plan, the Deerubbin and the Gandangarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council's were invited to complete the survey and attend the Community Information Sessions. Another example of a group who has been consulted is a local Basket weaving group. The group found and is using papyrus grass located in Prospect creek to make the baskets.
Will you be establishing any partnerships that will cont that you hope to maintain beyond the life of the project?	As stated above in relation to partnerships and during the consultation process, it is hoped that a number of partnerships will be maintained. It is also a key aim in the project to maintain the relationships that are built during the on the project. An example of the partnerships that are hoped to be achieved as a result of this project is the newly formed partnership in Carramar. The partnership will result in a local group managing a small section of the vegetation along Prospect creek. The IPC project has also resulted in improved partnerships with the GRCCC River Keeper program as well as between the participating Councils.
How many organisations do you anticipate will engage to improve the environment?	The project has resulted in the engagement of five organisations as compared nine in the projected total. These include the Sydney

	Metropolitan CMA (now Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority), the Georges River Combined Councils Committee and Holroyd, Bankstown Fairfield City Councils. Two schools (Our Lady of the Rosary and Patrician Brothers High School) have also been engaged during the project.

Evaluation (Progression, issues, changes and opportunities)

The project experienced three changes of project manager, which resulted in a lag in the project whilst the each new project manager became familiar with the project. The business plan was modified to increase the focus on ground works such as bush regeneration and bank erosion control, and focussed less on consultation with businesses. Two extensions were requested for the project for the following reasons:

- The preparation of the Strategic Management Plan experienced extensive delays during the review and consultation process.
- The construction timeline of a capital works project (Little Street GPT) ran over the previous end date.

Financial Information

The budget expenditure from the Environmental Trust's funds was initially limited to the engagement of SMEC Australia; however funding has now gone towards revegetation works along Prospect Creek for habitat rehabilitation and bank stabilisation. The final financial acquittal and report has been completed and signed by FCC's Chief Financial Officer, and has been submitted as a separate document to the Environmental Trust.

Conclusion

The Improving Prospect Creek Project began in 2008, and experienced a number of challenges that are characteristic of a multiyear project. An extended time for the preparation of the SMP, coupled with three changes of Project Manager and the construction of a major capital item with grant funds, meant that project was completed in March 2013.

Once the SMP was completed in June 2011, the project began the implementation phase. A number of management actions from the SMP were implemented throughout Prospect Creek including weeding, revegetation, installation of WSUD devices and mitigation of bank erosion.

The wider community were also incorporated into the project. Volunteer groups, Indigenous groups, students and ratepayers were involved in information days, guided tours, and working bees.

Participating organisations have also contributed to the project with in-kind works such as additional WSUD devices, bush regeneration work, creek cleaning activities and promotional activities.

The IPC project has had its challenges, however the success of a number actions that have been implemented have set a benchmark for participating organisations to work to in the future. In particular, the preparation and adoption of the SMP has created potential for future grant applications to continue implementing management actions, in conjunction with in-kind works.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Media Articles / Advertisements

Appendix 2 – IPC Project Activities

Appendix 1 – Media Articles / Advertisements

De Freitas Wetland Planting Day Advertisement – Fairfield Champion and Fairfield Advance December 2011

Celebrate De Freitas Wetland

Fairfield City Council would like to invite local residents to celebrate the rehabilitation of De Freitas Wetland by participating in a community planting day with a BBQ lunch afterwards.

Saturday 10 December 2011
Planting: 10am-12pm
BBQ: 12pm-2pm
De Freitas Wetland
Vine St, Fairfield
Meet at the entrance to Makepeace Oval
(across from Fairfield Leisure Centre)

What to bring: Hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. Food and drinks will be provided.
Event will be postponed if raining heavily.

FairfieldCity
Celebrating diversity

If you have any questions please contact
Darren Ikin at Fairfield City Council on 9725 0265.

De Freitas Wetland Planting Day Article – Fairfield Champion 11 January 2012

Oasis is a bar against litter

Volunteers in action: (left picture) Joseph Salemi and Tessa Barratt; (right picture) Linda Smith and Freda Williams.

THE hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers and Fairfield Council workers has helped transform a vast section of the De Freitas Wetland near Makepeace Athletic Field from a dumping site to a tranquil oasis.

Fed by Prospect Creek, which meanders through Smithfield, Fairfield and Carramar, the wetland was bought by Fairfield Council in the mid 1990s.

Since then, it has been cleared and a natural garden has been created for visitors and local wildlife to enjoy.

New trees have also been planted and pollutant traps have been installed in the stormwater drains to protect the area from litter.

Late last year, members of the council and of the Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group met at the site for another tree planting.

The team worked for two hours, filling a barren piece of land with new shoots.

> Without efforts to protect and restore our wetlands, they could soon disappear and the consequences to both humans and to the environment could be dire.
>
> **Tessa Barratt**

They then celebrated their hard work with a barbecue lunch.

Group member Tessa Barratt says the planting of native vegetation is a must for the regeneration of the area.

"Without efforts to protect and restore our wetlands, they could soon disappear and the consequences to both humans and the environment could be dire," she said.

"Wetlands play an important part in the health of our streams. They filter silt and other pollutants, intercept run-off and protect the surrounding areas from flooding by regulating the flow of water.

"They also provide vital habitats and breeding grounds for birds, fish and other creatures.

"Many species of flora and fauna are endangered in our region and, without community vigilance, face a high risk of extinction."

Local environmental groups will welcome as members all who want to help the environment.

The Fairfield Council website [fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au] lists all groups and also volunteer membership forms.

By signing up you will be alerted to future tree plantings, clean-ups and other activities.

For more information call 9725 0222.

Cook Avenue Reserve Planting Day Advertisement – Fairfield Champion and Fairfield Advance June 2012

Our Lady of the Rosary Awareness Talks September 2012

Gazza the friendly garbo knows where the rubbish goes to help save our environment

EDUCATION 24 SEP 12 @ 12:01AM BY LAUREN MCMAH

Gazza with some of his audience at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School. NICK ANDREAN

STUDENTS at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School took lessons in recycling from an enthusiastic garbologist recently.

Gazza the Garbo, otherwise known as Fairfield City Council's Franco Maola, gave a performance for K-6 students about the importance of caring for the environment.

They learnt how a recycling plant operates and how to dispose of materials correctly.

Teacher Marriella Buttigieg said it was part of the school's commitment to sustainability.

"These kids will be taking care of our environment in the future and it's important that we teach them to look after it," she said. "The show was very entertaining and some of the kids had actually been putting rubbish in the wrong bins, so it's good that (Gazza) could show them how to do it correctly.

"It's also something that they can go home and remind their parents about."

GRCCC Online Advertisement June 2012

Georges River - Georges River News http://www.georgesriver.org.au/WhatsNewDetails.aspx?PageID=

Georges River

Georges River News

Fairfield Council to host tree planting day Saturday 23 June

Cook Ave Tree Planting Day (1.20MB)

As part of the Improving Prospect Creek Sustainability Initiative, Fairfield City Council is hosting a community tree planting day at Cook Avenue Reserve (end of Cook Avenue in Canley Vale). There will be a free BBQ lunch provided. Bring a hat, sunscreen and bottle of water. For further nformation regarding this community event or information about other volunteer opportunities, please contact Fairfield City Council's Natural Resources Officer, Nicole Thomas on 9725 0758 or 0408 573 859 or by email: ngthomas@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

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Patrician Brothers Student Planting Day September 2012

NEWSLOCAL
Fairfield Advance

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Scientific endeavour for Patrician Brothers students

EDUCATION 9 SEP 12 @ 12:01AM BY LAUREN MCMAH

Tweet 1 Recommend Send Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Patrician Brothers College year 10 students are shown how to plant trees along Prospect Creek during Science Week celebrations at the school.

Fairfield Advance
Like 574

PHYSICS, biology, ecology and astronomy were among the hot topics of discussion during Science Week at Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield recently.

The students took part in an engaging schedule of activities that ranged from a presentation of the musical, Rock Me Galileo, to a lecture by Ragbir Bhathal from UWS on the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

Year 10 students did their part to preserve the environment by planting hundreds of native trees along the banks of Prospect Creek with the Fairfield City Council Environment Office.

A highlight of the week was when year 10 students became teachers for the day, instructing year 6 students from Our Lady of the Rosary on Isaac Newton's laws of motion.

The older students planned a 30-minute lesson on how one of Newton's laws was related to car safety.

"As we discovered, trying to make people younger than you understand something as difficult as Newtons Laws, isnt something that can be easily done," year 10 student Douglas Truong said.

De Freitas Wetland Working Bee Advertisement – Fairfield Champion and Fairfield Advance December 2012

De Freitas Wetland Working Bee Article – Fairfield Champion December 2012

Volunteers braved the heat to be part of the working bee.

WORKING BEE CLEAN UP

The heatwave was not enough to stop enthusiastic volunteers from the Fairfield Creeks and Wetlands Group participating in Council's Community Working Bee at the De Freitas Wetland last Saturday. Workers braved the humid conditions to conduct rubbish removal and weeding of this important natural filter to Prospect Creek. More than 15 bags of rubbish and weeds were collected.

Appendix 2 – Locations of IPC Work

Community planting day at Gipps Road, Smithfield June 2011

Community Planting Day 2011

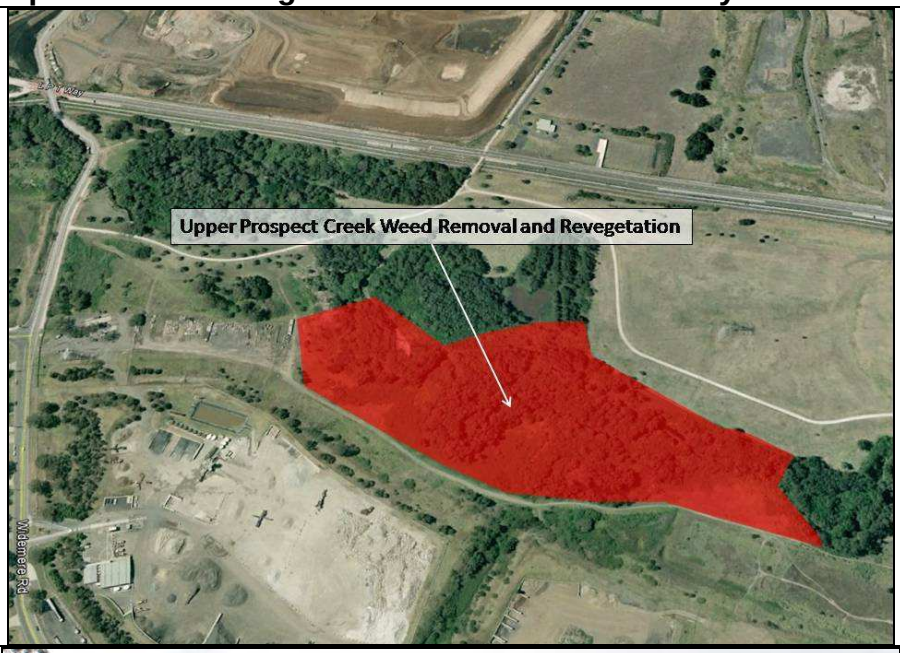
Community Planting Day 2011

The cleaning of the GPT during the Spring Environment Tour October 2011

GPT Cleaning 2011

GPT Cleaning 2011

Upper Prospect Creek Revegetation June 2011 to January 2013



After blackberry removal, before revegetation 2012

After revegetation 2013

After blackberry removal, before revegetation 2012

After revegetation 2013

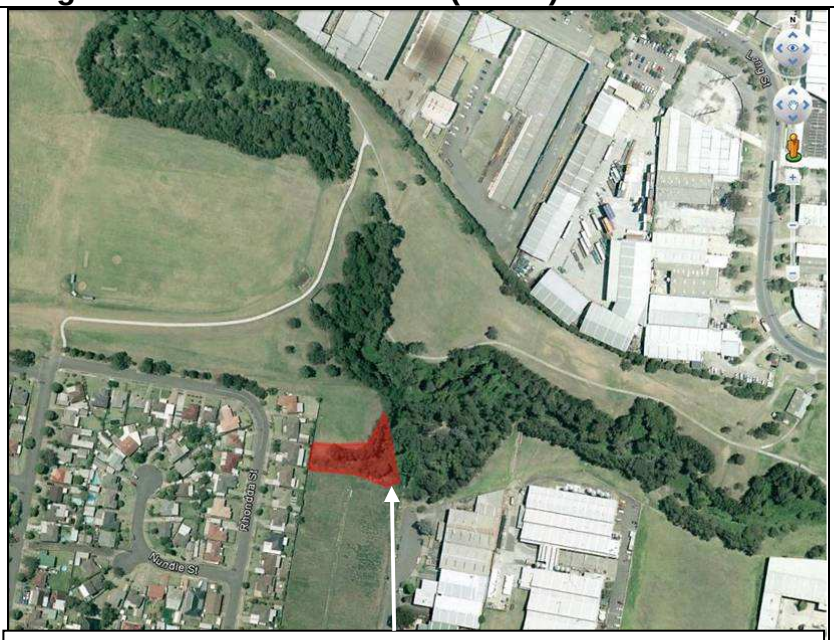
De Freitas Wetland Community Planting Day and Bush Regeneration December 2011 – February 2012

Location of planting day and bush regeneration activities, Vine Street, Fairfield (Google Earth)

Community Planting Day 10/12/2011

Revegetation area on 11/04/2013

Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) Student Work March 2012



Location of OTEN bush regeneration activities, Rhonda Street, Smithfield (Google Earth 2012)

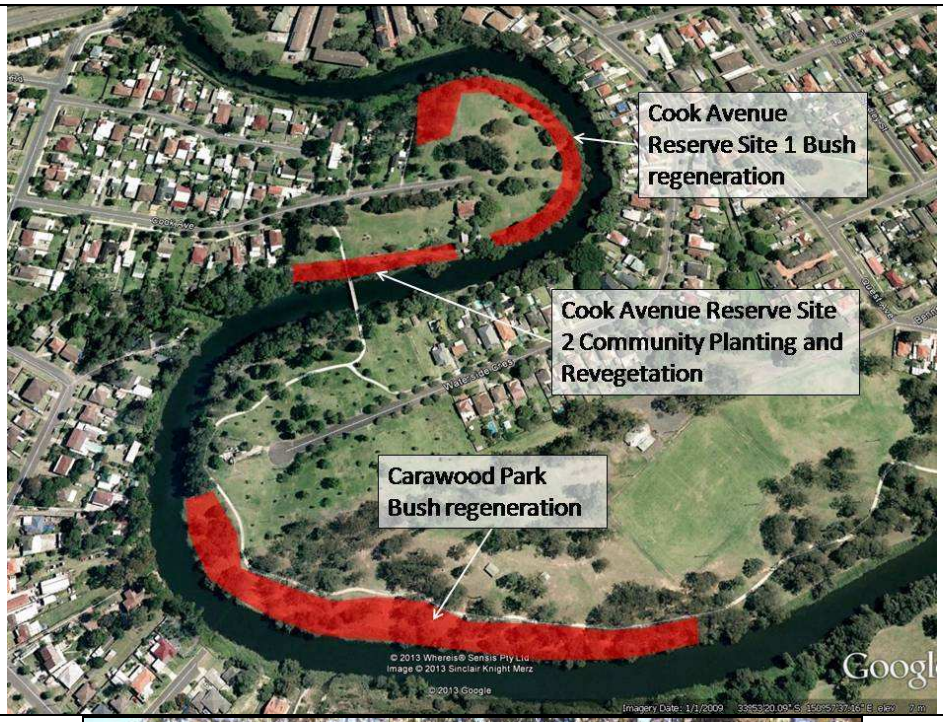
Before bush regeneration, February 2012

After bush regeneration, March 2012

Before bush regeneration, February 2012

After bush regeneration, March 2012

Cook Avenue Reserve Revegetation and Community Planting Day June 2012 to March 2013



Community Planting Day June 2012

Community Planting Day June 2012

Before revegetation

After revegetation

Before revegetation

After revegetation

De Freitas Wetland Working Bee December 2012

Community Working Bee 2013

Community Working Bee 2013

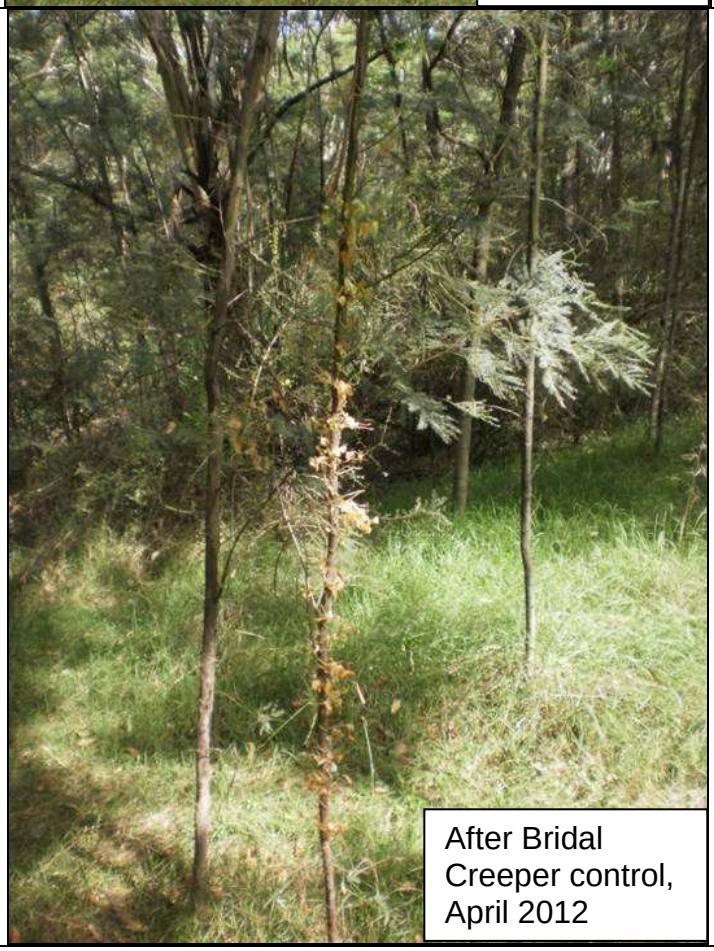
Mirambeena Regional Park Bush Regeneration January 2012 - Ongoing

Location of Mirambeena Regional Park bush regeneration activities, Lansdowne (Google Earth 2012)

Before Fleabane control, 2011

After Fleabane control, April 2012

Before Bridal Creeper control, 2011



After Bridal Creeper control, April 2012

Little Street GPT and Erosion Control Work September 2012 to March 2013

Before GPT Project, 2012

After GPT Project, 2012

During Construction, 2012

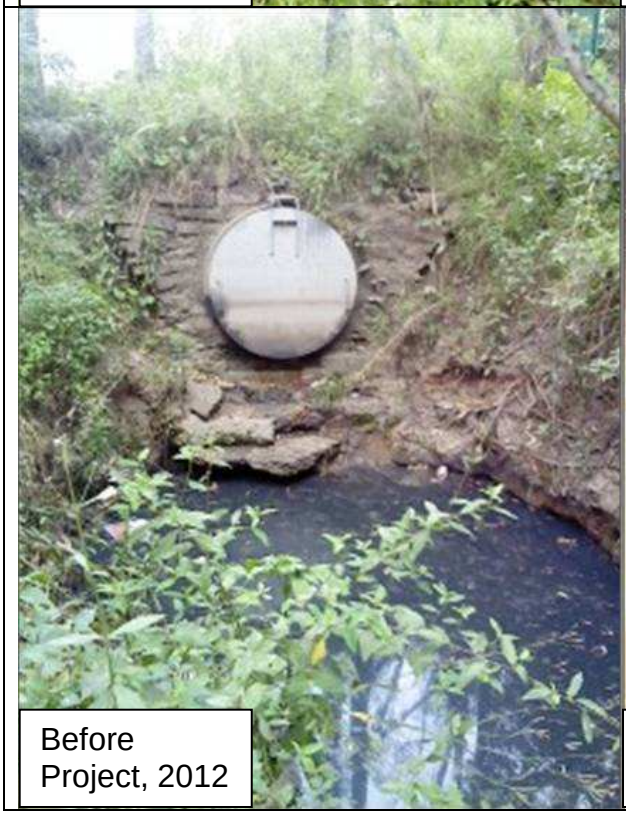
GPT Lid ,2013

Before GPT Project, 2012

After GPT Project, 2012

Before Project, 2012

After Project, 2013



Before Project, 2012

After Project, 2013


Before Project, 2012
After Project, 2013