

The NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2020–24



Aerial photo, Putty Beach campground,
Bouddi National Park
John Spencer/DPIE

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View to the coast from the Granite Tors
in Gulaga National Park
Stuart Cohen/DPIE



The Trust's Protecting our Places grantee Mothers Ancestral Guardians Indigenous Corporation – or MAGIC – conducts a Malleefowl Ceremony in Rick Farley Reserve, far west NSW Mal Ridges

Why a strategic plan?

The NSW Environmental Trust is excited to announce its strategic plan for 2020–24.

Over the past 22 years we've seen huge shifts in the environment. In this context it's essential that the Trust keeps up-to-date with emerging issues.

To ensure our grants address the right issues, the Trust has undergone a major strategic review. This has identified new priorities. The Trust now has three longer-term priorities (which will extend over four years), and three immediate priorities which will be our funding focus for the next 18 months.

Continuing with the broad support the Trust has engendered over many years, our new direction will achieve maximum environmental outcomes for New South Wales, now and for the future.

About the Trust

Established under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust lays the foundation for environmental outcomes through grants to the community, as well as government and non-government organisations. We have hundreds of active grant recipients delivering projects that will enhance the NSW environment for years to come.

Our mission

The review was guided by our mission statement:

To ensure that current and future generations can enjoy a thriving natural environment in New South Wales.

Foreword

As Chair of the Trust's Board, I am pleased to announce the Environmental Trust has set a new strategic direction.

The Trust has a proud history of achievements, but it's vital our funding targets key environmental issues as they emerge. To get it right, we've reviewed our priorities and programs, and created a new plan that fits the Trust's objectives.

Our new immediate 18-month priorities are clear: addressing climate change, acquiring more land to support the national parks estate, and supporting our threatened species.

We're focused on ensuring the Trust continues to play its part in doing what we can to leave our environment in a better state for future generations.

The Hon. Matt Kean MP
Chair, NSW Environmental Trust,
Minister for Energy and Environment



Our new priorities

The review considered current and emerging environmental issues to identify three new overarching priorities. From these, three immediate priorities were also identified. All the new priorities sit within the Trust's existing legislative objects.

The Trust distributes grants to a broad range of organisations across the State. Our new strategy ensures funding is available in key emerging areas.

Through the lens of our new strategic priorities, the Trust will provide grants to community, government and industry stakeholders to deliver projects that conserve, protect and rehabilitate the NSW environment.

Some of the Trust's grant programs – such as our Protecting our Places grants – remain the same. These grants empower Aboriginal organisations to protect, conserve and restore culturally significant environmental landscapes – outcomes which are echoed in the new priorities.

Immediate priorities

From within each of the Trust's three new overarching priorities, immediate priorities have been selected. These will be reviewed every 18 months to ensure the Trust can respond to emerging issues.

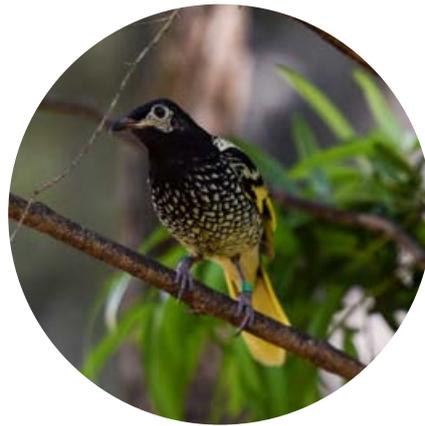
Our immediate priorities until the end of 2021 are:

- **national parks** – acquiring properties to enhance the NSW national parks estate
- **threatened species** – supporting threatened species recovery
- **climate change** – addressing climate change impacts on the natural environment, through both mitigation and adaptation.

Below: Brolgas, Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve
Nicola Brookhouse/DPIE



Our new immediate priorities are climate change, national parks estate and threatened species.



Overarching priorities

The Trust's new **overarching priorities** over the next four years are:

1. Strengthening NSW's natural environment

A healthy natural environment is the foundation for our health and wellbeing. The Trust's work to strengthen the natural environment includes:

- acquiring properties to enhance the NSW national parks estate
- restoring and rehabilitating ecosystems
- supporting Aboriginal communities to participate in protection, conservation and restoration of culturally significant land.

2. Supporting native species and their habitats

Thriving native flora and fauna rely on healthy habitats. The Trust's work includes:

- protecting native plants and animals
- increasing and stabilising threatened species populations
- controlling invasive weeds and pests.

3. Reducing human-induced impacts on the environment

Human-induced impacts are one of the largest challenges facing our natural environment. The Trust's work to reduce these impacts includes:

- increasing initiatives that focus on climate change and emissions reduction, both mitigation and adaptation
- cleaning up existing polluted sites
- improving air and water quality
- supporting the circular economy and waste reduction.

The Trust's Protecting our Places grantee Mothers Ancestral Guardians Indigenous Corporation – or MAGIC – undertake a cool mosaic burn in Rick Farley Reserve in far-west NSW
Dieuwer Reynders

Regent Honeyeater, *Anthochaera phrygia*
Stuart Cohen/DPIE

Waste and recycling bins Royal National Park
Andrew Richards/DPIE



'Drumsticks' – or *Isopogon anemonifolius* – at Kincumba Mountain, Green Point

Trust grantee Community Environment Network (CEN) for the COSS connections and rehabilitation project



Rock formation, Sawn Rocks, Mount Kaputar National Park

Fiona Gray/DPIE

Delivering the strategy

Most of the Trust's existing environmental grant programs already align with one or more of these strategic priorities. However, over the coming grant rounds, Trust administration will incorporate the immediate focus areas into its programs.

- **Contestable programs** – some of the Trust's current funding streams, including the Education, Research, and Restoration & Rehabilitation programs, will be progressively adjusted to better reflect the new priorities. Further detail will be provided in program guidelines and on the Trust website as these programs are rolled out.
- Funding for **major projects**, including major research projects, which are identified through the Trust's biennial prospectus survey will be considered in the context of the new strategic priorities. The most recent survey – seeking stakeholders' input to develop the Trust's prospectus – closed in early September 2020.
- **Other programs** may be developed to address specific priorities.

Critical enablers

The Trust continues to deliver programs in line with its current high standards and robust processes. These include:

- regularly reviewing priorities
- maintaining strong stakeholder engagement and partnerships
- accessing technical experts
- tailoring program planning and design
- continuing with robust application assessment
- employing best practice grants management
- ensuring effective financial management
- continuing ongoing program evaluation and improvement.

Meet the Board

- **Chair:** Minister for Energy and Environment, the Hon. Matt Kean MP
- Ms Jenny Merkley (NSW Treasury, deputy for the Secretary of Treasury)
- Dr Paul Grimes* (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, deputy for the Secretary of the Department)
- Professor Don White (Nature Conservation Council of NSW)
- Councillor Linda Scott (Local Government NSW)

* Effective 1 October 2020



Sunrise, Kinchega National Park
John Spencer/DPIE