

***Evaluation Report 2 -  
Highlights***

***GreenWay Sustainability  
Project***

**September 2011**

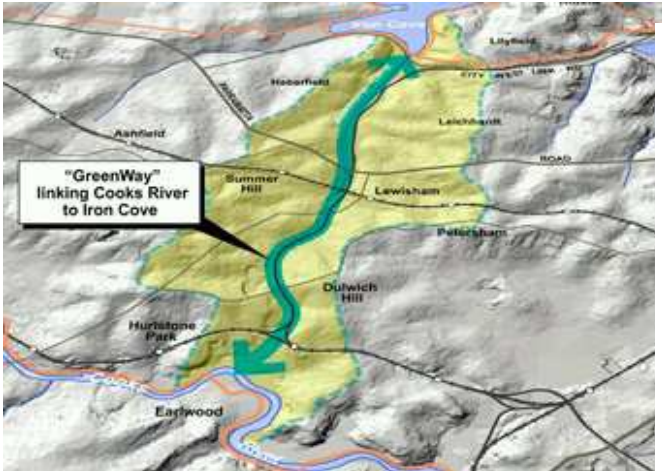


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# Looking at the GreenWay



## Highlight Findings

## Evaluation Progress Report 2

## GreenWay Sustainability Project

### Overall

High level and quality engagement is apparent in all aspects of this project.

- Workshops where participants make the comment, *Fabulous, could not be better*; and where no negative feedback is given, and that are rated on average over 4 on a 5 point scale, are very successful.
- Meetings of Mayors and General Managers across four Councils to discuss and to determine the future of the GreenWay are of note.
- A cross-Council project where all partners have involvement and commitment to the process, to leadership and to the delivery of a variety of GreenWay initiatives is of significant value.

Conceptually this is a highly interesting and diverse project – *From planting a tree to impacting on Government re the Light Rail* – the project is delivering high quality outcomes at all levels that are having real results into the community.

The formative nature of the evaluation process is working well for the GreenWay Sustainability Project. The Recommendations from the first report have been considered fully and responded to appropriately. See Section 3 below for details about how the formative aspects have been taken on board.

As a multifaceted project with significant and broad outcomes, the GreenWay Sustainability Project has delivered at an exceptional level in its short life to date. Of importance is that the project has an eye on the present, in that implementation of all components is its challenge, prior to the completion of the project in mid 2012. It also has an eye to the future, in that it is looking to establish a governance structure, policy and programs that will last beyond its own lifetime. This project is working highly effectively at both of these levels.

### Governance

Governance has been an exceptionally strong feature of the development and delivery of the GreenWay Sustainability Project. The work of the Research partner Macquarie University, the Project Team - especially the Project Manager - and Steering Group, in consulting about, developing and reviewing models for the management of the Greenway has been first rate.

Combined with this has been the engagement of, and leadership shown by the General Managers and Mayors of each of the Councils. A number of key informants see this as a major highlight of the program.

The features of this part of the initiative include:

- Ongoing, strong support from Councillor, GM and officer levels from each of the partner Councils in a range of projects
- Regular meetings between Mayors and General Managers about securing the future of/progressing the GreenWay
- Strong support in particular from the lead Council's Mayor and Councillors, General Manager and Executive Team.

There has been significant buy-in from Councillors that is motivated by a number of factors, including: the profile that the project has built; increased awareness of the benefit of the GreenWay as an asset to their communities; and the importance of the light rail.

At this stage in the life of the project the governance component is well advanced. Outcomes are being met and, while there is some work to do to reach a final position on how the GreenWay will be managed into the future and to ensure relevant policy and planning documents are adopted by the four Councils, this is on track.

A complicating and concerning factor is indicated in more detail in the Transport Section in Section 4.4. While there has been formal commitment by the current NSW Government to the light rail extension, which was announced and launched by the previous Government, the active transport links have been deferred. In order to be completely certain about the future governance of the GreenWay, it would assist greatly if there was increased clarity of needs about this issue. It is noted that the Project Manager and the GreenWay Project Steering Group have played a significant role in facilitating Councils to advocate for certainty about this issue and this has been a commendable feature of the project.

## Environment

*The Bandicoots are back* – perhaps this statement more than many of the hundreds of other words that might be written, demonstrates the achievement of significant outcomes for the environment from the GreenWay Sustainability Project.

A significant highlight of the program was the development of the *GreenWay Revegetation and Bushcare Plan*. The development of this Plan was the subject of a significant consultation process with the community and relevant agencies. One of the objectives was to provide a communication conduit between DOT and the community, and the evaluation process indicates that this was achieved.

One of the project staff indicated that the highlight of the program was: *Recruiting new and enthusiastic volunteers and engaging community members in GreenWay Bushcare activities including training, working bees and walks and talks.*

Substantial activity has occurred in this part of the project: signage has been erected; over 2,800 trees and shrubs have been planted, a large amount of weeding has occurred and bushcare volunteers have been trained extensively in a number of very successful workshops. A mobilised and informed bushcare community will result in improved environmental behaviour and a more sustainable GreenWay.



## Community

The growth in capacity of the community, teachers, and Council staff is an important legacy of the GreenWay Sustainability Project. Capacity growth is essential to the sustainability of a grant funded project and is an important feature of all components of this project.

Teachers have reported that their capacity has increased through the training workshops and involvement in the Schools Program Reference Group. Council staff have indicated increased capacity through involvement in the Project Steering Group, at the Governance and Transport workshops, and through their work on various projects. The community capacity has been successfully enhanced in a large number of ways: through involvement in workshops and training programs delivered by the Project, through the various events and tours delivered as a part of the 2010 Greenway Festival, through engagement with the website, the Facebook page, through the media and through learning about the GreenWay from their children. People in the GreenWay know more about the corridor and how to protect it and use it effectively. All Greenway Sustainability Project workshops and events have evaluated very positively; the following quote is one of many praising the quality of the workshops: *Facilitation was excellent. It was obvious that there's a great deal of expertise within the community (e.g. within business structures, business plans etc.) and it was terrific to see these stakeholders being given the opportunity to make comment at this stage of formulation of policy, i.e. not being imposed after a model decided by local or state government.*

There has been a very significant increase in the level of engagement of people with the GreenWay - engagement of the community through its schools, clubs and other organisations – engagement of people through projects and activities and events. There is anecdotal evidence of increased use of the GreenWay by bicyclists and walkers, as well as for passive recreation. There is increased interest in the politics about the GreenWay, the light rail and the active transport links. The community in close proximity to the GreenWay is increasingly aware of the natural asset that they have at their doorstep and the potential benefits for health and the environment that it brings to them.

## Transport

GreenWay Sustainability Project staff and Council staff and elected officials in all four partner Councils are commended with regard to their efforts to date in promoting the GreenWay as an active transport hub. There have been strong achievements in this part of the program despite the diversity of expected outcomes.

On the one hand, work is occurring to attempt to extend recreational use of the GreenWay, in particular to extend bicycle and walking use. Passive recreation is also encouraged. There is evidence that increased use is occurring and more hard data will become available early in 2012 when the next community survey is delivered.

The other part of the transport component involves all of the consultation and negotiation required with Government about the proposed use of the GreenWay as a light rail corridor.

There is substantial evidence that the GreenWay Sustainability Project, its staff and its Steering Group, have played a significant role in bring Councils together and facilitating strong leadership about this important infrastructure issue and decision. The project team have represented the issue to the community, gained their views through community

workshops and represented their views to Councils and the state government. The development of the *Inner West Active Transport Strategy and Action Plan* is a very substantial part of the process of moving transport in the Inner West forward and it was produced through this project. Importantly it was developed following a community needs survey of some substance and represents a real step forward. Workshops delivered to communicate the issues were highly successful and well attended.

Work of real substance will need to continue in this part of the project, especially now that the Government have deferred funding for the GreenWay cycling paths despite the light rail project going ahead.