



# **Rob Stokes MP**

**Minister for the Environment**  
**Minister for Heritage**  
**Minister for the Central Coast**  
Assistant Minister for Planning

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 29 September 2014

### **FUNDING FOR REGIONAL CONTAMINATED LANDS MANAGEMENT**

Environment Minister Rob Stokes today announced \$450,000 in grants to assist with contaminated land management in rural and regional communities.

In Port Macquarie this morning, Mr Stokes and Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams revealed the funding would provide the successful recipients with a dedicated staff member with expertise in contaminated land management.

Grants of \$150,000 have been awarded to:

- Mid North Coast Regional Organisation of Councils
- Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils and Riverina East Regional Organisation of Councils
- Bathurst Orange Dubbo Alliance, including the Central NSW Salinity and Water Quality Alliance

“The grants will assist in developing local contaminated land policies, site registers and advise on remediation projects,” Mr Stokes said.

“Land that has been contaminated can have a significant effect on environmental health and nearby landowners, while also undermining the productive value of the area.

“The NSW Government is committed to tackling the issue of contaminated land and this grant program is part of a \$6 million commitment over three years to identify and help councils manage issues in their areas.”

Mrs Williams said the funding would lead to more effective management of contaminated lands, where every site presents different challenges depending on the history of the site and the type of contamination

“I’m delighted the Mid North Coast Regional Organisation of Councils (MIDROC) was one of three organisations to receive the \$150,000 grants,” Mrs Williams said.

"This funding will be a great help to our region and the environment on the mid north coast."

The EPA’s Director of Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health, Craig Lamberton said these grants will provide additional resources to increase the technical capacity of local councils.

“The funding will support the employment of a full time technical specialist for each of the recipient ROCs who will assist their member councils in developing sound policies and procedures for identifying and managing contamination,” Mr Lamberton said.

“The specialist will be employed for an initial one-year contract with extension each year to a maximum of three years.”

MIDROC Chair Liz Campbell said the Mid North Coast contains key, diverse areas of environmental sensitivity, including coastline, floodplain, mountains and river systems.

“Therefore contaminated land remediation is critical to providing an ongoing healthy environment. This program allows us to work across the region to further address contaminated sites,” Ms Campbell said.