



# ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19



## The NSW Roadside Environment Committee

The NSW Roadside Environment Committee (REC) was established in 1994 by the NSW Government in recognition of the environmental values of linear reserves. The REC is an umbrella body of state agencies and environment groups that promotes and coordinates leading practice in linear reserve environmental management across the State.

**The vision of the REC is:  
Environmental values of linear corridors are actively managed in balance  
with other functional needs.**

The REC currently comprises thirteen organisations with interests in the management of roadside and other linear reserves in NSW. The REC member organisations are:

- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
- Nature Conservation Council (NCC)
- Essential Energy
- Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- Sydney Trains
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia NSW (IPWEA NSW)
- Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
- Local Land Services (LLS)
- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
- Department of Industry – Lands & Water
- Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)
- Country Regional Network (CRN) – John Holland Rail Ltd
- Ausgrid

The REC is funded by the NSW Roads and Maritime Services. Member organisations provide in-kind support.

### Strategic plan

To work towards its vision, the REC developed a strategic plan for 2016-2019. The plan is provided in Appendix 1.

There are three outcomes in the strategic plan:

1. Projects delivered and assistance provided to improve linear corridor management
2. REC members understand and share good practices
3. Stakeholders aware of REC's key initiatives

## Key issues

In developing its 2016-19 Strategic Plan, the REC identified the following key issues that it will focus on.

### Environmental management issues

Weed and biosecurity management

Natural vegetation (including hazard trees)

Wildlife including road kills

Firewood collection

Bushfire management and fire regimes

Heritage (indigenous and non-indigenous)

Illegal dumping & litter (waste management)

Scenic amenity

Erosion & sediment control

Contaminated land

Noise

Water quality

Contaminants

Rest areas

Signage

Acid sulphate soils

Livestock management

### Corporate issues

Safety (of personnel conducting works in the corridor as well as travelling public)

Planning

Data management

Training

Compliance

Community expectations

Incident response

Regulator relationships

Community education

Communications

Disaster management

## Achievements

In 2018-19, the REC carried out actions related to the 2016-19 Strategic Plan. These actions included:

- Developing a project for the preparation of a training course and implementation plan for the biodiversity component of Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) (Action 1.6 in the 2016-19 Strategic Plan). This project is funded by the REC.
- Supporting and promoting the Linear Reserves Program funded by the NSW Environmental Trust (Action 1.1). The Linear Reserves Program consists of two programs:
  1. Managing Travelling Stock Reserves for Sustainable Conservation Outcomes managed by LLS in conjunction with OEH (\$4.75 million over three years)
  2. Council Roadside Reserves Project managed by LGNSW (\$2.08 million over three years).

- Sponsoring the Roadside Environmental Management Award as part of the 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards initiated by LGNSW (Action 3.5).

The Awards are open to all local councils in NSW and aim to recognise outstanding achievements by NSW Local Government in managing and protecting the environment.

The REC has sponsored the Roadside Environmental Management Award for the past eight years.

Mid-Western Regional Council and Bathurst Regional Council (overall winner) won the NSW Roadside Environmental Management awards at the 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Award Ceremony in Sydney.



Stevie Armstrong of Bathurst Regional Council with the 2018 Roadside Environmental Management Awards

- Reviewing and improving the REC's Communication Plan (Action 3.2) in relation to the Strategic Plan.
- Holding a REC meeting in a regional area of NSW (Actions 1.2 and 2.4) to discuss and learn more about local and regional issues to assist in improved linear reserve management. In August 2018, the REC met with Hawkesbury River County Council to inspect roadside sites for environmental assessment in western Sydney. This project was part of the Council Roadside Reserves Project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.



REC members inspect roadsides in western Sydney with Hawkesbury River County Council

- Sharing and learning more about aspects of linear reserve management including new biosecurity and biodiversity conservation legislation, review of crown lands, the review of travelling stock reserves, and new methods for environmental management (Actions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5).
- Implementing the REC Communication Plan (Action 3.2). Measures of the performance of the Communication Plan implementation in 2018-19 include:
  - Mailing list of stakeholders increased from 390 to 400 individuals/organisations during the year
  - Hits on the REC website averaged 140 per month
  - Four editions of the REC newsletter were produced and distributed electronically to stakeholders during the year as planned
  - The REC Speaker's Kit was updated and used by the Executive Officer to promote best practices in linear reserve environmental management and the role of the REC.
- Actively continuing the REC Facebook and Twitter sites during 2018-19 (Action 3.2). The Facebook site has 60 likes (up from 51 in June 2018) and the Twitter site has 160 followers (up from 141 in June 2018).
- Promoting linear reserve environmental management initiatives through the NSW Landcare Gateway (Action 3.2). The REC page is found at:  
<http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/nsw-roadside-environment-committee>

The REC carried out a range of other activities in 2018-19 related to the Strategic Plan. The activities included:

- Received a presentation on the ecological research and initiatives conducted by RMS in the Mona Vale Road upgrade
- Received a presentation on the management of the Powerful Owl by BirdLife Australia
- Received a presentation on the Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code by RFS
- Inspected the Emergency Operations Centre at the new RFS Headquarters
- Received a presentation on the implementation of the Biosecurity Act by NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Holding interagency sharing sessions to improve linear reserve environmental management practices across NSW.

## Meetings

The REC met four times during 2018-19. Meetings were held at Rouse Hill (13 August 2018 hosted by Hawkesbury River County Council), Rozelle (20 November 2018 hosted by RMS), Sydney Olympic Park (12 February 2019 hosted by RFS) and Sydney (23 May 2019 hosted by LGNSW).

The following persons represented the member organisations on the REC during 2018-19:

Martin Driver (NCC) - Chairperson	Luke Durrington (Sydney Trains)	Chris Wright (DoI – Lands & Water)
Chris Dunn (Essential Energy)	John Roydhouse (IPWEA NSW)	Eve Bleuel (Ausgrid)
Julie Ravallion (RMS)	Kirsty McIntyre (LGNSW)	Chris Weston (CRN)
Deepa Punnoose (RFS)	Lucian McElwain (OEH)	Andrew Cooper (LLS)
		Stuart Ross (ARTC)

The following persons acted as alternates to the above:

Brigid Dowsett (NCC)

Bruce Thompson (OEH/ Biodiversity Conservation Trust)

Kathy Godfrey (LGNSW)

Cassie Thompson (RMS)

Sally Durham (RMS)

Paul Harper (DoI – Lands & Water)

Charlie Lucas (LLS)

Courtney Moran (Sydney Trains)

Lloyd Van Der Wallen (RFS)

Molino Stewart Pty Ltd was contracted by RMS to provide secretariat services to the REC during 2018-19.

Neil Duffy of Molino Stewart was the Executive Officer of the REC and was supported by Amy Westman and Ruth Fernando of the same company.

For more details about  
the REC go to its website  
**[http://www.rms.nsw.gov.  
au/about/what-we-do/  
committees/roadside-  
environment-committee.  
html](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/what-we-do/committees/roadside-environment-committee.html)**

## Appendix 1 - NSW Roadside Environment Committee Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

### Outcome 1: Projects delivered and assistance provided to improve linear corridor management

Action	Measure of Success	Priority	Timing	Responsibility
1.1 Support and disseminate the Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR) and Council Roadside Reserves (CRR) projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation of REC members in Advisory Committees</li> <li>- Progress disseminated via REC communications strategy</li> </ul>	H	Jun 2019	LLS LGNSW REC rep Secretariat
1.2 Develop ways to manage priority issues and communicate those to stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key environmental issues promoted to at least one regional forum per year</li> <li>- Hold at least one regional meeting to discuss local issues</li> </ul>	H	Annual	REC members Secretariat
1.3 Investigate and encourage use of available spatial layers relevant to corridor management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigation of Transport for NSW and other platforms</li> <li>- Know status of RVMP GIS data</li> </ul>	M	Dec 2017	REC members Secretariat
1.4 Promote and support grants and relevant funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities are shared</li> </ul>	M	Ongoing	Secretariat
1.5 Promote management systems and operational tools to manage weeds and other issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tools shared</li> <li>- Presentations at regional meetings</li> </ul>	M	Ongoing	REC members Secretariat
1.6 Build industry capacity for better biodiversity outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accredited training developed and implemented</li> </ul>	H	Jan 2018	RMS, other REC members

## Appendix 1 - NSW Roadside Environment Committee Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

### Outcome 2: REC members understand and share good practices

Action	Measure of Success	Priority	Timing	Responsibility
2.1 Share improved environmental control procedures	- Information supplied	L	Dec 2017	Infrastructure members of the REC
2.2 Share tools and approaches to manage all vegetation for environmental & transport safety objectives	- Information supplied	M	Jun 2017	Infrastructure members of the REC
2.3 Share rapid assessment tools and spatial products	- Information supplied	M	Jun 2017	LLS LGNSW
2.4 Focus REC meetings on key issues and share policies, procedures, learnings etc.	- Year 1 meetings on Weeds, Firewood, Safety Trees, Rehabilitation	H	Annual	REC members Secretariat
2.5 Brief each REC member on all relevant major government reforms and changes to legislation	- Briefings occur on new reforms and legislation	M	Ongoing	REC members

### Outcome 3: Stakeholders aware of REC's key initiatives

Action	Measure of Success	Priority	Timing	Responsibility
3.1 Review the REC communications strategy	- Strategy reviewed and published	M	Dec 2017	REC members Secretariat
3.2 Communicate the REC's purpose and activities	- Speaker's Kit updated - REC communications strategy used	M	Jun 2018	REC members Secretariat
3.3 Provide case studies of good practices	- Case studies prepared & located on REC website	L	Ongoing	REC members Secretariat
3.4 Organise a state-wide linear corridor forum	- Forum successfully held	H	Dec 2019	REC members Secretariat
3.5 Sponsor the NSW Roadside Environmental Management Award	- Award sponsored annually	M	Annual	RMS