



ISSUE 5 - MAY 2017

In this issue ...

- The Acid Sulfate Soil Project Demonstration Site and Field Day
- Shoalhaven Flood Videos
- Free Trees



WRL staff installing flow monitors for new tidal gate and assessing maintenance requirement

The Acid Sulfate Soil Project

In [Issue 4](#), we announced that Council had received a grant to implement the first of, what is intended to be, a series Acid Sulfate Soil projects on the Shoalhaven River floodplain.

Dr Will Glamore from the Water Research Laboratory (UNSW) and his team won the

contract and, in partnership with Council, is currently implementing remediation actions on a demonstration site on Bolong Road at Berrys Bay.

The project focuses on improving management of acid sulfate soils and agricultural production and includes;

- maintenance of the open drain
- replacement of the existing 'one-way' flood gate with a two-way, tidal gate which allows saltwater into the drain and will help improve water quality and the health of a small saltmarsh community - read about [Coastal Saltmarsh](#)
- creation of a levee made from green-waste mulch and temporarily fenced to keep off stock while pasture grasses establish
- fencing was previously installed to protect Saltmarsh and exclude stock from the drain. It will be modified to improve stock holding and loading areas
- planting of Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) in low lying corner sites
- improved access to the flood mitigation drain and tidal gate using recycled road base
- trial of [kyowa rock filter bags](#) to improve access for tidal gate maintenance, provide bank stabilisation and reduce saltwater intrusion and acid scalding on low lying areas
- placement of green-waste mulch to raise low lying areas
- planting of pasture species such as kikuyu, ryegrass and clovers on the levee and raised pasture areas.



Kyowa bags being filled at the demonstration site. Some of these bags will also be trialled at Greenwell Point to manage foreshore erosion



A small area of Saltmarsh to be protected by the levee and stock fencing



Scalded area of pasture - from saltwater intrusion and acid sulfates. This area will be raised with the addition of green waste mulch, a levee to stop saltwater intrusion and a Kyowa bag to fill the breach in the river bank

Baseline surveys and monitoring of the impacts on marine animals in the drain will also

be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the project in improving water quality and fish populations.



One of the four water level sondes installed in the drain

In mid-May, Water Research Laboratory installed equipment and gathered base-line data in order to measure the impacts of the works on the drain.

They measured water quality, installed 4 water level sondes (to measure level, flow, temperature and conductivity), surveyed 7 drain cross sections, and confirmed levee survey elevations.



Two way tidal gate under construction at Council's Bomaderry Depot

FIELD DAY

Once all the project works have been completed at the demonstration site you will be invited to attend a field day.

We will send you an email, with your invitation attached, in the near future.

Shoalhaven Floods - Stories and Insights

Shoalhaven City Council, in conjunction with NSW SES, produced a series of videos to assist the community to better understand flooding and minimise risks to personal safety and property.

The videos feature flood stories of local people together with information from state and local government staff involved in flood planning and management. They outline the

history of flooding in the Shoalhaven, explain flood management processes, provide guidance to the community on how to be flood prepared and bust a few common myths.

It is critical that communities in flood-liaible areas learn about flooding and how to be flood prepared, because flooding can occur at any time.



Part 1 - Flood Stories



Part 2 - Flood Management



Part 3 - What can you do



Part 4 - Flood Myths

FREE TREES

Council has access to around 800 long stemmed *Casuarina glauca* that are looking for homes. They are about 1m high and very healthy.

Interested? Please contact Peter Jirgens on 0488 460 011 or peter@jirgens.com.au