



New Information & References:
Relevant to State of the Environment
Reporting in the Lower Hunter
& Central Coast

February 2003

LOWER HUNTER &
CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



Prepared by Twyford Consulting for the Lower Hunter & Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy (LHCCREMS) including the Councils of Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Wyong, & Gosford.



People, Strategy & Management Specialists

MC Box 6004
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521
Ph: 02 4226 4040
Fax: 02 4226 4042
Email: twyford@twyford.com.au

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Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia
A Commonwealth Government Initiative

Authors: Dr Chloe Mason, Dr Gabrielle Kuiper

Commissioned by:
LHCCREMS
PO Box 189
Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310
Phone (02) 4962 0918
Fax (02) 4962 0966
Email remsdirector@huntercouncils.com.au
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This collection of new information and references was prepared for the third workshop convened by LHCCREMS for State of the Environment Report writers. It contains information relevant to the seven themes in state of the environment reports and is relevant to many activities of Councils in NSW.

1. Towards Sustainability

1.1 Indicators and Principles

Enviro Network News - A newsletter for environmental managers in local government organisations (various dates) EPA website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

CIVITAS2004 – Sustainable Development News Service

To subscribe – see instructions on webpage: <http://civitas.barcelona2004.org/>

OECD environmental indicator reports

<http://www.oecd.org/EN/home/0,,EN-home-567-nodirectorate-no-no-no-8,00.html>

UNCSD sustainability indicators <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/isd.htm>

IISD Bellagio principles on assessment of sustainable development

<http://www.iisd.org/pdf/bellagio.pdf>

International Institute for Sustainable Development, Environment Canada.

Topics include: Redefining Progress, the World Bank and the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, Compendium of Sustainable Development Indicator Initiatives and Publications: <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/measure/compindex.asp>

London sustainability exchange

<http://www.lsx.org.uk/resources/ind-tk/indics/index.shtml>

International Sustainability Indicators Network

<http://www.sustainabilityindicators.org/resources/Resources.html>

The National Centre for Environmental Decision-Making Research

<http://www.ncedr.org/default.html>

Southern California Studies Centre <http://sc2.usc.edu/sg/index.html>

Ecosystem indicators <http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/>

Urban state of the environment reports worldwide <http://www.ceroi.net/>

National Strategies for Sustainable Development - DFID/SIDA project

<http://www.nssd.net/index1.html>

Joint Centre for Sustainable Communities

<http://www.usmayors.org/USCM/sustainable/>

INFORM - an independent research organisation that examines the effects of business practices on the environment and on human health."

<http://www.informinc.org/>

Harvard forum for science & technology for sustainability

<http://sustsci.harvard.edu/index.html>

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei - research unit on sustainability indicators and environmental evaluation <http://www.feem.it/web/resun/sim1.html>

1.2 Environmental Education

NSW EPA's *Sustainability. A Teaching Guide* (March 1999)

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au>

Award-winning series "Environmental education, communication and sustainability"

* Vol 11- Teaching Sustainability: towards curriculum greening

* Vol 12- International Experiences on Sustainability

Prof Walter Leal Filho, TuTech, Kasernenstr. 12, D-21073 Hamburg, Germany.

Details on the books and on how to order them can be found in their web sites:

<http://www.projekte.org/teaching.sustainability>

<http://www.projekte.org/international.experiences>

NB: Both publications are also available, worldwide, via any on-line book order service or at your usual bookshop.

NSW Department Education & Training Environmental Management Strategy

<http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/environm/environm/index.htm>

NSW Educational/K-12 Curriculum Materials

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/publications/environment.htm>

e.g. *Stormwater – Everyone's responsibility every day* The teaching guide is integrated into the *Human Society and Its Environment* (HSIE) Stage 2 (years 3 and 4) and Stage 5 Geography (years 9 and 10) curriculum.

Global Alliance in Higher Education for Sustainable Development

The Global Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (GHESP) was recognised as an official Type-II-Partnership at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. This global alliance in higher education for sustainable development has had some impact on the so-called Ubuntu-Declaration that was adopted in Johannesburg as well.

http://www.unesco.org/iau/tfsd_unbutu.html>www.unesco.org/iau/tfsd_unbutu.html

GHESP will certainly contribute actively to the foreseen UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Its publication "COPERNICUS in Lüneburg - Higher Education in the context of sustainable development and globalization" is an important background document.

http://www.copernicus-campus.org/sites/pub_index.html>www.Copernicus-campus.org/sites/pub_index.html

1.3 Environmental Economics

GATS – Federal Government Discussion paper on services (engineering, urban planning etc)

This discussion paper is on Australia's initial offer under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations. Trade liberalisation in a broad range of services, including engineering, landscape architecture and urban planning, is under negotiation. The discussion paper is available at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/services>.

Taxes and charges for environmental protection

By Clive Hamilton, Richard Denniss and Hal Turton, March 2002

The structure of the tax system can play an important role in either protecting or causing harm to the natural environment. This report examines existing taxes, charges and related incentives that encourage either environmental protection or degradation in each of the areas of transport, stationary energy, land, water, forests and waste. The study also considers international developments that may be of assistance to Australian policy makers. <http://www.tai.org.au/>

2. Human Settlements

2.1 Environmental Indicators for National State of the Environment Reporting.

In 1998 Environment Australia commissioned published reports outlining indicators for each of seven major themes around which Commonwealth SOE reporting is based.

www.environment.gov.au

<http://www.ea.gov.au/soe/settlements/settlements-ind.html>

The report on *Human Settlements* is recommended, in particular.

Newton Peter & others (1998) Environmental indicators for national state of the environment reporting: Human Settlements ISBN 0 642 54523 5 of the series 0 642 54526 X

The Background section explains:

Human settlements are considered from two perspectives in SOE reporting. First, they are environments in their own right, the human habitat. Human settlements are a critically important environment, given that most Australians spend the greater part of their time in such settlements.

Second, human settlements are a source of pressure on the rest of the environment. Settlements draw upon resources (energy, land and materials) and expel wastes into the air, land and water. (p.9)

The report discusses the different models used for human settlements reporting. It recognises that this dual nature of human settlements can complicate reporting on SOE. The template developed through the LHCCREMS process faces these complications in portraying the relationships in ecology – whether in human settlements or in biodiversity conservation. The template responds by recommending the use of links (e.g. between biodiversity conservation and water management), a table of contents and an index.

The World Health Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements with World Bank Urban and Housing Indicators Programmes have extensively reported upon the condition of cities for human settlements. Other conceptual frameworks include the broad sustainable development mandate of Agenda21 and the 'extended urban metabolism model of human settlements' developed by Newman & others for *Australia: State of the Environment 1996*. In traditional SOE reporting, social and economic conditions are discussed to the extent that they impact the biophysical environment. Quality of life (QOL) studies seek to examine contemporary social, economic and environmental conditions and the linkages among them with little regard for the inter-generational issues. By contrast, the 'extended urban metabolism model of human settlements' is more closely aligned conceptually with the 'sustainable development paradigm'. (p.13)

The 'extended urban metabolism model', used in the LHCCREMS template, considers the throughput of resources in human settlements from raw inputs to waste outputs and the transformation of these through the dynamics of settlement process into desirable liveable outputs. This model highlights the key domains for policy, programs and indicator development: urban planning and design, population, transport, energy, water, waste, noise, indoor air quality, environmental health, housing and urban access. For liveability, environmental health, housing and indoor air quality, urban access and transport become key domains, that is, pertaining to the human and built environment component of settlements (as distinct from the predominantly natural environment components).

The report contains a typical table of policy goals or sub-goals, policy instruments or environmental management programs and key indicators. It also sets out a listing of 'urban metaphors' as a way of expressing city-based goals e.g. Healthy City or, common in NSW the Compact City or, for the Sydney metropolis, a City of Cities. The notion of a city with nodes or sub-centres is particularly attractive to an approach that integrates landuse and transport planning.

The report is influenced by Maclaren (1996) who contributed an understanding of frameworks of sustainability, issue and goal-based, sectoral and domain-based. In elaborating on these frameworks, the report shows the preference for linking policy action to indicators: "the philosophy is 'no policies without indicators, and no indicators without policies'".

Maclaren V. (1996) 'Urban sustainability reporting' *American Planning Association Journal*, Spring pp.184-202.

2.2 PlanningNSW – what's new?

Coastal Protection

Coastal Protection Amendment Act 2002 No 85 – assented on 7 November 2002

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 71 - Coastal Protection

The Policy has been made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to ensure that development in the NSW coastal zone is appropriate and suitably located, to ensure that there is a consistent and strategic approach to coastal planning and management and to ensure there is a clear development assessment framework for the coastal zone. The new SEPP includes assessing development in accordance with Ecologically Sustainable Development principles.

The Policy was published in the Government Gazette on 1 November 2002. A copy of the Policy is available for download (PDF) at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/whatsnew/>

Explanatory Notes on SEPP No. 71 – Coastal Protection

These notes provide a clause-by-clause explanation to assist with interpreting the policy for plan-making, development assessment and coastal management. To view, go to

<http://www.duap.nsw.gov.au/whatsnew/> and click on the link.

Other supporting information includes:

[Fact sheet - SEPP 71](#) (pdf file)

[Fact sheet - Extended Coastal Zone](#) (pdf file)

[Fact sheet - NSW Government Coastal Protection Package](#) (pdf file)

[Fact sheet - Comprehensive Coastal Assessment](#) (pdf file)

[Questions and Answers - SEPP 71](#) (pdf file)

[Guide to State Significant Development \(Schedule 2\) - SEPP 71](#) (pdf file)

PlanFIRST Regional Forums: Central Coast & Hunter

As part of the PlanFIRST initiative, Regional Forums will be commencing in the Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra/South Coast, New England/North West, Northern Rivers and Western Sydney regions during 2002-03.

Expressions of interest have been sought from people who would like to be considered as non-government regional forum Chairs and members in these six regions.

Sustainability Unit

A Sustainability Unit has been established within Planning NSW, reporting directly to the Executive of the Department. This unit is focused on raising awareness in sustainability, ensuring that it is part of the Department's core business, and maximising opportunities to showcase the principles of sustainability.

A priority is to ensure that the Minister for Planning's [Sustainability Advisory Council](#) achieves its potential in establishing New South Wales as a leader in environmental design and construction.

Sustainability Advisory Council

The Sustainability Advisory Council offers a unique opportunity for industry, government and community to develop ideas and guidance to achieve sustainable planning, design and construction practice in NSW. It explores the innovative mechanisms for applying sustainable practices, including market based incentives and developing partnerships between the community and public and private organisations.

The Council seeks to explore innovative ways to apply design and construction practices across the commercial, residential and industrial development sectors. Its aim is to make buildings healthier and affordable for people. It also aims to reduce the impact of new buildings on the environment by reducing water and energy demand and reducing pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

The role of the Sustainability Advisory Council includes addressing how state and local government can work together to show sustainable development through policy to practice, and to achieve key outcomes such as:

- wide public acceptance of the sustainable city concept
- environmental design and construction guidelines for new developments
- a showcase of best practice demonstration projects.

Ms Cathy Zoi, Environment Protection Authority NSW and Mr Robert Lang, Pacific Power chair the Council in partnership.

<http://www.sustainability.nsw.gov.au/>

2.3 Urban growth and development

US EPA on Smart Growth

http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/sg_awards.pdf

Smart Growth and intelligent urban design, Sustainable Economic Development

Smart Growth: The Future of the American Metropolis? by Bruce Katz.

In the past few years, widespread frustration with sprawling development patterns has precipitated an explosion in innovative thinking and action across the United States. This new thinking – generally labelled as “smart growth” – contends that the shape and quality of metropolitan growth in America are no longer desirable or sustainable. It argues that metropolitan areas could grow in radically different ways if major government policies on land use, infrastructure and taxation were overhauled. This essay discusses the current state of smart growth and metropolitan thinking in the United States. It outlines the demographic, market and development trends that are affecting metropolitan areas and the consequences of these trends for central cities, older suburbs, newer communities and low-income and minority families. It describes how current government policies facilitate the excessive decentralization of people and jobs and how smart growth reforms are being enacted, particularly at the state level, to shape new, more urban-friendly, growth patterns. It concludes by identifying the major challenges that smart growth needs to address if it is going to succeed in shaping new, sustainable metropolitan communities.

Rocky Mountains Institute website – urban development

<http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid61.php>

Social plans & programs

Department Local Government (2003), SOCIAL PLANNING GUIDELINES & MANUAL

www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Social development

UK Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) within the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economic and Related Disciplines (STICERD) at the London School of Economics and Political Science

http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/publications/abstract.asp?INDEX_=26145

2.4 NSW Obesity Summit

On 10-12 September 2002, the NSW Obesity Summit was held at NSW Parliament and sought NSW and Commonwealth Government funding to adequately resource its resolutions responding to the high and increasing prevalence of childhood overweight and obesity.

Resolutions on transport and planning include express attention to cycling in particular the acceleration of the implementation of Council Bicycle Plans (9.4).

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/obesitysummit/docs/communique.pdf>

In December 2002, the Minister for Health announced funding for a Youth Obesity - Five Year Plan including \$ 50,000 annually over three years to fund a position with the Lgov (formerly Local Government and Shires Association) to plan and coordinate anti-obesity activity at the local level. He also said: "All Area Health Services will be required to establish obesity prevention and treatment plans. Morbidly obese children will be case managed."

Extract of Resolutions from the Obesity Summit (*Local Government*):

Promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, consultation and policy/decision making processes

6.1 That resources and training be provided to Councillors and staff to develop an awareness of the childhood obesity problem and enable them to promote a healthy active lifestyle and to be positive role models for their community.

6.2 That information be provided to the community to promote a healthy and active lifestyle using public opportunities and Council facilities eg meetings, events, libraries.

6.3 That frequent and regular consultation be undertaken with families and young people in the planning and policy process that reflect the diversity of the community.

6.4 That Councils promote a physical activity and nutrition focus when formulating policy and/or making decisions.

6.5 That activity and recreation events for young people with a family focus be promoted.

Leadership in improving community food supply (agriculture, retail, prepared food outlets) as part of a safe and healthy environment for residents and workers

6.6 That effective models and examples of Local Government successes in making "healthy choices the easy choices" be identified, promoted and disseminated.

6.7 That collaborative projects and events that improve the availability, pricing and promotion of healthy food choices be undertaken.

6.8 That the National Local Government General Assembly resolution regarding breastfeeding facilities and develop workplace policies regarding breastfeeding at Council workplaces be implemented.

6.9 That urban planning policies include location of and access to supermarkets in communities and promote growing fruit and vegetables locally.

6.10 That Social Plans reflect dialogue between citizens and Local Government regarding food and nutrition issues.

6.11 That nutrition policies and guidelines, which apply to council services, venues and events and community information be developed, implemented and monitored.

Taking a leadership role in creating a supportive environment for physical activity opportunities

6.12 That an environment be developed that supports incidental activity through the provision of safe and appropriate infrastructure (eg paths, cycleways).

6.13 That partnerships be developed with the local community and relevant stakeholders in developing cost-effective and appropriate physical activity opportunities.

6.14 That urban design and renewal policies that promote physical activity opportunities be developed and adopted.

6.15 That physical activity policies/guidelines be developed, implemented and monitored which apply to Council services, venues and events and community information, for example, children's services.

The following recommendations address general issues:

6.16 That a well-funded statewide media campaign on childhood obesity be developed.

6.17 That lead agencies and key partners in managing the childhood obesity response over the next three to five years be identified.

6.18 That the focus of the childhood obesity response must be projected as a 'whole of society' issue.

Transport and Planning

9.1 That the availability of free drinking water in all public places be ensured.

9.2 That planning policy and urban design principles for all future greenfield and brownfield sites include cycleways, footpaths, reduced carparking and public transport access to all key trip generators such as schools, hospitals and fresh food shops. These policies and principles need to be underpinned by legislation, funding (public and private) and capacity building for planning, health and transport professionals.

9.3 That funding for roads and transport infrastructure and maintenance be aligned with a transport hierarchy that recognises walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependence. (These criteria are based on similar United States and United Kingdom examples of Transport Equity Act 21 and New Approach to Transport Appraisal).

9.4 That implementation of Pedestrian and Access Mobility Plans and Cycle Plans including facilities in urban, regional and rural local government areas to ensure "continuous path of travel" be accelerated.

9.5 That an alliance be established and coordinated by Premier's Department comprised of Planning, Education, Health, Transport, Sport and Recreation, Local Government and other key stakeholders to deliver planning that encourages active transport and access to fresh food.

9.6 That the priority given to pedestrians and cyclists in managing traffic flow be increased.

9.7 That the introduction and full implementation of the draft State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 66 on integrated land use and transport planning be supported.

9.8 That residential streets be re-established primarily as safe places for people, ie playspace for children, community social space, active transport, property access and extension of quality living environment.

9.9 That councils and schools and other relevant agencies be required to prepare appropriate pedestrian and bicycle access plans for local areas. In particular, schools, sporting facilities and shopping centres should be a standard suitable for a 10 year-old child to ride unsupervised by an adult. That would include safety, signage, pleasant environment and connected to other bicycle paths.

9.10 That strategies be implemented and developed to decentralise facilities and services including schools, local food shops, sporting venues and health facilities.

9.11 That the NSW Government actively work with Local Government and Police to prioritise road safety audits around schools and modify the environment to maximise the safety of children (such as stringent parking restrictions and enforcement around schools before and after school, a further reduction in speed limits, and demerit points for drivers infringing these rules).

9.12 That the NSW Government require public transport services and information to be accessible to children.

9.13 That the NSW Government increase penalties including demerit points for motorists who stop in pedestrian zones, bus zones and/or on footpaths and for offences against cyclists and pedestrians generally.

9.14 That a range of capacity building programs for individuals and communities should be implemented and evaluated to increase active transport and reduce car use. These programs should include skill development, community learning, organisational practices and partnerships.

9.15 That student and parent road safety programs be reviewed and strengthened. These include bike education programs and advice to parents on risks and consequences be provided.

9.16 That a culturally appropriate public information campaign to promote active transport for children and parents including people from non-English speaking backgrounds be developed, implemented and evaluated.

9.17 That a community and stakeholder network to advocate active transport be developed, funded and supported.

9.18 That Australian governments review all tax concessions and repeal those that favour private motor vehicle usage, and substitute new concessions, which favour active and public transport.

2.5 Mobility and Transport

LGSA-RTA Survey of bicycle planning practices by local government in NSW, prepared by Roddis S. & King K. (2001]

This new information has been used to develop *cycling indicators* for Councils' next comprehensive SOE report in 2003. The rationale or policy supporting these indicators and the indicators are set out in a separate document.

Transport Access Guides

Since the report on local government bicycle planning was published, new materials have been produced to assist Councils, developers and non-government organisations, including:

- *How to prepare a Bike Plan* (RTA)
- *How to prepare a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan* (PAMP) (RTA)
- A joint RTA-SEDA brochure *Producing and Using Transport Access Guides*.

These documents are available from the website www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Bicycle design guidelines, more detailed than AUSTROADS14, will be available from the RTA later this year.

Improving Driver and Vehicle Safety

Through better vehicle fleet control, Councils and other organisations can not only improve safety but also reduce environmental impacts of reduced fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

SSROC has produced a manual for fleet managers to maintain a safe fleet of motor vehicles and to promote safer driving of vehicles. It is being used by Councils in the southern part of Sydney, and is showing encouraging signs of reducing crash costs.

Improving driver and vehicle safety. Fleetsafe policy and guidelines for local government (in the Southern Sydney Region). Prepared by Phil Sochon.

Preparation of the manual was supported by the RTA and is available from SSROC for \$30. Tel (02) 9330-6455

2.6 Environmental health - Managing elevated blood lead levels

Managing Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Young Children: Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

by CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention); Ed. Harvey, B; Jackson, RJ; McGeehen, MA; Noonan GP (2002). It is published at:

www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/CaseManagement/caseManage_main.htm

If you need a copy of any or all of the 3 Lead Safe booklets and 5 Lead Safe factsheets plus the one Lead Reference Centre factsheet for building and demolition trades, please contact:

Elizabeth O'Brien
National Coordinator, The Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD)
Group Inc
PO Box 161 Summer Hill NSW 2130 Australia
Ph +612 9716 0014
Fax +612 9716 9005
www.lead.org.au

3. Biodiversity Conservation

3.1 LHCCREMS Resources

**Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
Conservation Assessment Scenarios, Technical Report Biodiversity
Conservation Strategy**

<http://www.lhccrems.nsw.gov.au/projects/biodiversity/>

3.2 Strategies and Guidelines

NPWS (1999) NSW Biodiversity Strategy

Biodiversity Planning Guide for NSW Local Government (2001), Edition 1

For SoE reporting, see page 85 and Table 6.3 on p.86.

4. Water

4.1 Hunter Water Regulation for comment

The DLWC intends to remake a Regulation under the Hunter Water Act 1991. The proposed Regulation will repeal and remake with some changes to the Hunter Water (Special Areas) Regulation 1997.

Copies of the draft regulation may be viewed or downloaded from
http://www.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/whatsnew/pdfs/draft_hunter_water_reg2002.pdf

The regulatory impact statement can be viewed at
http://www.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/whatsnew/pdfs/hunter_water_reg2002_ris.pdf

4.2 NSW Healthy Rivers Commission

Healthy Oysters – Draft Report for comment by 20.12.2002

This Draft Report covers the recent review of the relationship between healthy oysters and healthy rivers. It contains recommendations that the Commission considers essential to the maintenance of oyster growing areas.

For copies of the report – www.hrc.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 9231-2977

4.3 ANZECC (2000) Core Environmental Indicators

Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC)
State of the Environment Reporting Task Force
<http://www.ea.gov.au/soe/publications/pubs/coreindicators.pdf>

Although the indicators appear more suited to States and Territories than to Local Government, this Report is far more selective (than the 1998 series - see 2.1 above) in choosing just a few indicators for each topic within the main themes used in reporting. It provides a policy rationale for each indicator and an explanation as to why it was selected.

It is probably most useful for the Water theme, especially water quality in using ANZECC's water quality guidelines (draft 1999) for a suite of microbiological, bacterial and chemical water quality parameters for reporting on exceedances.

5. General Resources

5.1 Legislation & cases

Australasian Legal Information Institute

www.austlii.edu.au

e.g. VAW (Kurri Kurri) Pty Ltd v Scientific Committee [2002] NSWLEC 60 (7 June 2002)

e.g. Carstens v Pittwater Council [1999] NSWLEC 249 (10 November 1999) (on ESD)

EPA's legislative review: POEO Act

The five-year statutory review of the POEO Act requires a report to be tabled in Parliament by the end of December 2003. The review will be in two stages, beginning with a general review looking at the ability of the laws to provide a clear, comprehensive and strong regulatory regime for protecting the environment in NSW. Comments received will then form the basis of a Discussion Paper to be released in April/May 2003, when there will be another opportunity for public comment.

Submissions for the first part of the review closed on Friday 21 February 2003.

For more information about the review, its terms of reference and instructions regarding comment: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/legal/poeoreview.htm>

EPA's Draft Noise Guide for Local Government

The EPA has released a draft Noise Guide for Local Government for consultation. The draft guide provides information on the legislative framework, management strategies and field procedures for avoiding, minimising and regulating noise problems. While aimed at local government officers, the guide may help all officers authorised for the purposes of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act*.

Comments on the draft guide are invited and may be submitted by 31 March 2003. More information: contact Peter Lawson, 02 9995 5779. Hard copies of the draft are also available from the EPA Pollution Line (ph: 131 555) or info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Environmental Defenders' Office

A Community Legal Centre, that provides a free weekly EDO Email Bulletin, facts sheets and publications. www.edo.org.au

EDO NSW runs community workshops on Environmental and Planning Law.
For more information, email michelle.seaton@edo.org.au or contact the EDO on 02 9262 6989.

Extract – Threatened & Endangered Species

The recent Final Determinations for Threatened and Endangered Species, as of 6 September 2002, by the NSW Scientific Committee:

Endangered Species:

- (1) *amarophyllopsis kearneyi* A. M. Young (Fungi, Basidiomycota, Agaricales, Hygrophoraceae), a small, pale, gilled fungus.
- (2) *Hygrocybe austropratensis* A.M. Young (Fungi, Basidiomycota, Agaricales, Hygrophoraceae) a small, brightly-coloured gilled fungus.
- (3) *Hygrocybe lanecovensensis* A. M. Young (Fungi, Basidiomycota, Agaricales, Hygrophoraceae) a small, brightly-coloured gilled fungus.

Vulnerable Species:

- (1) *Hygrocybe anomala* var. *ianthinomarginata* A. M. Young (Fungi, Basidiomycota, Agaricales, Hygrophoraceae) a small, brightly-coloured gilled fungus.

Endangered Population:

- (1) The Emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae* population in NSW North Coast

Flying Fox – National Approach

After the Federal Court case of Booth v Bosworth in 2001, the Spectacled Flying-fox was listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth and States have now agreed on a national approach to the management of both the Grey-headed Flying-fox and the Spectacled Flying-fox during the 2002-03 fruit season. To find out details visit <http://www.ea.gov.au/about/whatsnew.html>

Land Clearing and Law Reform

Papers from the Conference "I Can See Clearly Now" are available from the Environmental Defenders Office.

Telephone: (02) 9262 6989. Fax: (02) 9262 6998.

Free call STD callers only: 1800 626 239.

Prosecution: Wilkinson/Hockitt Pastoral Company

This case involves breaches of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997 (NVC Act) and the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The Department of Land and Water Conservation had granted consent to clear around 15 hectares including a condition to prevent clearing over an area of 70 hectares which was to be retained as a conservation area on the basis of the findings of a Species Impact Statement. Mr Wilkinson undertook clearing which included the clearing of 34 hectares in breach of consent conditions. Justice Lloyd said in his judgement "It does not take long to bulldoze vegetation down, but it takes many generations to undo the harm that is done. The clearing was carried out wilfully, in the knowledge that it was unlawful. It was motivated by a desire for commercial profit."

A copy of the full judgement can be obtained from www.austlii.edu.au or www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

5.2 SoEdirect website

The SoEdirect website assists Councils in preparing their own, or regional, State of the Environment Reports. By linking to information and data held in EPA databases, SoEdirect provides the most current material available for:

- * regional air quality, beach and harbour water quality
- * pollution incident complaints and environmental information requests
- * environmental grants

- * **waste and recycling**
- * licensing information
- * contaminated sites

The data is accessible through the SoEdirect website

www.soedirect.nsw.gov.au

The updated data on SoEdirect can be downloaded on a council-by-council basis and used directly in the production of SOE reports. Some data and information is grouped at the 'regional' level and is not currently available at the local government level. It is intended to make improvements to SoEdirect over time. For further information on SoEdirect, or to provide feedback on the useability and data

available, please contact Adrian Lewis, on 9995 6004, e-mail lewisa@epa.nsw.gov.au

5.3 Natural Resources Atlas

CANRI now has 150 datasets available through the Natural Resources Atlas. One feature dataset is the Natural Vegetation for the Sydney 1: 100 000 map sheet. It was produced by the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust for the Cunningham scientific journal, and describes the composition and extent of the present natural vegetation in Sydney by structure, as of 1994. <http://www.canri.nsw.gov.au/atlas/>

5.4 Environmental reporting

A Framework for Public Environmental Reporting: An Australian Approach (Environment Australia, 2000)
www.ea.gov.au/industry/sustainable/per/framework

Exposure Draft - Indicators and Methodologies for Public Environmental Reporting, an Australian Guide www.ea.gov.au/industry/sustainable/per/indicators

Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (Global Reporting Initiative, 2002)
www.globalreporting.org/GRIGuidelines

5.5 Belgian Plan for Sustainable Development

"Federal Plan for Sustainable Development" on the ICDO website. You can find an English document using the following URL:
www.icdo.fgov.be/pub/detail_pub.stm?pub+pl200004

5.6 The UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

This an independent standing body established in 1970 to advise the Queen, the Government, Parliament and the public on environmental issues. The Commission's advice is mainly in the form of [reports](#) which are the outcome of major studies. The current study is investigating the [long-term effects of chemicals in the environment](#). The following study, investigating the [environmental effects of marine fisheries](#), was announced in June 2002, and a limited study into [environmental effects of air transport](#) began in July 2002.

The [Environmental Planning](#) report was launched in March 2002. In June 2000, the Commission published its report on [energy and the environment](#) (*Energy - The Changing Environment*). The NSW EPA library receives copies of the Commission's reports.

Occasional [news releases](#) or statements are issued on matters the Commission considers specially important or which arise out of its studies.
<http://www.rcep.org.uk/>

5.7 Standards – National Environment Protection Council Service Corporation

(Incorporated into the Environment Protection & Heritage Council)
http://www.ephc.gov.au/nepc/origins_nepc.html

The NEPC has two primary functions:

- to make National Environment Protection Measures (i.e. standards and a management approach)

- to assess and report on their implementation and effectiveness in participating jurisdictions.

It was formed as a result of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment.

Most recently it has issued a draft paper on fine particles for public comment:

The need for a PM2.5 Standard in Australia

http://www.ephc.gov.au/pdf/Air_Variation_PM25/issues_paper.pdf

5.8 ABS SEIFA categories – useful for social planning (with limits)

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 96 (SEIFA96) are based on 1996 Census data and consist of five indexes which have been constructed to summarise the social and economic conditions of Australia by geographic area.

http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/finance/f_councilcategories.ASP

Kevin McCracken, Dept Human Geography, Macquarie University, however, has questioned a singular reliance on this one set of indexes in

'Into a SEIFA SES cul-de-sac?' *Aust N Z J Public Health* 2001; 25: 305-6

Abstract: Use of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' SEIFA scores has almost become an automatic practice in area-based research on socio-economic status (SES) correlates of health inequalities in Australia in recent years. This article questions the wisdom of this emerging heavy, often singular, reliance on the SEIFA indexes for representing areal socio-economic condition. It is argued that improvements in our understanding of the social and economic processes that produce health inequalities will not occur unless we move beyond SEIFA's broad brush. Data for New England Area Health local government areas are used to support the argument.

5.9 Sustainability and planning references

Owens S. & Cowell R. (2002), *Land and limits. Interpreting sustainability in the planning process*, Routledge Research Global Environmental Change Series. London: Routledge.

Invaluable reference, that addresses sustainability and its interpretation in relation to land use planning, integrated transport policy, biodiversity, minerals. A book for practitioners and students of sustainability. In conclusion Owens & Cowell note: "Like other broad but important concepts, that of sustainable development has performed (and could continue to perform) a vital task. It has done so not by resolving all planning conflicts but by focusing attention on the claims of environmental integrity, social justice and a dignified quality of life, and on the substantial moral and political task of adjudicating between claims that cannot always be happily reconciled. That the process is taxing is to be expected, and welcomed." (p.168)

M. Partidario & R. Clark (eds) (2000), *Perspectives on Strategic Environmental Assessment*, London: Lewis Publishers.

Fischer Thomas B. (2002), *Strategic Environmental Assessment in Transport and Land Use Planning*, London: Earthscan Publications Ltd. SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

"aims at ensuring that environmental aspects are addressed and incorporated at decision making levels prior to, or above the project level i.e. at strategic decision making levels which are also frequently referred to in terms of policies, plans and programs (PPPs).

A policy may be considered as the inspiration and guidance for action, a plan as a set of co-ordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of the policy, and a programme as a set of projects in a particular area (p.7)

SEA is usually understood to be an iterative and adaptive process with an opportunity for external control and public involvement.

Before the start of the assessment process, objectives and goals and possible development alternatives are identified. The SEA process itself starts with the screening stage, which determines the need for assessment. It does so by assessing whether the impacts of a PPP are potentially in conflict with previously identified objectives and targets.

The foundations of SEA were laid in 1969 by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the United States. NEPA did not distinguish between PPPs and projects but generally referred to actions i.e. no distinction was made between strategic and project levels of decision making. Many countries followed NEPA's example [e.g. New South Wales] and established provisions for environmental assessment, although typically these were aimed only at projects and not at policies, plans and programmes. (p.4)"

Becker E. & Thomas J. (eds) (1999) Sustainability and the Social Sciences. A cross-disciplinary approach to integrating environmental considerations into theoretical reorientation London: Zed Series on Sustainable Development.

John Forester J. (1999), *The Deliberative Practitioner : Encouraging Participatory Planning Processes*, Cambridge, MASS: MIT Press.
And other books by Forester.

5.10 NSW Government's Community Builders web site

This website contains news, information and resources on initiatives to improve community capacity to address economic, social and environmental issues.
http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/events/20020815_309.html

5.11 Australasian Evaluation Society

Papers from the 2002 international conference *Evaluation in Practice: making a difference*, 28 October – 1 November, Wollongong are available on the Society's website: www.aes.asn.au

5.12 Style Manual

The Style manual for authors, editors and printers sixth edition provides guidance and recommendations for anyone faced with the task of preparing material for publication in either print or electronic format.

The sixth edition is a substantial revision-in response to the extensive changes in the publishing industry since the previous edition of 1994. It emphasises the importance of focusing on the audience's need when planning, structuring, writing, designing and editing a publication; and reflects a more multicultural and global outlook that recognises the influence of the Internet on publishing.

The procedural steps in publishing form the underlying structure of this new edition. Advice is given on how to plan, undertake and evaluate a publishing project. General practices in editing, design, electronic publishing, indexing and printing fields are also discussed.

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ISBN 0 7016 3647 5 (hardback)

Availability: John Wiley & Sons, Australia Ltd publishes the Style Manual sixth edition and copies can be purchased from retail book outlets. Copies are also available from: Government Info Shops, phone 132 447 or Commonwealth Government's Online Bookshop <http://www.bookshop.gov.au>