

Tide to Table – Sydney Past Projects

Tide to Table – Sydney Round 1



In the 2005-2007 period Round 1 of the Tide to Table project model was piloted in the Sydney region. 25 applications were lodged for funding from councils, community groups and state agencies to a steering committee resulting in the acceptance of 29 sites undertaking on ground projects. Round 1 is due for completion in May 07.

Some of projects undertaken in Round 1 included:



- fencing off a valuable wetland from 4WD and trail bike damage on the Georges River;
- removing 2 weirs acting as barriers to fish passage;
- installation of stormwater distension basins reducing gross pollutants, sediments and nutrients impacting on saltmarsh and mangroves;
- stabilising riverbanks with plantings and Bushcare works; and
- maintaining and creating wetlands, restoring ecosystem functioning by weeding, increasing habitat and reclaiming suitable land.

A large number of community events were also held throughout the year involving many demographics taking part in events, tours and excursions and displays.

- A carp fishing competition was held on the Lane Cove River;
- Bushcare volunteers took to 2 NSW Maritime vessels to investigate the seafood industry of Botany Bay;
- The seafood industry cruised up the Lane Cove River to see work sites;
- Local Government mixed with environmental professional at the 2006 Fish Habitat Workshop in Concord;
- World Wetlands Day proved popular this year in Warriewood, Shortland Wetlands Centre and at Pittwater as hundreds explored the theme “fish for tomorrow”.

Tide to Table – Sydney Round 2

2006-2007 Round 2.

The reduced targeted round of funding focused on supporting existing on ground projects at Lane Cove (Kitties Creek), Towra Point wetlands and Hunters Hill (Tarban Creek).

Community events included;



- New moon Festival stall at the Fish Market concentrated on engaging non English speaking seafood consumers (Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian and German).
- World Wetlands Day at Pittwater generated interest from 85 people who toured the estuarine wetlands of the Basin despite torrential rainfall.
- Fish sampling at Wolli Creek weir (pre fish way)
- Fishing, Camping and FWD Expo display

Tide to Table – Sydney Round 3 (2008)

With a reduced professional fishing industry now working in Sydney but huge population and emphasis on marine waterway health, Tide to Table still has a place in focusing on ensuring seafood sector participation continues with the urban population in changing general community behaviours, supporting on ground initiatives and working with coastal care groups and recreational fishes on on-ground coastal and marine projects.

\$30,000 is being targeted at continuing past round on-ground support at:

- Kitties Creek (Friends of Lane Cove NP)
- Beauty Point Georges River Combined Councils Groups (GRCCC)
- A recreational fishing line clean up around the entrance to the Cooks River with the National Parks Association (NPA), Ecodivers, Rockdale Council and the River Keeper program.
- Seagrass monitoring with the Central Coast Environment network (CEN).
- Habitat signage and display at the Sydney Fish Market.
- [Pemberton Street Parramatta. A saltmarsh rehabilitation project over time](#)

Tide to Table- Sydney Round 4



This round of funding focuses on the outcome of ensuring seafood sector participation continues in local NRM, information related to healthy fish habitat is dispersed and actions occur which influence general community behaviours and attitudes towards ownership of marine resources.

Events and actions occurring include the launch of a 7 x 2.9 meter mural in the foyer of the Sydney Fish Market, development of a *Juncus actus* ID sheet, underwater recreational fishing tackle and aquatic debris clean ups, audit of past works, Ocean Care Day stall in Manly and World Wetlands Day events in Pittwater and the installation of Tangler bins in new locations (to collect rec fishing line).

\$10,000 is also being targeted on-ground to support work at:

- Kitties Creek (Friends of Lane Cove NP)
- Little Saltpan Creek (Bankstown city council)
- Beauty Point (Georges River Combined Councils Groups – GRCCC)

4 years of achievements:

- \$466,500 dollars spent across 41 project sites.
- Matching in-kind and cash contributions to the value of \$705,869
- Active involvement of 1,327 people and the training of an additional 488 people to be more fish habitat-friendly
- 141,114 tube stock planted
- Opening up 8.8 km of habitat to fish passage and concentrated work on the management of 10.9 hectares of significant ecologically endangered species (ie areas inhabited by species such as saltmarsh and mangroves which support at some point in their lifecycle 75% of commercial fish species life).

Tide to Table - Sydney is funded by the National Landcare Program and the Natural Heritage Trust through the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Monitoring and evaluation results of past sites funded in Sydney.



Monitoring and evaluation of 22 past project sites funded under Tide to Table in Sydney over the last 4 years was undertaken. Previous project sites were revisited, and interviews of current maintenance officers, contractors and volunteers were conducted. Observations of present conditions were related to photos taken prior to the commencement of work, to validate the value of the projects.

Highlights

- 22% of sites showed stable weed encroachment, 77% of sites exhibited declining weed encroachment.
- 66% of sites showed favourable increases in plant species compositions for fish pop's, 33% of sites were steady (little ecological change in species composition).
- 73% of sites showed favourable plant species increasing in abundance, 18% steady, 9% were declining.
- Generally poor monitoring and storage of project data within contract proponents.
- In some projects in retrospect it was difficult to show exactly where dollars were spent due to numerous sources of funding contributing to the same project site or issue.
- A yearly audit is a very good way of monitoring progress, knowledge, energy and outcomes of a program.
- *Juncus actus* – a common threat (young plants are hard to identify)
- *Erhata* grass as a weed returns easily where conditions are favourable within saltmarsh littoral zones.
- In many cases temporary interpretive signage had been removed but where it still remains it was still in good condition.
- Where sediment basins were installed, some councils are having trouble paying for the maintenance and reluctant to install more even though the results of use are outstanding.
- One site where works were undertaken had mostly returned to a previous weed invested state, highlighting the need to select manageable projects unless continual funds or volunteer effort is available for the site to remain viable in the longer term. Short term contracts are less likely to be able to restore areas where native species resilience is minimal.
- Future works on rocky steep sites may possibly achieve better habitat outcomes by starting from the bottom of the hill up and not top to bottom.

Lessons learned

- Better biological monitoring and recording of work sites is required
- More emphasis on building project proponents skills to monitor site work
- Ensure proponents understand the contracts details by spending one on one time working through it in the initial stages of the project.
- Current on ground works are increasing habitat for fish