

## 1.0 Introduction.

**Greenlink** is a \$1million community based project, supported in part by Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funds, that aims to establish a link between areas of remnant vegetation in the Warringah, Pittwater and Manly Local Government Areas of Sydney by coordinating the on ground works of volunteer groups and other organisations. The project has funding allocated for the period 2000 / 2001.

The inspiration for Greenlink came from the Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils' *Green Web-Sydney: A Vegetation Management Plan for the Sydney Region*. The plan identified areas of existing remnant bushland and proposed revegetation sites along corridors, aiming to increase habitat areas and allow for movement and genetic exchange of flora and fauna. This document has recently been adopted as a blueprint for the distribution of grant funds throughout Sydney.

Greenlink also seeks to develop links and cooperative relationships with industry, schools, Councils and communities in the area. Thus publicity, education, recruitment and liaison are important facets of the project. Highlighting Greenlink's status as a true community project is the fact that the project's proponent, **Northern Beaches Envirolink Inc** (NBE), is an entirely voluntary organisation with no external funding or administrative support.

The project area now stretches from McKillop Reserve, Harbord in the south to the Warriewood Wetlands in the north. It follows the lines of Dee Why and South Creeks, the north shore of Narrabeen Lagoon and includes the Warriewood Wetlands area (see map1).

The key objectives of the project are to:

1. Amalgamate the efforts of community groups, Councils and private land holders into one project with compatible priorities
2. Halt the degradation of remaining natural bushland remnants by the removal of weeds, revegetation and regeneration.
3. Extend these areas by reclamation of degraded / cleared land or reconstruction of natural waterways.
4. Facilitate the development of community groups, both existing and through recruitment and establishment
5. To facilitate the involvement of local industry with schools and state departments to control environmental problems at the source.
6. To link up remnants of bushland on the Green Web, such as the Warriewood Wetlands and the Bicentennial walk incorporating Pittwater, Warringah and Manly Councils

This final report details how these objectives have been met over the period 2000 / 2001. It also includes:

- Achievements and stakeholder contributions
- Challenges and responses
- Detail of Greenlink's on-ground works
- Case studies of the Long Reef and Dee Why Lagoon projects.

We hope that this report will not only provide information about Greenlink, but will also be useful for other projects and community groups wishing to coordinate conservation efforts with local councils and other agencies.