



Wetland Restoration – Green Globe Award Winner

In 2015 staff at the School's Water Research Laboratory were awarded the 'Natural Environment Sustainability' award for their project, Big Swamp Recovery – Evidence Supporting Innovation at the premier NSW Green Globe Awards. The award was shared with industry partners Greater Taree City Council.

Greater Taree City Council initiated the Big Swamp Restoration Project in 2011 with a \$2 million Federal Government grant. The 2000-hectare Big Swamp area was extensively drained for agriculture in the early 20th century. It had since become a degraded site recognised as one of the worst acid hotspots in the country.

The aim of the project was to determine priority areas for wetland creation, detail innovative on-ground methods, model flooding impacts and undertake large scale on-ground works to restore/ create new wetlands.

WRL staff including Project leader Dr William Glamore, and engineers Mr Jamie Ruprecht and Mr Duncan Rayner worked, in collaboration with Greater Taree City Council, to research methods and develop innovative plans to restore Big Swamp a degraded site recognised as one of the worst acid hotspots in the country.

Team leader Dr William Glamore said, 'This award recognises the high level of innovation that can be achieved when researchers partner with forward thinking government partners. The Big Swamp Recovery Project is a great example of collaborative evidence based decision-making supported by cutting edge research to correct a major environmental problem. The on-ground results are incredible!'

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WRL staff continue research onsite and are currently conducting estuary wide wetland prioritisation research to support further remediation.

Staff at the Water Research Laboratory are world experts in the fields of wetland restoration, eco-hydraulics and environmental hydrodynamics. This award

complements the 2013 National Heritage Trust's Conservation Award and the 2014 Engineers Australia's Excellence Award to Dr Glamore's

[More information on the Big Swamp Recovery Project.](#)