




Special Rate Variation Application 508(2)
Kempsey Shire Council - Environmental Levy

Appendix 5.2: Specific SRV Engagement; social media materials, media releases, public notices, newspaper articles, dedicated online engagement website with fact sheets, community survey and background information.

Community Engagement Materials


1. Social media posts on Facebook that reached 1081 people

Post Details

**Kempsey Shire Council**
Published by Tara Ansell [?] · November 30, 2017 · 🌐

The current environmental levy, which funds significant environmental preservation and restoration projects in the Kempsey Shire, will run out at the end of the 2017-2018 financial year. Council needs to consider options for the future, including making an application to extend the levy and the programs it funds for a further 10 years.

Visit yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/enviro to take the survey and have your say on the environmental future of the Macleay today! You can also visit Council's stall at the Kempsey Riverside Twilight Markets this Saturday 2 December where Council team members will be available to answer your environmental levy questions.



Should the Environmental Levy be continued?

Over the last 15 years the Kempsey Shire has focussed on significant environmental restoration projects in order to manage, protect and preserve our waterways and natural environment.

[YOURSAY.MACLEAY.NSW.GOV.AU](https://yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au)

1,081 People Reached

16 Reactions, Comments & Shares ⓘ

7 Like	7 On Post	0 On Shares
1 Angry	1 On Post	0 On Shares
6 Comments	6 On Post	0 On Shares
2 Shares	1 On Post	1 On Shares

88 Post Clicks

0 Photo Views	8 Link Clicks	80 Other Clicks ⓘ
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

2 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

2. Media Release

Friday 24 November, 2017



MEDIA RELEASE

Seeking community feedback on the environmental levy

In the last 15 years, much of Kempsey Shire Council's work to manage, protect and preserve the waterways and natural environment has been funded through a special levy. That levy is due to expire this financial year and Council are seeking feedback from the community on options for the future.

Initially in place for five years from the 2003-2004 financial year, and then extended for a further 10 years until June 2018, the Environmental Levy has funded projects such as water quality monitoring in the Macleay River; the Boyters Lane wetlands rejuvenation and walkway; coastal dune restoration; Killick Creek coastal management; weed control programs and floodplain management.

Council's Acting General Manager, Daryl Hagger, said the levy has allowed for proactive and measurable environmental management.

"By having the levy in place, we estimate that Council has been able to attract an additional \$1.2 million in environmental funding from other levels of Government," Mr Hagger said.

"Many of the projects that have been delivered have been in partnership with community groups such as Landcare and Dunecare, which adds a significant social value beyond the funding."

The Environmental Levy is around \$53 a year in the average household rates. If it was continued, the levy would generate just over \$800,000 next financial year allocated specifically to environmental projects, with the Lower Macleay Flood Study and Plan estimated to cost around \$250,000 of the fund.

Other future projects that could be funded by the levy include flood levee upgrades at Hat Head and Eden Street, beach access improvement at South West Rocks and carrying out the actions from the Macleay River Eco Health Report Card.

Council is considering making an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to extend the levy for a further 10 years.

The community are invited to learn more about the Environment Levy and have their say on the future of the Environmental Levy by completing the survey available at Council's Customer Service Centre or online at:

<http://yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/enviro>

Staff will also be available to provide more information at the Kempsey Riverside Twilight Markets on Saturday December 2. Submissions close on 13 December, 2017.

Photo caption: The Environmental Levy has funded projects such as the Boyters Lane wetlands rejuvenation.

3. Print Media Advertising

Centenary of rail 1917-2017

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Railway camp between Kempsey and Wauchope, 1917

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KEMPSEY Shire Council  **YOUR SAY MACLEAY**

Have your say on funding environmental projects

In the last 15 years much of Council's work to manage, protect and preserve our waterways and natural environment has been funded through a special levy.

Do you think Council should seek approval to continue the Environmental Levy?



Have your say today on future environmental funding options.

Go to: yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/enviro

SURVEY CLOSES 15 DECEMBER, 2017

A SPARK CAN SOON BECOME A BLAZE.

CALL 13 20 80 IF YOU SEE BRANCHES HANGING OVER ESSENTIAL ENERGY'S POWERLINES.



essential energy

3. Direct email newsletter to 428 members of Your Say Macleay



Should the environmental levy be extended?

Hi [PARTICIPANT_SCREEN_NAME],

In the last 15 years, much of Kempsey Shire Council's work to manage, protect and preserve the waterways and natural environment has been funded through a special levy. That levy is due to expire this financial year and Council are seeking feedback from the community on options for the future.

The Environmental Levy is around \$53 a year in the average household rates. If it was continued, the levy would generate just over \$800,000 next financial year allocated specifically to environmental projects, with the Lower Macleay Flood Study and Plan estimated to cost around \$250,000 of the fund.

Council is considering making an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to extend the levy for a further 10 years.

Complete the [survey](#) to have your say on the future of the Environmental Levy before 13 December.

Staff will also be available to provide more information at the Kempsey Riverside Twilight Markets on Saturday December 2.

Thank you for your feedback.

4. **Mayoral Column inviting the community to have a say** – published in the Macleay Argus and Macleay Valley Happynings, November 27 and 28



From the *Mayor's Desk*

Mayor Liz Campbell

ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY

Over the last 15 years, Council has partnered with community groups and government agencies on major environmental restoration projects to manage and protect our stunning Macleay Valley waterways and natural environment.

This work has been paid for by applying a special Environmental Levy to Council's rates. The levy was first introduced for five years from 2003/04, and has been continued over the past decade to fund important environmental schemes such as bush regeneration; flood study and preparation; local creeks and waterways repair; weed control; environmental education; and restoration of coastal and wildlife habitats.

The levy has also given us leverage to secure extra grant funding from NSW Government and other agencies, with more than \$1 million in grants over the past 15 years going to preserve and enhance our valley's environment.

Working with committed local community groups such as Landcare and Dunecare, we have improved the natural environment of our valley. Key projects like the wetlands restoration at Boyters Lane; repairs to Killick, Korogoro and Gills Creeks; weed control along our roadsides and protection of our coastal dune areas; along with flood, river and coastal

zone management programs, have all been made possible by the levy.

The current Environmental Levy will finish in June 2018 and Council needs to consider options for the future, including making an application to extend the levy and the environmental programs for another 10 years.

Council needs your feedback on this important decision. Everyone in our community is encouraged to visit the Your Say Macleay website to learn about the Environmental Levy and what impact it would have on your rates, and then complete an online survey.

For those more comfortable in talking personally to staff, we will have an information stand at the Twilight Markets this Saturday, or you are welcome to come into our Customer Service Centre or make a submission in writing to ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Please take the time to have your say on protecting our valley for future generations. Submissions and the online survey close on 13 December 2017.



Boyters Lane wetlands - one of the projects funded through the Environmental Levy.

5. Posters distributed to Customer Service Centre, Libraries and community facilities



YOUR SAY



MACLEAY

**HAVE YOUR SAY
ON FUNDING
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROJECTS**

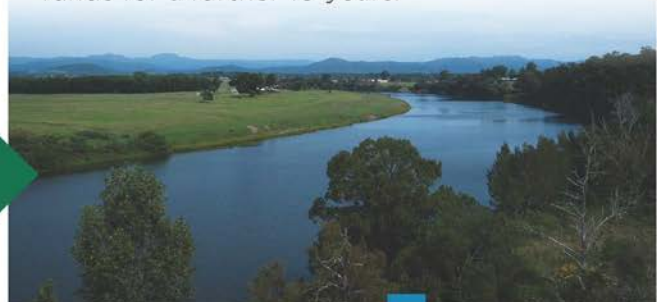
*The Environmental
levy funds:*

- Weed control
- Bush regeneration
- Flood study and preparation
- Environmental education
- Restoration of coastal and wildlife habitats
- Building and maintenance of natural areas
- Repairs to local creeks and waterways

*Visit Your Say Macleay
to complete the survey
before 13 December!*

Over the last 15 years, the Environmental Levy applied to Council rates has funded significant environmental restoration projects that have managed, protected and preserved the waterways and natural environment of the Kempsey Shire.

The current Environmental Levy will run out at the end of the 2017-2018 financial year and Council is seeking community feedback on whether to extend the Environmental Levy and the environmental programs it funds for a further 10 years.



yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au



6. **Hardcopies of the survey and fact sheets available at Council's Customer Service Centre and Libraries**

Fact Sheet 1: History



Have your say on funding environmental projects

FACT SHEET - WHAT HAS THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY PAID FOR?

Initially in place for five years from 2003-2004 and then extended for a further 10 years until June 2018, the Environmental Levy has allowed significant works to be carried out over this fifteen-year period, right across the Shire.

Council has also been able to use Environmental Levy funds to attract additional grant funding. It is estimated that an \$1.1 million has been secured from NSW and other government agencies to invest in the environment since 2003-2004, due to the leverage of the funds Council had available from the Environmental Levy.

Many of the environmental projects carried out have been in partnership with community groups such as Landcare or Dunecare, which adds immeasurable additional social value and benefits beyond the funding received.

The table below provides examples of the projects carried out in recent years;

Type of work	Project Descriptions
Bush Regeneration	Boyters Lane – development of Plan of Management and completion of wetlands restoration, planting 14,000 native trees, construction of boardwalk and bird hide/ information centre and public carpark. (10 year project)
Repair to local creeks and waterways	Killick Creek – coastal management program (2017) Korogoro Creek - estuary management (2017); riverbank erosion control works (2014), riparian and saltmarsh rehabilitation and walkway(2009) Gills Creek – riparian rehabilitation (2015)
Weed control	Removal of Camphor Laurel, Cockspur Coral and Tecoma from roadside reserves such as SWR road, Belmore River Rd, Saleyards Rd and Lord St.



Type of work	Project Descriptions
Weed control cont.	<p>Large and small leaf privet control (Camphor Laurel) on high risk pathways of Council land through Upper and Lower Macleay.</p> <p>Coastal villages weed control including Bitou Bush</p> <p>Maintenance of planted roadside vegetation – Belmore River Rd, Kinchela Rd and Summer Island Rd</p> <p>Field days with Local Land Services, Landcare, Dune care and gardening groups and to promote weed control.</p>
River management	<p>Macleay River Estuary Coastal Management Program, scoping study (2017)</p> <p>Macleay River - Eco Health monitoring, Pelican Island strategy, freshwater macrophyte survey (2016)</p> <p>Upper Belmore River – 5km stretch of riparian rehabilitation (2012-14)</p> <p>Macleay River – riverbank erosion control and construction of public fishing steps Jerseyville (2013)</p> <p>Macleay River – Sherwood Borefield rehabilitation and riparian improvement (2012)</p>
Coastal Zone Management	<p>Hat Head - dune protection works</p> <p>Grassy Head – improved beach access and viewing platform</p> <p>Baseline data study on threatened and migratory shorebirds in the LGA. (2016)</p>
Flood Management	<p>Lower Macleay Flood Risk Study and Plan - stage 1 flood study (2017)</p> <p>Infrastructure condition audits of floodgates and levees (2013-2016)</p> <p>Upgrading flood warning systems at Kempsey, Bellbrook and Georges Creek (2014)</p>
Waste Management	<p>Rehabilitation and remediation of former landfill sites (2003-2007)</p> <p>Infrastructure improvements to Waste Management Centre, Crescent Head Rd (2003-2007)</p>





Have your say on funding environmental projects

FACT SHEET - WHAT FUTURE PROJECTS WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY?

Council is considering an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to continue including the Environmental Levy in the rates charges for a further 10 years.

The average ratepayer will be \$53 a year towards the Environmental Levy and for more details about the impact of the Levy on your rates please see Fact Sheet 3.

An outline of the possible projects that the Levy may fund is below.

Type of work	Project Descriptions	Indicative cost
Flood Mitigation	Hydraulic modelling - Clybucca / Collombatti investigating improvements to floodwater management	\$70,000
	Town Levee upgrade – Hat Head	\$200,000
	Flood Study and Plan for Lower Malceay including primary villages, flood management infrastructure and ocean outlets.	\$250,000
Weed Control	Removal and control of noxious weeds on Council owned land and road reserves including Camphor Laurel, Tecoma, Cockspur Coral, Madeira Vine Noogoora Burr and Mother of Millions.	\$100,000
	Coastal villages weed control including Bitou Bush, Asparagus and other weedy species.	
	Aquatic weed control including Salvinia and Water Hyacinth.	
	Field days with Local Land Services, Landcare, Dune care and gardening groups and to promote weed control.	



Type of work	Project Descriptions	Indicative cost
Coastal Management	Implementing actions from the Coastal Zone Management Plan including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood modelling Crescent Head • Flood modelling Hat Head 	\$120,000 \$120,000
	Foreshore erosion control and beach access improvements at SWR Surf Club	\$150,000
	Wetland mapping program across the Local Government Area	\$70,000
	Review and upgrade existing Estuary Management Plans for Killick Ck, Korogoro Ck and Macleay River	\$48,000
River Management	Stage 1 logistical investigation to upgrade Dowlings Falls causeway.	\$40,000
	Implementation of action items from Echohealth Report program including nutrient investigation.	\$50,000
	In partnership with University of New England, investigate arsenic and antimony impacts on coast zone of Macleay River.	\$100,000



7. Community Survey



Have your say on funding environmental projects

1. Please tick which of the following environmental activities and projects conducted by Council that are you are aware of?

- Boyters Lane wetlands walkway and education centre
- Water quality monitoring in Macleay River and estuaries
- Weed management programs and education presentations
- Coastal Dune restoration Hat Head
- Rehabilitation of Sherwood Borefields
- Killick Creek coastal management
- Coastal Floodplain management
- Macleay River Coastal Estuary Management Program
- Improved beach access and viewing platform – Grassy Head
- Remediation / rehabilitation of former landfill areas
- Improvements to waste management facilities

2. Please rank the following proposed environmental programs in order of your priority? Numbering 1 as highest priority through to 7 as lowest.

- Flood Mitigation works such as modelling of floodwater management practices for Clybucca / Collombatti; Upgrade to Hat Head town flood levee bank; Upgrade to Eden Street flood levee; raising SWR road
- Weed Management programs targeting class four noxious weeds such as camphor laurel and cockspur choral

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- Coastal Management such as dune rehabilitation; flood modelling Hat Head; foreshore erosion control SWR surf club
- Estuary Management such as extended planning for management of Killick Creek including flora and fauna survey
- River Management such as conducting actions from the Macleay River Eco Health Report Card
- Stormwater management throughout Kempsey and other urban areas
- Upgrading the Crescent Head Rd Waste Management Centre to achieve greater recycling and support of community groups social enterprise

3. Are there other environmental projects that you think Council should be working on?

4. Which of the following options do you prefer?

- Don't charge an environmental levy – fund environmental works from base rates and reduce other Council services
- Pay a lower levy than the current average per household of \$53 and reduce the environmental services and programs.
- Apply for a 10-year extension to the Environmental Levy at the existing rate of an average of \$53 per household and maintain current levels of service

Thank you

Please complete your details if you would like to be informed of survey results

NAME: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



7. Dedicated engagement website



Home • Should the Environmental Levy be continued?

Should the Environmental Levy be continued?



Over the last 15 years the Kempsey Shire has focussed on significant environmental restoration projects in order to manage, protect and preserve our waterways and natural environment.

This work across the Shire has been paid for by applying a special Environmental Levy to Council's rates. Initially in place for five years from the 2003-2004 financial year and then extended for a further 10 years until June 2018 the Environmental Levy has funded projects such as bush regeneration; flood study and preparation, repair to local creeks and waterways; weed control; restoration of coastal and wildlife habitats and corridors; environmental education and building/maintaining natural areas.

The current Environmental levy will run out at the end of the 2017-2018 financial year and Council needs to consider options for the future including making an application to extend the levy and the environmental programs for a further 10 years.

We need community feedback on this important decision.

- Read the fact sheets (located to the right of your screen) and learn about the impact of the Environmental Levy on your rates
- Complete the [online survey](#) or the [quickpoll](#) (click on the tab below)
- OR visit an information stand at a local market or Council's customer service centre or Libraries
- OR make a submission in writing to Council

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Acting Manager, Community Relations on (02) 6566 3200 or by email at ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Submissions and survey responses closed on 13 December 2017

The results of Council's community engagement were reported to the December 2017 Council meeting.

[SURVEY](#) [QUICK POLL](#) [MAKE A SUBMISSION](#)

CLOSED: This survey has concluded. Thankyou for your feedback.

Environmental Levy Survey

Council want your feedback on the projects that relate to the environmental levy and how they should be funded.

Complete the short survey and have your say.

Submissions close 13 December 2017.

[Complete Form](#)

Register to have your say

Life Cycle

- Open 15 November 2017**
This consultation is Open for submissions.
- Pop Up Information Stall - Sunday 19 November 2017**
Chat with Council staff at a stall at the Gladstone Quality Markets between 9am to 12noon
- Pop Up Information Stall - Saturday 2 December 2017**
Chat with the Project Team and fill out a survey at the council stall at the Kempsey Riverside Twilight Markets between 4pm to 7pm
- Closes 13 December 2017**
Contributions to this consultation are CLOSED for evaluation and review. The Project team will report back on key outcomes.
- Final report**
The final outcomes of the consultation are documented here. This may include a summary of all contributions collected as well as recommendations for future action.



[more..](#)

Fact Sheets

- [What has the environmental levy paid for? \(132 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [What future projects will be funded with the Environmental Levy? \(115 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Important Links

- [Macleay Catchment Report Card 2016](#)
- [Ecohealth report card on the Macleay's waterways](#)
- [Council Report on community engagement \(Item 13.9\)](#)

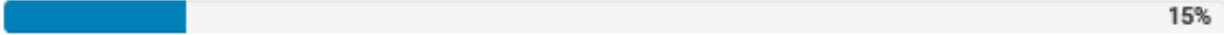
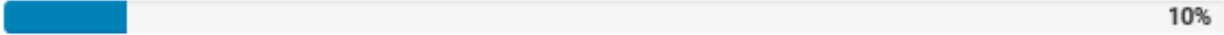

Quick Poll Survey Tool

QUICK POLL

SURVEY

MAKE A SUBMISSION

Which of the following options do you prefer?

1. Don't charge an environmental levy – fund environmental works from normal rates and reduce other Council services
 15%
2. Pay a lower levy than the current average per household of \$53 and reduce the environmental services / programs.
 10%
3. Apply for a 10 year extension to the Environmental Levy at the same rate and maintain current levels of service
 75%

Total Votes : 40

Online Submission Tool

MAKE A SUBMISSION

SURVEY

QUICK POLL

Make a written submission on the environmental levy

about 2 months ago

CLOSED: This discussion has concluded. Thankyou for your feedback.



West Kempsey NSW 2440

In addition to completing the survey or quickpoll you can have your say about the future of the Environmental Levy by making a written submission.

Either send us an email to ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Or mail your sbmission to;

The General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council
PO Box 3078

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Acting Manager, Community Relations on (02) 6566 3200 or by email at ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Submissions close 13 December 2017

Privacy Statement

Writing a submission is one way of sharing your views and opinions with Council. All submissions are considered before making a decision and your submission may be included in a report to Council.

Note: Submissions and petitions are public information and may be made public. If you wish to have information in your submission suppressed, you will need to request this in writing.

9. Face to face engagement at existing community events; Gladstone Markets, Kempsey Riverside Christmas Market; Weeds information session Belmore River.



10. Media Articles:

- Macleay Argus November 24, 2017_
<https://www.macleayargus.com.au/story/5079419/council-calls-on-locals-to-have-their-say/>

NEWS

Have your say on protecting valley

KEMPSEY SHIRE MAYOR LIZ CAMPBELL

OVER the last 15 years... Council has partnered with community groups and government agencies on major environmental restoration projects to manage and protect our stunning Macleay Valley. With various natural environmental...



HAVE YOUR SAY: Submissions and the online survey close December 13, 2017.

This work has been proud for by applying a special Environmental Levy with Council's mws.

The levy was first introduced for five years from 2002/03, and has been continued ever since. It is an important environmental scheme such as bush regeneration; local study and preparation; local creeks and waterways repair; weed control; environmental education; and wildlife habitat.

The levy has also given us leverage to secure extra grant funding from NSW (government) and other agencies, with more than \$1 million in grants over the past 15 years going to preserve and

enhance our valley's environment.

Local community groups such as Landcare and Outlets, we have improved the natural environment of our valley Key projects like the well-known restoration at Lloyds Lagoon; repairs to Killick, Kuruguro and Gills Creeks; weed control Wungah road; and protection of our coastal dune arcs; along with the river and coastal zone management programs, have all been made possible by the levy.

The current Environmental Levy will finish in June 2018. Council needs

to consider options for the future, including in application to Council and the environmental provisions for another 10 years.

Council needs your feedback on this important decision. Everyone in our community is encouraged to visit the Your Say website to learn about the Environmental Levy.

Speak to us at the Wildlife Markets this Saturday, visit our website or make a submission in writing to ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Submissions all the 011 line survey close December 13.

Creating better pedestrian access

KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

IMPROVEMENTS to infrastructure in South West Rocks are undertaken as part of Kempsey Shire Council's ongoing focus to make public spaces safer and more accessible.

Modifications to improve the condition of the kerbs and ramps at the Central Shopping Centre are underway while a new pedestrian crossing refuge in GreKory Street near Young Drive was recently completed.

The works form part of Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) which is designed to increase mobility for pedestrians and motorised scooters.

With this Sunday, December 3, marking International Day of People with a Disability, the works ensure that there is better access to services and facilities for the whole community.

Council's Manager of Engineering, Tony Green, said further improvements to improve mobility for all



UPDATE: Council recently completed the installation of a new pedestrian crossing refuge in South West Rocks.

are scheduled to commence in the South West Rocks area this year and in 2018.

"Council will be constructing new kerbs and pedestrian refuge near the Belle O'Connor Street roundabout and the Gregory Street/Arthur Street intersection," he said.

"Kerbs and pedestrian crossings are also planned for Gilbert Cory Street and Rmcl Jer Street."

Some of the works will be completed before the summer holiday season and the maintenance will next year. Council is also supporting the South West Rocks Lions Club's project to create a

new access ramp so that elderly people and those with a disability can safely access the community at Black Creek.

North West Rocks Council received a \$15,000 NSW Government grant under the Community Infrastructure Partnership Program for the project and the work. Council has provided materials for the installation of handrails, and

Mayor Liz Campbell and Member for Oxley Melinda Pavey will be at the opening of the new refuge on December 19. Everyone is welcome.

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