



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **\$1.83 million grant funding success for Greenway**

ASHFIELD Council has led a group of four local Councils to be awarded \$1.83 million for the ***Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay "Making Sustainability Work"*** Project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust Urban Sustainability Program.

Ashfield Mayor, Councillor Ted Cassidy PSM, said the Greenway would be a three year project between Ashfield, Canterbury, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils, in partnership with Friends of the GreenWay, the GreenWay Steering Committee and many other community groups and State Agencies, including the Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority and RailCorp.

"The focus of the Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay "Making Sustainability Work" is the development of a best practice model for sustainable management of a public asset - a Greenway - linking the Cooks River and Iron Cove," he said.

"The aim is to create a corridor providing a habitat for biodiversity, alternative transport options and a focus for community involvement.

"This Project will include the development of long-term management guidelines for flora and fauna in the corridor to improve and enhance biodiversity, with an emphasis on providing a habitat for the recently discovered colony of Long Nosed Bandicoot."

Cr Cassidy said these guidelines would represent an innovation towards cooperative management between the Councils and state asset managers such as RailCorp.

*\$1.83 million grant funding success for Greenway cont...*

“Other key components will include significant community engagement, revegetation and action towards sustainable land management,” he said.

Cr Cassidy said the grant would fund new temporary staff positions to be hosted at Ashfield Council. The project team will work with Council's Environmental Officer, Janene Harris, partnering Councils and community stakeholders to implement the grant.

“This way, the Councils involved will benefit from the extra resources and new expertise and the GreenWay will benefit from staff dedicated to making the GreenWay vision a reality,” he said.

Cr Cassidy said Ashfield Council and its project partners faced strong competition for the sought-after grant.

“The Environmental Trust originally received 65 expressions of interest for the grant,” he said.

“Of these, only 23 were shortlisted to prepare full applications and Ashfield Council was fortunate to be one of the 10 projects funded.”

In preparing the grant, Ashfield Council was supported by Canterbury, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils, Greenway Coordinator Hillary Sheppard and project founder, Dulwich Hill resident Bruce Ashley.

**-Ends-**

**For images or more information please contact Lauren McIver, Corporate Relations Officer for Ashfield Council on (02) 9716 1906 or email [laurenm@ashfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:laurenm@ashfield.nsw.gov.au).**