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BIODIVERSITY FUND

Upper Belmore River Riparian Rehabilitation Project

LSP-940527-315

Project Overview Stages 1, 2, 3 & 4

May 2012 – Jun 2014



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Upper Belmore River Riparian Rehabilitation Project (UBRRRP) has been developed in partnership between Kempsey Shire Council (KSC) and landholders directly connected to a five (5) kilometre stretch of Upper Belmore River – from the Upper Belmore Bridge to the head of the Belmore River (see Fig 1).

The UBRRRP is fundamentally an environmental rehabilitation project that includes *strategies* and *actions* to address weed management, re-establishment of native vegetation, abate riverbank erosion and return natural hydraulic flow regimes within the Upper Belmore River with the aim of increasing native ecological biodiversity, improving environmental water quality parameters, and fostering improved landscape aesthetic values.

The actions proposed in the *implementation strategy* are consistent with management strategies identified in the Upper Belmore River Floodplain Management Strategy (2000) and the Lower Macleay Floodplain Management Study & Plan (1999) and the Macleay River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan (2011).

The timing and undertaking of specific rehabilitation actions described within the *implementation strategy* will be based on availability of funding opportunities.

1.1 Project Funding

This project overview has been prepared based on the activities achieved primarily through funding from the Biodiversity Fund (LSP-940527-315) and contributions from KSC, Macleay Valley Landcare Inc. and Upper Belmore River landholders, for the period Mar 2012 – June 2014.

2. BACKGROUND

The UBRRRP area is comprised almost entirely of owner-occupied freehold land used predominately for beef cattle grazing. A number of proposed sites are located within Council managed Road Reserves. The Belmore River below mean high water mark is owned by the Crown and administered under the Crown Lands Act 1989.

The Upper Belmore River has experienced a range of degrading processes that has imposed significant impacts on the foreshore landscapes, aquatic environments and riparian corridor values. During the development of the Upper Belmore River Floodplain Management Strategy (2000) a number of issues of concern for landholders and other interest groups were raised. Issues raised during that process relevant to this strategy include weed infestation, lack of native riparian vegetation, riverbank erosion, obstructions to water hydraulic flows and poor environmental water quality.

Recognising these issues and adopting a consensus-based approach, landholders connected to project site in partnership with Kempsey Shire Council developed the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* to guide remediation and rehabilitation measures for the Upper Belmore River foreshore and aquatic environment.

3. CONSULTATION & STAKEHOLDERS

The issues and concept of undertaking actions relevant to this project have been communicated between KSC, landholders and relevant agencies over the last 14 years. The UBRRRP concept began initially by distributing an 'Information Flyer' to connecting landholders to ascertain the level of landholder support which was subsequently followed by a series of phone conversations and site meetings.

Landholders indicated over-whelming support for the proposed UBRRRP and were advised that an *implementation strategy* would be developed by KSC to guide future progress of the project.

The *implementation strategy* was developed underpinned by active involvement, input and feed-back from all connecting landholders, supported by series of on-site meetings and inspections. Copies of the DRAFT *Implementation Strategy* were provided to all connecting landholders for review and comments. All proposed strategies and actions are fully supported and endorsed by all stakeholders.

3.1 Landcare Group

In the late 1990's a Belmore River Landcare Group was established to address a number of environmental issues in the Belmore River floodplain. However, the Landcare group had lost momentum and fundamentally discontinued to formally function. Some of those issues raised in the 1990's are still relevant in 2012. At the initial UBRRRP landholder meeting, landholders raised interest in and acknowledged the benefits of either reforming the initial Landcare group or establishing a new group for the purposed of implementing the UBRRRP.

With the assistance of Macleay Valley Landcare Inc., all connecting landholders have now been official formed into the Upper Belmore River Landcare Group.

4. PROJECT AREA

In accordance with the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* the project site has been divided into management areas or zones. These zones have been primarily formulated based on cadastre layouts and/or share specific or similar management issues.



Figure 1: Project Location and project management areas within the UBRRRP site (Source KSC MapInfo)

4.1 Project Location

The UBRRRP is located within the riparian zone of the Upper Belmore River, from the head of the river within the Belmore Floodplain downstream to the Upper Belmore River Bridge.

4.1.1 Project Overview

This **project overview** (Stage 1-3) describes the project activities undertaken and the project outcomes to-date relevant to project sites No1 – 13 for the period May 2012- Dec 2013 in accordance with the Biodiversity Fund Project Workplan (LSP-940527-315).



Figure 1a: Project site locations (Source KSC MapInfo)

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Primary environmental issues addressed are;

- a) Invasive weed management (eradication and control), and
- b) Native biodiversity (riparian & aquatic) improvement

Additional environmental issues addressed include;

- c) Riverbank erosion,
- d) Hydraulic flows, and
- c) Water quality improvement

6. THE STRATEGY

The strategies, methods and actions undertaken to implement the project to-date have been in accordance with the techniques described within the *UBRRRP Implementation Strategy (2012)*.

6.1 PROJECT STAGE 1: May 2012- December2012

6.1.1 Project Weed Removal Activities (Theme 3)

For the period May 2012 to Dec 2012 (Project Stage 1), weed eradication and control activities were undertaken within four (4) primary areas and a number of additional locations along the riverbank foreshore. Two (2) sites were initially identified in the Biodiversity Fund Workplan (Sites 1&3), however a further two (2) sites have been targeted since the commencement of the project (Sites 2&4).

The weed control activities included a combination of chemical application and physical removal and destruction. The primary weeds of focus with management zone included Camphor Laurels, Coral Trees, Privet and Blackberry, Morning Glory & Madeira vine.

It has been estimated that in excess of 1000 tonne of weeds were removed from within the Upper Belmore River riparian zone since the commencement of the project.

6.1.2 Project Site No 1 – Tracey’s (A)

Project Site No1 (Tracey’s - A) is located on the left-bank on the Belmore River. The area initially was dominated with large introduced exotic weeds (Fig 2). Only a very small number of native trees (<3) were growing within the dense stand of Camphor laurels, Coral trees, privet and a range of climbing weed vines. The project site area is 300m in length and covers an area of approximately 0.75ha.



Figures 2 & 3: Project Site 1 before weed control activities (left) and during weed removal (right).

The image on the left show dense stands of introduced weed (predominately Coral Trees) growing within the riparian zone. The image on the right shows landholders applying chemicals using the cut & paste method to stumps of large camphor laurel trees removed from Site No1 during Working-bee No1.

All weed material was stockpiled (Figs 4&5) in preparation for burning when climatic conditions are suitable. It was estimated based on the size of the stockpile that in excess of 300 tonne of weed material was removed from Site No1 alone.



Figures 4 & 5: Stockpiles of removed large woody and climbing vine weeds cleared from project Site No1.

The stockpile in left image was burnt in early August 2012. The two (2) stockpiles in the above right were burnt during early-mid 2013 when climatic conditions favour efficient burning.



Figures 6 & 7: Project Site No1 during weed control activities (left) and after weed removal (right).

Figure on left shows the western section of Project Site No1 during weed removal activities undertaken during Working –bee No1. The image on right show the same area after the banks was sown with rye grass to assist in stabilising the bank prior to planting with native trees and shrubs.

6.1.3 Project Site No2 – Ptolemy’s

Project Site No2 (Ptolemy’s) is located on the right-bank on the Belmore River. The area initially was dominated with large introduced exotic weeds (Fig 8). A flora assessment of the site undertaken prior to the weed removal activities indicated that no native trees were growing within this site, only dense populations of Camphor laurels, Coral trees, privet and a range of climbing vines including Madera vine and Moring Glories. The project site area is 320m in length and covers an area of approximately 0.5ha.



Figure 8 & 9: Project Site No2 (Ptolemy's) before weed control activities (left) and during weed removal (right).

The image on the left shows the extent, size and concentration of large woody weeds within Site No2. The image on the right shows landholders preparing to fall a large Camphor tree within Site No2 during Working-bee No2 (Sept 2012).



Figures 10 & 11: Project Site No2 during weed control activities (left) and after weed removal (right).

The image on the left shows heavy earthmoving and tractor machinery being utilised to remove the large woody weeds from Project Site No2 during Working-bee No2 in Sept 2012. The image on the right shows the same area after initial weed removal activities.

All weed material was stockpiled on an adjacent property (Figs 12&13) in preparation for burning when climatic conditions are suitable. It was estimated that in excess of 300 tonne of weed material was removed from Project Site No2.



Figure 12 & 13: Stockpiles of removed large woody and climbing vine weeds cleared from project Site No2.

6.1.4 Project Site No3 - Tracey's (B)

Project Site No3 (Tracey's - B) is located opposite Project Site No1 on the right-bank of the Belmore River. The site was not originally identified in the Biodiversity WorkPlan, however, landholder suggested that the site could be revegetated with native to increase project planting. The area initially was dominated with smaller introduced exotic weeds such as Fireweed, Madera vine, blackberry etc. The project site area is 60m in length and covers an area of approximately 0.1ha.



Figures 14 & 15: Show Project Site 3 after initial weed removal activities undertaken during Working-bee No2.

Approximately 1 tonne of weeds was removed from Tracey's (B) Site.

6.1.5 Project Site No4 - Davis (A)

Project Site No4 (Davis - A) was also initially not considered when the project application to the Biodiversity Fund program was submitted. Due to the proximity of the overhead power lines no revegetation activities are currently planned for this site. The primary works objective for Site 4 is to remove and control weeds within this section of the overall project site.

The project site area is 80m in length and covers an area of approximately 0.2ha.



Figures 16 & 17: Shows Project Site No4 (Davis A) following initial weed clearing and one of the stockpiles of weeds from removed from Project Site No4.

Approximately 150 tonne of weeds were removed from Project Site No4.

6.1.6 May 2012-December 2012 Project Weed Control Outputs

Table 1 provides a summary of the weed control outcomes for the period May-Dec 2012

Table 1. Weed control project outputs (May 2012-Dec2012).

Management Zone	Project site No:	Project Area ID	Area (ha)	Volume (tonne)	Theme outputs
D	1	Tracey's (A)	0.75	300	3
D	3	Tracey's (B)	0.1	1.0	3
D	2	Ptolemy's	0.5	300	3
C	4	Davis (A)	0.2	150	3
		*Others	2.0	25	3
TOTAL		7	3.55	776	

Note: * refers to other riparian areas within Management Zone D where weed activities has occurred.

6.1.7 Project Revegetation Activities (Themes 1&2)

For the period May 2012 to Dec 2012 (Project Stage 1), revegetation activities were undertaken within three (3) primary project sites. Two (2) sites were initially identified in the Biodiversity Fund Workplan (Sites 1&2), however an additional site (Site No3) has been revegetated since the commencement of the project.

In accordance with the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* all vegetation planted are native endemic lowland floodplain rainforest species sourced and provided by a local indigenous company. Additional trees have been donated by Macleay Landcare Inc.

6.1.8 Project Site No 1 – Tracey’s (A)

Selected vegetation species was identified and determined during the preparation of the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* and through information provided by local supplier. Where possible locally sources seeds were used to propagate tubestocks. To-date in excess of 440 tubestocks and shrubs comprising of 27 species have been planted within Project Site No1.



Figures 18 & 19: Initial tree donated by Landcare planted adjacent to Site No1 (Tracey’s A). Above image shows Site No1 ground preparation works in progress ready for planting



Figures 20 & 21: Site No1 ground prepared and Site No1 planted during Working-bee No4

The above image (Fig 20) shows Project Site No1 ready for planting. The image on the right shows landholders planting tubestocks and positioning tree-guards around the 440 trees planted during Working-bee No4.

6.1.9 Project Site No 2 – Ptolemy’s

As with Site No1, selection of vegetation specie types was identified and determined during the preparation of the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* and through consultation with local tree suppliers. Where possible locally sources seeds were used to propagate tubestocks. To-date in excess of 400 tubestocks comprising 27 species have been planted within Project Site No2.



Figures 22 & 23: Site No2 cleared of weeds and ready for revegetation activities

The above two (2) images show the extent of weed removal and ground preparation activities required for Site No2 (compared to Figure 8) before revegetation works could be undertaken.



Figures 24 & 25: Site No2 during and after planting.

Figure 24 shows landholders planting native tubestocks on Site No2 (Ptolemy’s) during working-bee No4. Figure 25 (above –left) shows Site No2 planted with tubestocks and tree guards positioned.

6.1.10 Project Site No 3 – Tracey’s (B)

Consistent with the overall project revegetation strategies and objectives, vegetation species selection was identified and determined during the preparation of the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* and through consultation with local suppliers. To-date 41 tubestocks and shrubs comprising 21 species have been planted within Project Site No3.



Figures 26 & 27: Site 3 ground preparation and planting of Tracey's (B) Site



Figures 28 & 29: Site 3 (Tracey's B) planted with native trees during Working –bee No 4

Table 2 provides a summary of the revegetation outcomes for the period May-Dec 2012

Table 2. Revegetation outcomes (May 2012-Dec2012).

Management Zone	Area ID	Area (ha)	Groundcover Species & No.	Mid story Species & No	Canopy Species & No	Theme outputs
D	Tracey's (A)	0.75	2 sp. 140 plants	15 sp. 196 plants	10 sp. 104 plants	1
D	Tracey's (B)	0.5	2 sp. 20 plants	11 sp. 12 plants	8 sp. 9 plants	1
D	Ptolemy's	0.1	2 sp. 120 plants	15 sp. 176 plants	10 sp. 113 plants	1
TOTAL	3	1.35	2 sp. 280 plants	15 sp. 384 plants	10 sp. 226plants	890 plants

6.1.11 Follow-up Activities

The following activities have been undertaken on Sites 1,2 & 3 following the November 2012 Working-bee No4.

6.1.11.1 Weed Control Measures

A series of follow-up weed control measures (i.e spraying, mechanical & hand removal) has been undertaken on Sites No1 - 3 by Council staff and connecting landholders.

6.1.11.2 Tubestocks monitoring

Landholders undertake routine site inspections of project sites to monitor the condition and growth pattern of planted tubestocks.

6.1.12 Project Flood Damage 2013

Resulting from major flood events in Feb & Mar 2013 over the Upper Belmore Floodplain significant loss to over 60% of the trees planted in Sites 1, 2 & 3 occurred.

During April 2013 a landholder Working-bee (No5) was convened to undertake replanting of lost trees & shrubs within Sites 1, 2 & 3.

In total 400 trees were replanted.



Figures 30 & 31: Site 1 - Tracey's (A) (left) and Site 2 - Ptolemy's (right) inundated by flood waters from the March 2013 flood event



Figures 32 & 33: Project Site 1 (left) and Project Site 2 (right) being replanted during working-bee No5.

6.1.12.1 Flood Effect on Workplan

The effect of the Feb & Mar 2013 on the project Workplan has basically been limited to effecting scheduled planting times frames associated with Management Zone C. Tubestocks order for Management Zone C were utilised to replace tubestocks damage/destroyed within Management Zone D. Additional tubestocks have been order and it is anticipated that the effects on the project Workplan will not be significant.

6.2 PROJECT STAGE 2: Jan 2013- Jun 2013

6.2.1 Project Weed Removal Activities (Theme 3)

For the period Jan 2013 to Jun 2013, weed eradication and control activities were undertaken within three (3) primary areas and a number of additional locations along the riverbank foreshore.

The weed control activities included a combination of chemical application and physical removal and destruction. The primary weeds of focus with management zone included Camphor Laurels, Coral Trees, Privet and Blackberry, Morning Glory & Madeira vine. It has been estimated that in excess of 450 tonne of weeds were removed from within Stage 2 of the Upper Belmore River riparian zone, totalling over 1000 tonne since the commencement of the project.

6.2.1.1 Management Zone C

Within Management Zone C a number of weed control activities have been undertaken during Stage 2 of the Project. For example during Working-bee No5 (Jun 2013) a significant stand of large woody Coral Trees were removed and stockpiled for burning (Fig 34&35). It is estimated that in total approximately 250 tonne of weeds were removed and destroyed during Stage 2 work activities.



Figures 34: Stand of large Coral Tree (left) adjacent to Project Sites No4 & 5, prior to weed control activities during Working-bee No5. Figure 35: (right) shows area adjacent to Project Site No4 cleared of large woody weeds.

6.2.1.2 Project Site No 5 - Davis (B)

No weed control activities were required for Project Site 5 – Davis (B)

6.2.1.3 Project Site No 6 - Conn (A)

Project Site No6 is located on the left-bank on the Belmore River. The area initially was dominated with large introduced exotic weeds (Fig 33). Only a small number of native endemic trees were growing within the dense stand of Camphor laurels, Coral trees, privet and a range of climbing weed vines. The project site area is 75m in length and covers an area of approximately 0.25ha.



Figures 36 & 37: Site 6 (Conn - A) large woody weeds and removal of weeds by excavation machinery.



Figures 38 & 39: Site 6 large woody weeds cut & paste –and Project Site No6 weed stockpile.

Project activities and intended outputs for Project Site No6 are consistent with Biodiversity Fund themes 1,2 & 3.

Table 3. Weed control project outputs (Jan 2013-Jun 2013).

Management Zone	Project Site No:	Project Area ID	Area (ha)	Volume (tonne)	Theme outputs
C	6	Conn (A)	0.25	200	3
C		*Others	2.15	250	3
TOTAL			2.4	450	

Note: * refers to other riparian areas within Management Zone C where weed control activities have been undertaken.

6.2.2 Project Revegetation Activities (Themes 1&2)

For the period Jan 2013 to Jun 2013 (Stage 2), revegetation activities were undertaken within one (1) primary project site.

In accordance with the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* all vegetation planted are native endemic lowland floodplain rainforest species sourced and provided by a local indigenous company.

6.2.2.1 Project Site No5 – Davis (B)

Selected vegetation species for Project Site No5 were identified and determined during the preparation of the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* and through information provided by local supplier. As with all other project sites, where possible locally sources seeds were used to propagate tubestocks. To-date in excess of 200 tubestocks and shrubs comprising of 27 species have been planted within Project Site No5.



Figures 40 & 41: Project Site 5 (Davis-B) before and after fencing works prior to revegetation activities.



Figures 42 & 43: Site 5 (Davis-B) during working-bee planting activities June 2013.

Project Site No5 (Davis-B) had logistical issues when considering undertaking revegetation activities. The close location and proximity to over-head electrical power lines restricted opportunities to plant along the riverbank. Although located approximately 15m from the river proper, Site No5 location is still considered to be within the Upper Belmore River riparian zone.

6.2.2.3 Project Site No 6 Conn (A)

Project Site No6 (Conn-A) contains remnant native vegetation species. Protective fencing has been erected and tubestocks species selected and ordered.

Revegetation activities planned for Project Site No6 were unable to be completed because the tubestocks ordered for this site was used to replant areas in Management Zone D damaged by the 2013 flood events.

As referred to Section 6.2.1..3, all three (3) Biodiversity Fund program theme elements/outputs will be achieved within Project Site 6.



Figures 44 & 45: Site 6 (Conn-A) before and after fencing works prior to the commencement of replanting activities.

PLANTING PROJECT SITE 6 (Conn-A) WERE DELAYED UNTIL Nov 2013 AS THE PLANTS ORDERED FOR THIS SITE WERE UTILISED TO REPLANT AREAS IN MANAGEMENT ZONE D DAMAGED BY THE 2013 FLOOD EVENTS

Table 4. Revegetation outcomes (Jan 2013 – Jun 2013).

Management Zone	Area ID	Area (ha)	Groundcover Species & No.	Mid story Species & No	Canopy Species & No	Theme outputs
C	Davis (B)	0.2	2 sp. 25 plants	15 sp. 125 plants	10 sp. 50 plants	1
TOTAL	1	0.2	25	125	50	

6.3 STAGE 3: Jul 2013- Dec 2013

6.3.1 Project Weed Removal Activities (Theme 3)

For the period Jun 2013 to Dec 2013, weed eradication and control activities were undertaken within four (4) primary areas and a number of additional locations along the riverbank foreshore.

The weed control activities included a combination of chemical application and physical removal and destruction. Similar to previous weed control activities the primary weeds of focus within management zones A&B included Camphor Laurels, Coral Trees, Privet and Blackberry, Morning Glory & Madeira vine. It has been estimated that in excess of 800 tonne of weeds were removed during Stage 3 of the Upper Belmore River riparian zone, totalling over 1800 tonne since the commencement of the project.

Table 5. Weed control project outputs (Jun 2013-Dec 2013).

Management Zone	Project Site No:	Project Area ID	Area (ha)	Volume (tonne)	Theme outputs
B	7	Conn (B)	0.15		3
B	8	Conn (C)	0.5		3
B	9	KSC	0.25	50	3
A	10	Clarke (A)	0.35	75	3
A	11	Clarke (B)	0.25	150	3
A	12	Clarke (C)	0.25	50	3
A&B		*Others	1.5	750	3
TOTAL			3.25	1075	

Note: * refers to other riparian areas within Management Zone B where weed control activities have been undertaken.

6.3.1.1 Project Site 7 Conn (B)

No significant large woody weed control activities were required for the Project Sites 7.

6.3.1.2 Project Site 8 Conn (C)

No significant large woody weed control activities were required for the Project Sites 8.

6.3.1.3 Project Site 9 KSC

Approximately 50 tonne of large woody weed (primarily Camphor Laurel) were removed and destroyed from Project Site No9.



Figure 46 (left) large woody weed removed from Upper Belmore riparian zone outside of specific project sites. Figure 47 stock pile of woody weeds removed from Project Sites 10-11&12.

6.3.1.4 Project Site 10 Clarke (A)

Approximately 60 tonne of large woody weed (primarily Camphor Laurel) were removed and destroyed from Project Site No10.

6.3.1.5 Project Site 11 Clarke (B)

Approximately 150 tonne of large woody weed (primarily Camphor Laurel) were removed and destroyed from Project Site No11.

6.3.1.6 Project Site 12 Clarke (C)

Approximately 50 tonne of large woody weed (primarily Camphor Laurel) were removed and destroyed from Project Site No12.

6.3.1.3 Others

Approximately 750 tonne of large woody weed (primarily Camphor Laurel) were removed and destroyed from other riparian areas during Stage 3 of the project.



Figure 48 (left) large woody weed removed from Upper Belmore riparian zone outside of specific project sites. Figure 49 (right) large woody weeds being taken to stockpile site from Project Sites.

6.3.2 Project Revegetation Activities (Themes 1&2)

6.3.2.1 Project Site No 6 Conn (A)

100 native trees and shrubs were planted within Project Site No6 (Conn A) during Working-bee No8. Landholders were encourage bring along kids to participate in the Working-bee. All children attending and participating in revegetation activities were provided with a “treet” bag containing

various items such as hats, stickers, lollies, fridge magnets etc. Although Working-bee No8 was held on a rainy Saturday morning, all who attended enjoyed the activities.



Figures 50 & 51 Revegetation works in Project Site 6 (Conn A) during Working-bee No 8

6.3.2.1 Project Site No 8 Conn (C)

100 native trees and shrubs were planted within Project Site No6 (Conn A) during Working-bee No8. Landholders were encourage bring along kids to participate in the Working-bee.



Figures 52 & 53 Revegetation works in Project Site 8 (Conn C) during Working-bee No8

Table 6. Revegetation outcomes (Jun 2013-Dec 2013).

Management Zone	Area ID	Area (ha)	Groundcover Species & No.	Mid story Species & No	Canopy Species & No	Theme outputs
B (Conn A)	6	0.25	2 sp. 25 plants	15 sp. 50 plants	10 sp. 25 plants	1
B (Conn C)	8	0.5	2 sp. 25 plants	15 sp. 50 plants	10 sp. 25 plants	1
TOTAL			50	100	50	

6.4 STAGE 4: Jan 2014- Jun 2014

6.4.1 Project Weed Removal Activities (Theme 3)

6.4.1.1 All Project Area

Table 7. Weed control project outputs (Jan 2014- Jun 2014).

Management Zone	Project Site No:	Project Area ID	Area (ha)	Volume (tonne)	Theme outputs
	All project sites	1-13	12.5		3
TOTAL					

6.4.2 Project Revegetation Activities (Themes 1&2)

For the period Jan 2014 to Jun 2014 (Stage 4), revegetation activities were undertaken within four (4) project sites.

In accordance with the UBRRRP *Implementation Strategy* all vegetation planted are native endemic lowland floodplain rainforest species sourced and provided by a local indigenous company.

6.4.2.1 Project Site No 7 Conn (B)

Project site No7 (Conn B) contains the only known naturally occurring Black Apple tree (*Phanconell australis*) in the Belmore Floodplain. This relative small revegetation site was primarily selected to protect the Black Apple and as a source of Black Apple seed.

40 native trees and shrubs were planted within Project Site No7 (Conn B) during Working-bee No9.



Figures 54 & 55 Revegetation works in Project Site 7 (Conn B) during Working-bee No9

6.4.2.2 Project Site No 10 Clarke (A)

70 native trees and shrubs were planted within Project Site No9 (Clarke A) during Working-bee No9.



Figures 56 & 57 Revegetation works in Project Site 10 (Clarke A) during Working-bee No9

6.4.2.3 Project Site No11 Clarke (B)

60 native trees and shrubs were planted within Project Site No11 (Clarke B) during Working-bee No9.



Figures 58 & 59 Revegetation works in Project Site 11 (Clarke B) during Working-bee No9

6.4.2.3 Project Site No12 Clarke (C)

60 native trees and shrubs were planted within Project Site No12 (Clarke C) during Working-bee No9.



Figures 60 & 61 Revegetation works in Project Site 12 (Clarke C) during Working-bee No9

Table 8. Revegetation outcomes (Jan 2014-Jun 2014).

Management Zone	Area ID	Area (ha)	Groundcover Species & No.	Mid story Species & No	Canopy Species & No	Theme outputs
B	Conn B	0.15	2 sp. 10 plants	15 sp. 20 plants	10 sp. 10 plants	2
A	Clarke A	0.35	2 sp. 15 plants	15 sp. 40 plants	10 sp. 15 plants	1
A	Clarke B	0.25	2 sp. 15 plants	15 sp. 30 plants	10 sp. 15 plants	1
A	Clarke C	0.25	2 sp. 15 plants	15 sp. 30 plants	10 sp. 15 plants	1
D-C&B			2sp. 35 plants	15 sp. 130 plants	2 sp. 45 plants	1
TOTAL		1.0	90 plants	250 plants	100 plants	

7.0 ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (non-theme based)

Although the following actions and outcomes were not included within the Biodiversity Fund project application, an opportunity existed to value-add to the biological improvement outcomes from the project by undertaking actions (in accordance with the UBRRRP Implementation Strategy) that remediated other identified environmental issues; that, did not pose any significant threat to the projects WorkPlan timeframes and/or impose any economic impositions on the Biodiversity Fund project budget.

Within and adjacent to Project Sites No1, 2 & 4 a number of addition environmental issues required remediation actions. Actions to address riverbank erosion, improved tidal flows and water quality were undertaken concurrent with Working-bees 1, 3 & 5 utilising the available earthmoving equipment/machinery and workforce provided by the landholders.

7.1 Riverbank erosion

Within project Sites 1 & 2 a number of small riverbank erosion sites had developed due to the diversion of water flows caused by fallen Coral trees and the earthen constriction of the partially decommissioned flood mitigation headworks.



Figures 50 & 51: The image on the left shows an area of the Upper Belmore River (within Project Site No2) that was experiencing riverbank erosion caused by flow diversion that required bank reshaping and remediation action. The image on the right shows the location of the partially decommissioned flood mitigation structure (within Project Site No1) that caused water flow diversion that resulted in bank instability and erosion. Soil extracted from around the flood mitigation structure was used to reshape and rehabilitate erosion sites.

7.2 Improved tidal flows

Landholders within the Upper Belmore River area have for many years raised concerns regarding restricted tidal movement/flushing into the upper reaches of the river and obstructed floodwaters flows impeded by a combination of in-system constrictions and obstructions.

Prior to the commencement of the project, there was one (1) primary constriction site and several areas of obstructions to water movement in the upper reaches of the Belmore River. These included the remains of a former headworks structure and several areas where dislodged vegetation has fallen across the river trapping rubbish and other debris.

Under Parts 2 & 7 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994, both activities (removal of debris & headworks site) required consent from DPI Fisheries. A DPI Dredging & Reclamation Permit was submitted and consent from the department to undertake the works was granted.



Figures 52 & 53: Show the earthen constriction and fallen Coral tree removed which has resulted in significant improvement to tidal flushing within the Upper Belmore River.

Resulting from the removing of the earthen constriction and the proliferation of fallen Coral trees within and across the river, tidal flows have significantly increased, culminating and an 'observed' improvement in water quality within the upper reaches of the Belmore River.

8. PROJECT LOGISTICS

8.1 Stage 1 Landholder Group Meetings (Mar-Dec 2012)

For the period May 2012- Dec 2012 a total of 5 landholders meeting were convene.

Table 9 provides a summary of landholder group meeting for May-Dec 2012

Table 9. Landholder meeting details (May 2012-Dec2012).

Meeting No:	Date:	Attendee No:	Meeting duration:
1	7 March 2012	8	1.5h
2	8 May 2012	8	1.0h
3	19 Jun 2012	6	1.0h
4	21 Aug 2012	8	1.0h
5	17 Oct 2012	7	1.0h

8.1.1 Stage 2 Landholder Group Meetings (Jan-Jun 2013)

Table 10 provides a summary of landholder group meeting for Jan-Jun 2013

Table 10. Landholder meeting details (May 2012-Dec2012).

Meeting No:	Date:	Attendee No:	Meeting duration:
6	26 Mar 2013	7	1.0h
7	4 Jun 2013	6	1.0h

8.1.2 Stage 3 Landholder Group Meetings (Jul-Dec 2013)

Table 11 provides a summary of landholder group meeting for Jul-Dec 2013

Table 11. Landholder meeting details (Jul - Dec2013).

Meeting No:	Date:	Attendee No:	Meeting duration:
8	29 July 2013	6	1.5h
9	24 Sept 2013	4	1.5h

8.1.3 Stage 4 Landholder Group Meetings (Jan-Jun 2014)

Table 12. Landholder meeting details (Jan – Jun 2014).

Meeting No:	Date:	Attendee No:	Meeting duration:
10	8 Apr 2014	7	2.0h

8.2 Stage 1 Landholder Working Bees (Mar-Dec 2012)

For the period May 2012- Dec 2012 a total of 4 landholder working-bees were undertaken.

Table 12 provides a summary of landholder Working-bee details for the period May-Dec 2012

Table 12. UBRRRP Landholder Working-bee details (May 2012-Dec2012).

Working Bee No:	Date (2012)	No. Landholders	Hours worked	Total Man Hours
1	2nd June	9	7	63
	3rd June	4	5.5	22
2	4th Aug	3	8	24
	5th Aug	3	4.5	13.5
3	15th Sept	7	7.5	52.5
	16th Sept	7	7.5	52.5
	17th Sept	5	7	35
4	10th Nov	9	4	36

8.2.1 Stage 2 Landholder Working Bees (Jan-Jun 2013)

For the period Jan 2013- Jun 2013 a total of 2 landholder working-bees were undertaken.

Table 13 provides a summary of landholder Working-bee details for the period May-Dec 2012

Table 13. UBRRRP Landholder Working-bee details (Jan 2013-Jun 2013).

Working Bee No:	Date (2012)	No. Landholders	Hours worked	Total Man Hours
5	13 Apr	8	4	32
6	22 Jun	9	5.5	49.5

8.2.2 Stage 3 Landholder Working Bees (Jul-Dec 2013)

Table 14. UBRRRP Landholder Working-bee details (Jun 2013-Dec 2013).

Working Bee No:	Date (2013)	No. Landholders	Hours worked	Total Man Hours
7	19-20-21 Oct	7	18	126
8	39 Nov	7	3.5	24.5

8.2.3 Stage 4 Landholder Working Bees (Jan-Jun 2014)

Working Bee No:	Date (2014)	No. Landholders	Hours worked	Total Man Hours
9	3 May	7	4	28
10	31 May	6	3.5	21

8.3 Stage 1 Landholder in-kind hour contributions (Mar-Dec 2012)

Upper Belmore River landholders have contributed significant in-kind contribution to the project during the period May 2012- Dec 2012.

Table 15 provides a summary of the tasks and landholder in-kind contribution for May-Dec 2012

Table 15. UBRRRP Landholder in-kind contribution (May 2012-Dec2012).

Task	Total Man Hours	Rate	In kind Value
Working-bees	295.5	\$15/h	\$4477.50
Weed Control/maintenance	12	\$15/h	\$180.00
Total (Mar-Dec 2012)	307.5		\$4657.50

8.3.1 Stage 2 Landholder in-kind hour contributions (Jan-Jun 2013)

Upper Belmore River landholders have contributed significant in-kind contribution to the project during the period Jan 2013- Jun 2013.

Table 16 provides a summary of the tasks and landholder in-kind contribution for Jan-Jun 2013

Table 16. UBRRRP Landholder in-kind contribution (Jan 2013- Jun 2013).

Task	Total Man Hours	Rate	In kind Value
Working-bees	81.5	\$15/h	\$1225.00
Weed Control/maintenance	15	\$15/h	\$225.00
Total (Jan-Jun 2013)	96.5	\$15/h	\$1447.50

8.3.2 Stage 3 Landholder in-kind hour contributions (Jul-Dec 2013)

Table 17 provides a summary of the tasks and landholder in-kind contribution for Jul-Dec 2013

Table 17. UBRRRP Landholder in-kind contribution (Jul-Dec 2013).

Task	Total Man Hours	Rate	In kind Value
Working-bees	150.5	\$15/h	\$2257.50
Weed Control/maintenance	20	\$15	\$300.00
Total (Jul-Dec 2013)			\$2557.50

8.3.3 Stage 4 Landholder in-kind hour contributions (Jan-Jun 2014)

Table 18 provides a summary of the tasks and landholder in-kind contribution for Jan-Jun 2014

Table 17. UBRRRP Landholder in-kind contribution (Jan-Jun 2014).

Task	Total Man Hours	Rate	In kind Value
Working-bees	49	\$15/h	\$735.00
Weed Control/maintenance	30	\$15	\$450.00
Total (Jan-Jun 2014)	79		\$1185.00

8.4 Stage 1 Other in-kind contributions (Mar-Dec 2012)

Table 18 provides a summary of other in-kind contributions for May-Dec 2012

Table 18. Other project in-kind contributions (May 2012-Dec2012).

Name	Product	Rate	In kind Value
Macleay Landcare	240 native trees	@\$3/tree	\$720.00
	1000 tree guard stakes	@\$0.09/stake	\$110.00
	500 tree guards	@\$0.10/guard	\$50.00
Kempsey Shire Council	Project Management & Administration	3h/week@\$55/h(includes on-costs) x 35weeks	\$5775.00
	Vehicle costs	40km/week@\$0.31/kmx35weeks	\$434.00
	Office costs	3h/week@\$3/hx35weeks	\$315.00
	Sundries	Project information sign (x2)	\$160.00
		Total	\$7564.00

8.4.1 Stage 2 Other in-kind contributions (Jan-Jun 2012)

Table 19 provides a summary of other in-kind contributions for Jan-Jun 2012

Table 19. Other project in-kind contributions (Jan – Jun 2013).

Name	Product	Rate	In kind Value
Kempsey Shire Council	Project Management & Administration	3h/week@\$55/h(includes on-costs) x 25weeks	\$4125.00
	Vehicle costs	40km/week@\$0.31/kmx25weeks	\$310.00
	Office costs	3h/week@\$3/hx25weeks	\$225.00
		Total	\$4660.00

8.4.2 Stage 3 Other in-kind contributions (Jul-Dec 2013)

Table 20 provides a summary of other in-kind contributions for Jul-Dec 2013

Table 20. Other project in-kind contributions (Jul-Dec2013).

Name	Product	Rate	In kind Value
Kempsey Shire Council	Project Management & Administration	3h/week@\$55/h(includes on-costs) x 25weeks	\$4125.00
	Vehicle costs	40km/week@\$0.31/kmx25weeks	\$310.00
	Office costs	3h/week@\$3/hx25weeks	\$225.00
		Total	\$4660.00

8.4.3 Stage 4 Other in-kind contributions (Jan-Jun 2014)

Table 21 provides a summary of other in-kind contributions for Jan-Jun 2014

Table 21. Other project in-kind contributions (Jan – Jun 2014).

Name	Product	Rate	In kind Value
Kempsey Shire Council	Project Management & Administration	3h/week@\$55/h(includes on-costs) x 25weeks	\$4125.00
	Vehicle costs	40km/week@\$0.31/kmx25weeks	\$310.00
	Office costs	3h/week@\$3/hx25weeks	\$225.00
		Total	\$4660.00

8.5 Contractor Details

Table 22 provides a summary of contractor engagement for May 2012 – Dec 2013

Table 22. Contractor usage information (May 2012-Dec2013).

Working-bee No:	Contract type	Contractor	ABN	Description
1	Earthmoving	B.J&N.J Penson	91 080 758 335	15h/20tonne excavator + transport
1	Earthmoving	L.C&C.A Davis	71 264 177 491	13/h Landini Tractor
3	Earthmoving	B.J&N.J Penson	91 080 758 335	23h/20tonne excavator + transport
3	Earthmoving	L.C&C.A Davis	71 264 177 491	40h/Landini Tractor + 7.5h JCB Loader
4	Tree supplier	GoneNative	99 539 674	Supply of trees
Riparian Fencing	Fencing Contractors	Hat Head Haulage	56 875 092 136	Riparian fencing Sites 4 & 5 Management Zones C & B
6	Tree supplier	GoneNative	99 539 674	Supply of trees
7	Earthmoving	B.J&N.J Penson	91 080 758 335	15h/20tonne excavator + transport
	Earthmoving	L.C&C.A Davis	71 264 177 491	13/h Landini Tractor
8	Tree supplier	GoneNative	99 539 674	Supply of trees
9	Tree supplier	GoneNative	99 539 674	Supply of trees
10	Mulch & Fertiliser Supply	Gladstone Landscape & Garden Centre	56 875 092 136	Supply of mulch & fertiliser
11	Vegetation Management	GoneNative	99 539 674	Vegetation management

8.6 Project Publicity

8.6.1 Information Bulletins

To date ten (10) project information bulletins have been prepared and disseminated.

8.6.2 Media Releases

Media releases to date have includes both local radio and newsprint articles.

6x Tank Community Radio (FM 103.1) announcements

Macleay Landcare Network News: Issues 36 Winter 2012

Newspaper article – Local Government Week Issue

8.6.3 Project Awareness Sign

Two project information /awareness signs have been developed and erected at strategic locations within the project site.

9. PROJECT WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES

9.1 Stage 1 Workplan Activities May 2012 – Dec 2012

Activity No:	Task:	Achieved:	Not Achieved:	Comments:
1	Convene initial meeting	√		8 th May (2012)
2	Seek contractor quote	√		May (2012) Earthworks
3	Convene Working-bee No1	√		2 nd & 3 rd June (2012) 10 landholders @ 160hours in-kind contribution – Weed control activities Site 1
4	Convene 2 nd meeting	√		19 th June (2012)
5	Seek planting advise	√		June 2012 –Native tree supplier
6	Convene Working-bee No2	√		4 th August (2012) 6 landholder @ 36 hours in-kind contribution – Weed control activities Sites 1a & 2
7	Follow up weed control	√		Oct (Council) Nov (landholder & Council)
8	Convene Working-bee No3	√		15 th , 16 th & 17 th Sept (2012) 8 landholders @ 176hours in-kind contributions – Weed control activities - MZD
9	Erosion control works	√		Undertaken in conjunction with Working-bee No1
10	Supply weed control to landholders	√		4 landholders supplied with chemical and applicators
11	Convene 3 rd meeting	√		16 th Oct (2012)
12	Supplementary planting Working –bee No4	√		Nov 2012 – Planting of Sites 1,1a &2 completed

9.2 Stage 2 Workplan Activities Jan 2013 – Jun 2013

Activity No:	Task:	Achieved:	Not Achieved:	Comments:
1	Convene landholder meeting	√		
2	Seek contractor quotations for removal of large weeds	√		Working-bee No 5
3	Convene a landholder group 'working-bee'	√		Working-bee No 5
4	Seek contractor quotations for supply of materials and construction of stock exclusion fencing	√		May 2013 – Fencing contractor
5	Convene landholder group meeting to evaluate outcomes	√		March 2013
6	Engage contractor to erect stock exclusion fencing	√		June 2013
7	Seek expert advice and determine species selection-order and purchase	√		Feb 2013
8	Undertake initial follow-up emergent weed control activities for Management Area 'C'	√		Jan – Jun 2013
9	Convene a landholder (Landcare) group 'working-bee' to undertake revegetation activities for Management Area 'C'	√		June 2013 Working-bee No6
10	Undertake any required riverbank erosion control and abatement works for locations within Management Area 'C'	√		June 2013
11	Purchase and supply landholder connected with Management Area 'C' equipment and chemical to control weeds	√		June 2013 – Landholders provided with chemical & applicators to spray Site 4 & 5
12	Convene landholder group (post works) meeting to evaluate outcomes of weed removal/control, erosion abatement and revegetation activities for management Area 'C'.			Scheduled for July 2013
13	Undertake any required supplementary revegetation activities	√		Working-bee 5

9.3 Stage 3 Workplan Activities Jul 2013 – Dec 2013

Activity No:	Task:	Achieved:	Not Achieved:	Comments:
1	Activity 1: Convene landholder (Landcare) group meeting – define specific rehabilitation actions and project Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Meeting convened Jul 2013 – project sites in Area A&B selected
2	Activity 2: Seek contractor quotations for removal of large woody weed species (Management Areas 'A&B') – select contractor to undertake initial bulk weed removal activities form Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Contractor selected and on-ground works undertaken as part of Working bee No7
3	Activity 3: Convene a landholder group 'working-bee' and engage contractor to undertake weed removal/control works for Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Contractor selected and on-ground works undertaken as part of Working bee No7
4	Activity 4: Seek contractor quotations for supply of materials and construction of stock exclusion fencing around revegetation areas within Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Contractor selected
5	Activity 5: Convene landholder group meeting to evaluate outcomes of Management Areas 'A&B' weed removal/control works	√		Meeting convened Sept 2013
6	Activity 6: Engage contractor to erect stock exclusion fencing around identified locations within Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Fencing works undertake for Project Site 5.6 & 8
7	Activity 7: Seek expert advice and determine species selection- order and	√		Species selected and ordered

	purchase seedlings for revegetation activities planned for Management Areas 'A&B'			
8	Activity 8: Undertake initial follow-up emergent weed control activities for Management Areas 'A&B'	√		A series of weed control activities were undertaken with Management Areas A & B as well as other project sites
9	Activity 9: Convene a landholder (Landcare) group 'working-bee' to undertake revegetation activities for Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Working-bee 8 – revegetation of Project Site 6 & 8 Further revegetation activities are planned for Mar/Apr 2014
10	Activity 10: Undertake any required riverbank erosion control and abatement works for locations within Management Areas 'A&B'	√		Undertaken during Working-bee 7
11	Activity 11: Purchase and supply landholder connected with Management Areas 'A&B' equipment and chemical to control weeds for the following two (2) years	√		Nov 2013 – Landholders provided with chemical & applicators to spray Site 6 & 8
12	Activity 12: Convene landholder group (post works) meeting to evaluate outcomes of weed removal/control, erosion abatement and revegetation activities for management Areas 'A&B'.		√	Next Landholder meeting planned for Feb 2014
13	Activity 13: Undertake any required supplementary revegetation activities	√		Supplementary planting

9.4 Stage 4 Workplan Activities Jan 2014 – Jun2014

Activity No:	Task:	Achieved:	Not Achieved:	Comments:
1	Activity 1: Convene landholder group meeting to evaluate outcomes of weed removal/control, erosion abatement and revegetation activities for all project sites	√		Two landholder meeting convened
2	Activity 2: Continue with weed control activities for all project areas	√		Landholders continued to undertake on-going routine weed control activities for all project sites
3	Activity 3: Undertake any required supplementary revegetation activities for all project areas	√		Additional and supplementary revegetation activities occurred for Project Site 8, 10, 11, 12 and 1. A total 500 endemic native trees and shrubs were planted during Stage 4 activities.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Information Bulletins

10.2 Media Release Articles

10.3 Photopoint Monitoring