Preparation Natural Resource Management targets to take us to 2022

One definition of adventure is “uncertainty of outcome”. The SMCMA has been asked to go on a journey that will take us to 2022. So while we are doing all we can to plan and prepare, we can never know exactly what we will discover when we arrive in 2022.

Just like most people who embark on an extended journey, the SMCMA is compiling “to do” lists with timelines. We are reading and researching so we have as good an idea as possible of what to expect along the way, and what tools and equipment we will need.

Because no-one has been to 2022 before, we are being asked to write the guidebook for this journey. The guidebook is called “The Catchment Action Plan for the Sydney Metropolitan Region”. To help us write this guidebook we are gathering the best information we can by discussing our journey with as many people as we can, asking questions and documenting their advice.

We are also inviting a lot of companions to come on this journey with us, and to be residents with us once we arrive in 2022.

A Catchment Action Plan:

- Is central to the delivery of natural resource management in NSW
- Is a 10-year strategic plan that sets targets and directs investment of public and private funds for natural resource management (NRM)
- Is guided by community expectations and reflects community input into the drafting and review stages
- Is a “whole of government” document with input from across NSW government departments, agencies and local governments (councils)
- Is an integral part of government planning and service delivery
- Is using “resilience thinking” which reflects what impacts an environmental system can absorb and still survive and revive
- Is guided and reviewed by the Natural Resources Commission
- Is approved by the NSW Minister for the Department of Primary Industries
2012: Departure Point

**Resilience Workshops**

Resilience: “the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change, so as to retain essentially the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks.”

( Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition Network; author of The Transition Handbook.)

The concept of resilience emerged from within the ecological sciences as a way of (looking at why some systems collapse when they encounter shock, and some don’t). The insights gleaned now offer a very useful overview for determining how systems can adapt and thrive in changing circumstances.

“Resilience Thinking” has been adopted by the SMCMA as a tool to measure the degree to which our region demonstrates natural resource and social resilience. Strategies will be developed to increase the region’s future resilience.

The five coastal CMAs – Hawkesbury-Nepean, Northern Rivers, Hunter Central Rivers, Southern Rivers and SMCMA collaborated in delivering five resilience workshops during October and December, 2011. Each workshop focused on a separate theme – Rivers, Estuaries, Land, Community and Biodiversity. Each workshop was hosted and managed by a different CMA. The SMCMA hosted the Rivers Workshop which was attended by staff from NSW Government Departments and the coastal CMAs.

Travelling Together

Our Local Government Partners Join our Journey

There are 39 Local Government Areas within the SMCMA region. At workshops we have met with Council representatives to discuss what the new SMCMA CAP will include and what it will aim to achieve.

Councils are the largest custodians of land in the metropolitan area and they have the responsibility for managing natural resources across extensive areas. The following workshops with Councils have been held:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Locations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 22:</td>
<td>Pittwater, Warringah, Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby,</td>
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<td>The Hills and Willoughby.</td>
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<td>March 27:</td>
<td>Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Woollahra,</td>
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<td>Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Hunters Hill and City</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of Sydney.</td>
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<td>March 28:</td>
<td>Campbelltown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Heloys,</td>
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<td>Blacktown and Camden.</td>
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<td>March 29:</td>
<td>Rockdale, Marrickville, Canterbury, Strathfield,</td>
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<td>Burwood.</td>
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<td>April 3:</td>
<td>Hurstville, Kogarah, Bankstown, Sutherland,</td>
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<td>Wollondilly and Wollongong.</td>
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<td>April 4:</td>
<td>Ashfield, Auburn, Canada Bay, Ryde and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parramatta.</td>
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<td>April 5:</td>
<td>Waverley, Randwick and Botany Bay.</td>
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All NSW councils are required to prepare 10-year Community Strategic Plans on a schedule set by the Division of Local Government. Within our region 35 of the 39 councils have draft plans available. This data will be evaluated for relevance to the SMCMA CAP.

CAP Pioneers:

Central West and Namoi CMA

There are 13 NSW CMAs and two – Central West and Namoi have taken the lead in developing and delivering their CAPS for their regions. The SMCMA has looked to these CMAs for any tips that can assist us in our CAP journey.

CAP Audit:

The role of the NRC:

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) was established in 2003 to provide the NSW Government with independent advice on natural resource management. The NRC advises the Government on what is working in natural resource management, what needs fixing and how it is tracking against its stated policies and targets.

The 10-year CAP journey the SMCMA is embarking on will not end in 2022. Our work will have an important impact on the condition of NRM within Sydney, but the work will continue. As 2022 approaches those charged with managing NRM within Sydney will already be planning and taking action to guide the direction to 2050 and beyond.
Bushcare on Show:
Sydney’s Royal Easter Show is the nation’s largest annual event, attracting more than 900,000 during its 10-day program at Homebush Bay. The show has historically provided a showcase for NSW primary and secondary industries, and for the promotion of agricultural education and improvement. For generations, the Show has brought ‘the country to the city’, and it continues to be important, especially for children, in Sydney’s cultural life.

The SMCMA participates by supporting Willoughby City Council host the Bushcare stall (Pictured here), which is located within the “Great Aussie Backyard” exhibition. The Bushcare stall promotes bush-friendly activities to the wider community. One of the major strengths of the stall is the large number of people from across Sydney who volunteer to answer questions and encourage people to become Bushcare volunteers themselves.

2012 Community Forum:
Some 100 people attended the SMCMA community Forum held on March 31 at Bicentennial Park. The theme was Looking Back: Looking Forward. Looking back highlighted the five years since the first forum. Looking Forward invited delegates to provide their input in the development of the SMCMA CAP.

Photo Competition:
To highlight the achievements of community bushcare over the past five years the SMCMA held a photo competition as part of the 2012 community forum.

Winner of the ‘Best photo of a Bushcare site that demonstrates work in progress’ category was Peter Miller (pictured here) from Reefcare with his photo Restoring Shorebird Habitat, removing bitou bush and planting local natives. (See page) There were 27 entries in this category and the prize was generously sponsored by the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators. Peter won a $50 voucher to spend at Florilegium botanical book store and a $50 voucher to buy tools through Arbogreen.

The winner of the “Best photo of an environmental volunteer group” category was Bruce Gimber from Sutherland Shire Bushcare for his photo Lilli Pilli Bushcare Weed Warriors. (See page) There were 23 entries in the category. Bruce won a gourmet hamper to the value of $100 to share with his fellow volunteers over morning tea.

The winner of the “People’s Choice” award went to Liz Millen, who volunteers with the Cooks River Valley Association.

Visit our website to see Community Forum photos.

Water. Waste. Weaving
Workshops were hosted by the SMCMA to highlight impact of water and litter on waterways. The workshops featured Indigenous traditional weaving as a cultural experience.

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