

## Worth the effort

The Hawkesbury-Nepean river system is one of New South Wales' most important natural assets.

The river system's catchment covers 2.2 million hectares, framing the western edge of the Sydney Basin. It is the source of drinking water to four million people, or 70 per cent of the NSW population.

Its waters support agriculture and horticulture industries that generate more than \$1 billion annually, including \$600 million of irrigated agriculture which supplies much of Sydney's fresh food.

Each year more than 10 million people visit the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment to experience its natural assets including World Heritage listed wilderness, rainforests, open woodlands, wetlands and heath lands, and the spectacular Hawkesbury estuary.

Over time, the pressures of water extraction, catchment development and contaminated run-off have stressed the natural systems of the Hawkesbury-Nepean, resulting in excessive weed growth, algal blooms and high levels of pollutants. Landholders, communities and governments all recognise that the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system needs help.

## Help protect our river system

Everyone has a role to play in protecting our river system. Simple actions include disposing of rubbish responsibly, using environmentally friendly cleaning products and keeping detergents and waste out of the stormwater system. For more information visit [www.ohn.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ohn.nsw.gov.au).



For more information about the Hawkesbury-Nepean River Recovery Program contact:

Office of the Hawkesbury-Nepean  
**phone** 1300 440 692

**[www.ohn.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ohn.nsw.gov.au)**



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Hawkesbury-Nepean  
River Recovery Program



The Hawkesbury-Nepean  
River Recovery Program



Australian Government  
Water for the Future



The Hawkesbury-Nepean River Recovery Program is funded by the Australian Government through the *Water for the Future* Program

# Coordinated action

The Australian Government, through its *Water for the Future* program, has funded a \$77.4 million program to help improve the health of the river system. The Hawkesbury-Nepean River Recovery Program will make more water available for environmental flows and reduce the amount of nutrients entering the river system.

The program is managed by the NSW Government's Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean and is one of a number of coordinated initiatives aimed at recovering the river system. It involves seven integrated projects that will ▶



PHOTO: BILL VIVA SOUJI

## ▶ Reduce nutrient runoff

The Nutrient Smart Management Project will reduce nutrient runoff from agricultural activity through landholder education and on ground works, including compost treatment. Managed by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment and the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

## ▶ Improve agricultural water efficiency

The Water Smart Farms Project will make more efficient use of river and town water for irrigated agriculture by upgrading irrigation systems, improving water harvesting and reuse, and through education and training. Managed by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment.

## ▶ Ensure equitable water use

The Improving Hawkesbury-Nepean Water Balance Accounting Project will ensure equitable and efficient water use through the installation and upgrade of water metering systems for around 2,000 licensed water users. Managed by the NSW Office of Water.

## ▶ Improve irrigation practices

The Irrigation and Landscape Efficiency Project will help improve irrigation efficiency in non-agricultural activities by offering subsidies to councils, schools and golf courses to help assess their open space irrigation, leading to on-ground works to improve practices. Managed by Sydney Water Corporation.

## ▶ Return water to the river

The Licence Purchase Project will buy water access licences from willing sellers across the catchment to increase the amount of water that stays in the river system. Managed by Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.



PHOTO: LIGH JAMES

## ▶ Recycle and reuse water

The South Windsor Effluent Reuse Scheme will construct a recycled water plant at Hawkesbury City Council's South Windsor sewage treatment plant, along with a distribution system to supply the recycled water to council reserves, schools and other customers. Managed by Hawkesbury City Council.

## ▶ Measure success

The Nutrient Export Monitoring Project will measure nutrient exports from primary industries before and after actions are implemented through the Nutrient Smart Management and Water Smart Farms projects. Managed by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.