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To: ACF, GER, NCC, NPA, EDO, SRCMA, K2C, Coastwatchers & Eurobodalla Landcare

From: Mike Thompson, Facilitator

Subject: 'Mountains-to-Coast' Corridors - Abstract for NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum (27-Feb-11)

'Mountains-to-Coast' Corridors ... linking LEPs to Biodiversity & Climate Action

Stars are aligning for Landcare and other conservation volunteers working with Local Government. Co-operative arrangements between all levels of government are now better coordinated and funded.



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

2011 is the International Year of Forests and 2012 is the International Year of Sustainability.

Habitat corridors lay the foundation for Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030. Koala, Bird, Forest and other flora & fauna surveys contribute Community Environmental Monitoring data to State Agencies being co-ordinated under the National Plan for Environmental Information. Standard data should fuel the Australian, State, Catchment, and Local *State of Environment* Reports.

Climate action plans also support animal and plant migrations by conserving water and precious carbon in old trees. High conservation value forests in Australia's Great Eastern Ranges are being protected and linked to the coast. Catchment Management Authorities help convert these Federal and State Government plans into regional corridors of 'Connected Conservation Reserves'. These grand plans across public and private land are finally delivered on the ground in *Local Environment Plans*.

The NSW Government has also introduced a mandatory 4-year cycle of *Community Strategic Plans*, SoE Reports, and Elections enabling promotion of conservation zones within new 'Template' LEPs. Biodiversity conservation is central to the environmental theme of our broad local community plans.

Community engagement gets a boost so reserves can be implemented with a genuine 'Social License'. Community education and access to 'place-based' maps and online information sources are essential.

M2C Workshops are planned in Local Government Areas on the North & South Coasts, where LEP zonings must comply with NSW Government regional conservation plans and regional strategies.

Partnerships synergy is the key to success in these 'Mountains to the Coast' (M2C) Corridor projects. Panoramic photos, video and maps in a case study presentation show volunteers working with the Nature Conservation Council, National Parks Association, Environmental Defenders Office, Southern Rivers CMA, Great Eastern Ranges (GER) program, Kosciusko-to-Coast (K2C), Aboriginal Traditional-owners of Gulaga & Biamanga National Parks, plus Coastwatchers & Eurobodalla Landcare Network.

Reference is made to www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/strategy linking to the Mackey Report on Australia's Great Eastern Ranges www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/ccandger.pdf. Community Strategic Plans that shape new SoE Reports and LEPs are outlined at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au Local community engagement context for this case study is evolving at www.eurobodalla2030.com.au This presentation with workshop information links will be launched on www.nature.net 27-Feb-2011.

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