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**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AWARDS**  
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# GUMBOOT NEWS

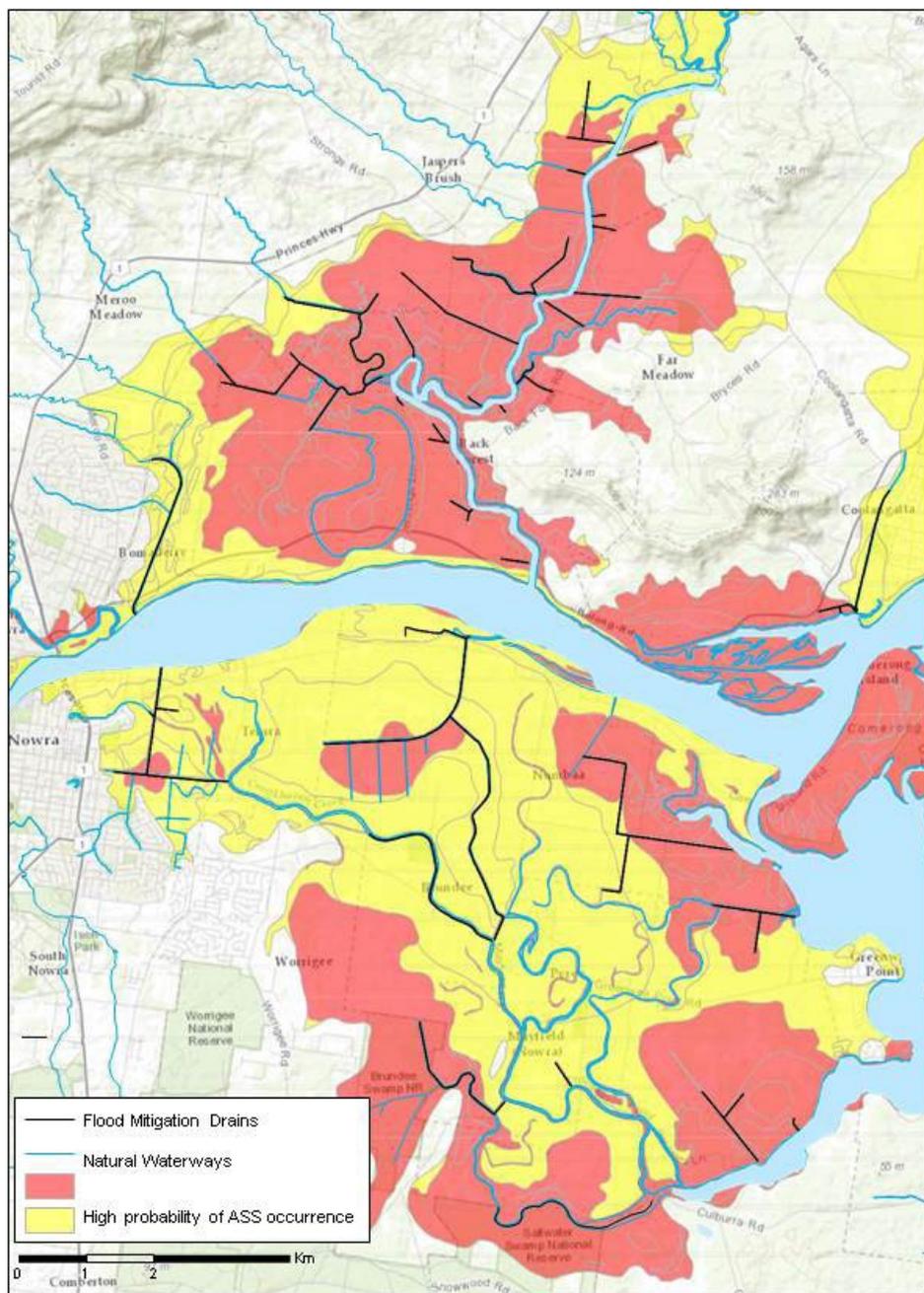
Shoalhaven City Council

## Welcome to the third edition of Gumboot News.

Issue 1 can be viewed [here](#) and Issue 2, [here](#)

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Photo above: Duncan Rayner from the Water Research Laboratory (UNSW) investigating drain P9D2 for remediation works using grant funds from the Habitat Action Grant (HAG). See over.



## More information from the Lower Shoalhaven River Drainage Remediation Action Plan (RAP); this time distribution of acid sulfate soils (ASS).

Mapping of ASS distributions in the Shoalhaven was undertaken by the NSW Department of Agriculture in the 1970s. It was not until two large acid discharge events in 1991 and 1992 that ASS in the Shoalhaven River floodplain were further investigated.

Mapping by the former Department of Land and Water Conservation generated ASS risk maps for much of the state, including the Shoalhaven River Estuary - shown here. It was found that,

- The **Broughton Creek floodplain** is an ASS Hotspot
- Actual (exposed & producing sulfuric acid) and potential (below the water table & inert) ASS are widespread across the **Broughton Creek floodplain**.
- The extent of actual ASS on the **Crookhaven River floodplain** is less than that of Broughton Creek
- A shallow ground groundwater table across the **Crookhaven River floodplain** has maintained the ASS layer as a potential, and not an actual, source of sulfuric acid.

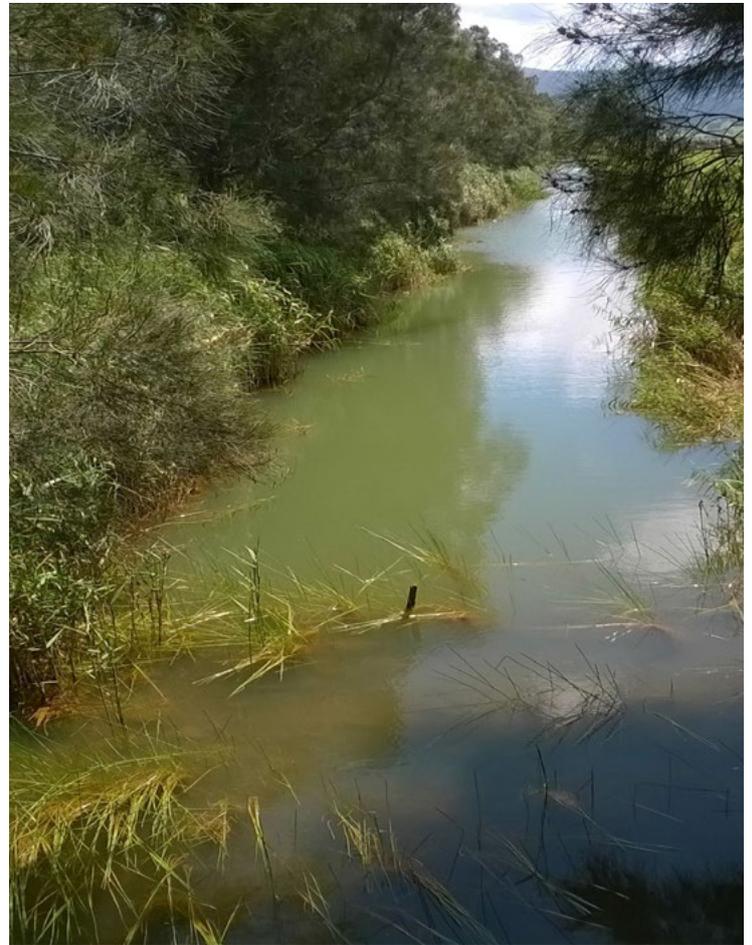
## What is the HAG?

It's a Habitat Action Grant from the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Now that the Water Research Laboratory (WRL) has provided Council with a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) for the Shoalhaven River Floodplain, the task is to find the **MONEY** to begin the **ACTION**. In partnership with SCC, WRL was successful in securing a grant of \$30,000 to begin remediation action on two drains on the Broughton Creek floodplain; P3D6 and P9D2. SCC will also contribute funds.

**P9D2 (Berrys Bay): Photo on page 1.** Remediation of this site will involve implementation of in-drain tidal flushing by the installation of a modified floodgate. This site is already established as a demonstration site to improve water quality for adjacent oyster leases (see Gumboot News Issue 1).

**P3D6 (Jaspers Brush): Photo right.** This drain ranks as the number 2 priority in the RAP and has an existing landholder/agency agreement for tidal flushing using an auto-tidal floodgate that is installed but, as yet, has not been commissioned. The gate will be serviced and commissioned to implement in-drain tidal flushing to improve water quality and fish habitat.

This photo of P3D6 was taken during an inspection of both drains in February 2014. The colour and milky appearance of the water indicates high acidity.



## Who are these fellas?

They are members of Council's maintenance crew who, amongst many other tasks, maintain floodgates. They are based at Council's northern maintenance depot in Bomaderry. Generally they will contact property owners when they need to access Council assets but this isn't always possible.

Should you see this ute or truck driving through your property, don't be alarmed, it's our friendly crew who are very happy to stop and chat about what they're up to.

You may also see them in the tinnie on Broughton Creek. From left: Tom, Peter, Tyson and Joel.

## And...more \$ for more action on the floodplain

In addition to the partnership with WRL and the HAG funds, Council has received a \$50 000 NSW Government grant through the Estuaries Program. With matching dollars invested by Council, the grant will be used to remediate another high priority sub catchment on the Broughton Creek floodplain. It will also fund an extensive engagement and education program about ASS and how best to manage them.

We'll keep you posted.

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