



## **Effective Public Bushland Land Asset Management and its Role in the Environmental Sustainable Operation of the City of Newcastle.**

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Newcastle is at the mouth of the Hunter River and has grown from a small convict settlement mining coal in

1797 to a major city, with the largest constructed harbour and port in the southern Hemisphere. The environmental management challenges associated with the port's commercial operation is dependent on the effective Asset Management of the catchments draining to the Hunter River. This challenge is mirrored in the revitalisation of Newcastle's harbour precinct and inner city suburbs around Throsby Creek.

With increasing catchment urbanisation, the retention of native vegetation, bushland interface and stormwater management are fundamental to the long-term survival of the port and city amenity.

Given Newcastle's coastal exposure to storm events, the hazard risk associated with the erodible soils from the coal measure geology was assessed for all Council's public bushland land parcels. The erosion hazard risk rating is one of the attributes used to rank and hence fund bushland asset management activities.

A current study investigating sediment discharge from the Throsby Creek catchment will use the erosion hazard risk rating to help identify and prioritise sediment control efforts. The study outcomes will be presented in an assessment of the success of this integrated Asset Management approach.