

19th May 2011

Business Treading Lightly Shoalhaven- better than ever

Business Treading Lightly is now conducted by Shoalhaven City Council after State Funding was not forthcoming earlier this year to the Southern Councils Group.

Prior to that, numerous outcomes had been achieved both locally and throughout the region through adoption of the recommendations of Business Treading Lightly including reduced electricity, gas, water usage for hundreds of businesses.

Now **Business Treading Lightly – Shoalhaven** is back and better, with more services being offered to business, including Nationally Accredited Training.

Shoalhaven Council supports the aims and objectives of Business Treading Lightly to increase the sustainability of businesses, including its own trading enterprises, throughout the region.

BTL aims to help business in the Shoalhaven, and south coast to reduce their environmental footprint, operate sustainably and save money at the same time.

BTL-Shoalhaven wants to re-engage with past business partners and encourage new partners to join in the desire to be a leader in business sustainability practices.

In the past, the importance and benefits of partnering with Business Treading Lightly has been demonstrated by

- Engagement of over 200 businesses
- Resource efficiency savings of over \$1.4 million
- Savings of over \$1.1 million in electricity of participant businesses (the equivalent of taking 1793 cars off the road)
- Water savings of over \$185,100 annually
- Waste savings of over \$134,747 annually with increased recycling rates and reduced waste to landfill.
- Successfully securing over \$1.8 million in grant funding for partner businesses.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said the program complements Council's growing work in a number of areas of regional business development with BTL specifically aimed to reduce the strain on resources.

“Council is working to support businesses to decrease their ecological footprint and build business resistance to the impacts of rising utility costs,” Cllr Green said. Council itself has an Energy Savings Action Plans for all major Council buildings and sites in the city. Our business units are now working with BTL to implement work practices that deliver environmental and cost savings.

In the Shoalhaven we recognise that we have a high quality of life and a fantastic environment, but we don't want to see these natural advantages compromised. The Business Treading Lightly program will help us work with local businesses to ensure that we develop and grow business opportunities without compromising our local environment."

For further information on Council's Business Treading Lightly Shoalhaven, you can contact the Economic Development Office on (02) 4429 3388, or visit Council's internet site at www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/business

CONTACT: Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green (02) 4429 3251
0423 881 873