

Environment Levy Program 2011 – 2012
Annual Progress Report

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your habitat*



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Environment Levy App A Program

Executive Summary

To assist in achieving Council's vision to be "Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse", the Corporate Plan 2009-2014 identifies the need to prepare and implement an Environmental Levy policy and program that focuses on identified strategic needs.

In August 2009, Council endorsed a regional Environment Levy Policy and Program for the Sunshine Coast. This Program is delivered through three funding themes:

- Land acquisitions;
- Major initiatives and catalyst projects; and
- Partnerships, grants and incentives.

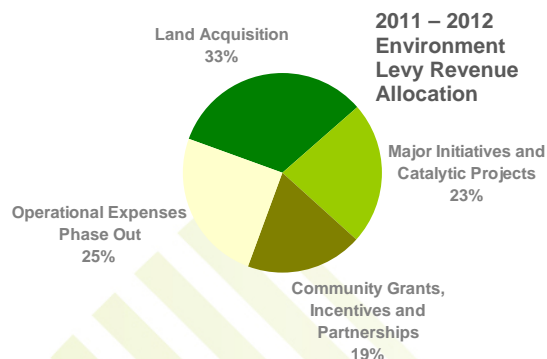
In addition, the Program incorporates transitional phase out arrangements for funding day-to-day management activities historically resourced through Environment Levy funds.

Implementation of the Program involves numerous departments across the organisation and plays a significant role in funding the annual implementation of a number of Council endorsed strategies.

This annual progress report presents an overview of the Environment Levy Program achievements for 2011-2012 financial year.

Key achievements include:

- The acquisition of four high conservation values properties, contributing a further 188 hectares of land to Council's conservation estate;
- Ongoing development of a draft Noosa River Catchment and Estuary Management Plan and preparation of a preliminary draft Pumicestone Catchment and Estuary Management Plan;
- Commencement of a recreational water quality monitoring program
- Rehabilitation of key coastal foreshore sites from Caloundra through to Noosa spit;
- \$638,934 awarded to 228 private landholders through the Landholder Environmental Grants program for natural resource management projects which contribute towards biodiversity conservation on privately owned properties;
- \$52,378 awarded to eleven not-for-profit community groups through the Community Environmental Grants program;
- An additional 5 three year Community Environmental Partnerships and 3 one year partnerships established to the total value of \$256,296;
- 14 new private landholder partners entering into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement with Council, bringing the region's total up to 54 properties, protecting 780 hectares;
- Launch of a Backyard Biodiversity Module to complement Council's Living Smart Homes Program and delivery of extension activities;



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- Maintenance of over 40 hectares of land rehabilitated within the Mooloolah River riparian corridor targeted for revegetation, weed removal and existing remnant vegetation care; and
- Ongoing community education and engagement to promote the achievements and benefits of the Environment Levy to ratepayers and residents of the Sunshine Coast.



Image of Ian and Kathleen weeding Madeira Vine in the Kenilworth Area as part of extension work delivered by the Mary River Catchment Care Coordinating Committee

Background

The Sunshine Coast's natural environment is central to the area's identity and relaxed lifestyle. The Sunshine Coast community relies on a healthy environment, which attracts millions of visitors each year. As such, the health of our environment including our vegetation, flora and fauna, waterways and coastal foreshores is critical to the local economy and the livelihoods and lifestyles of residents.

To assist in achieving Council's vision to be "Australia's most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse", the Corporate Plan 2009-2014 identifies the need to prepare and implement an environmental levy policy and program that focuses on identified strategic needs. This approach responds to emerging corporate priorities including the preservation of our natural environment, viable ecosystems that maintain biodiversity values and healthy waterways and foreshores.

In August 2009, Council endorsed a regional Environment Levy Policy and Program for the Sunshine Coast. Key objectives of this Policy are:

- To protect environmentally significant land through acquisition, as part of a wider strategy for landscape and habitat protection and rehabilitation;
- To respond to the region's key environmental challenges and produce on-ground actions;
- To outline environmental and administrative principles that provides direction for allocation of Environment Levy revenue towards agreed projects and programs in an effective, open and accountable way; and
- To maximise partnerships with a range of stakeholders, community based and government, to improve conservation and sustainability outcomes.

The Environment Levy Program is delivered through three funding themes:

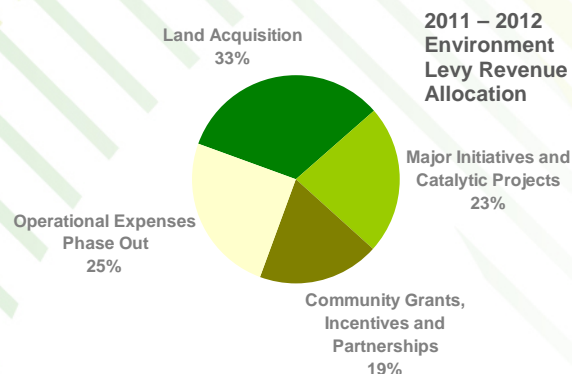
- Land acquisition;
- Major initiatives and catalyst project; and
- Grants, incentives and partnerships.

In addition, the Program incorporates transitional phase out arrangements for funding day-to-day management activities historically resourced through Environment Levy funds.

Implementation of the Program involves numerous departments across the organisation and plays a significant role in funding the annual implementation of a number of Council endorsed Strategies, including the:

- *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020;*
- *Sunshine Coast Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021;* and
- *Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016.*

This annual progress report presents an overview of the Environment Levy Program achievements for 2011-2012.



Land Acquisition Theme

The acquisition of environmentally significant land is an essential tool for the long term protection of the region's biodiversity and is a key strategic action of the *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020*.

Land Acquisition Program

Objective

The Land Acquisition Program gives priority to acquiring lands that:

- are of a viable size, demonstrating a high level of integrity and long term viability;
- build on the region's existing conservation estate;
- protect habitat for significant fauna and flora and other important biodiversity values;
- consolidate core and connecting habitat areas, including protecting corridors for wildlife movement; and
- deliver multiple benefits for the community.

The Program provides funds necessary to facilitate any planning and legal costs associated with acquisition and the establishment works for all newly acquired reserves.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

Four properties, totalling 188 hectares have been acquired this financial year, bringing the total hectares of land acquired for conservation by Sunshine Coast Council to 618 hectares (table 1). The Program has also contributed funds towards the acquisition of 128 hectares of strategic land which in part delivers environmental outcomes and provides a range of other corporate and strategic outcomes.

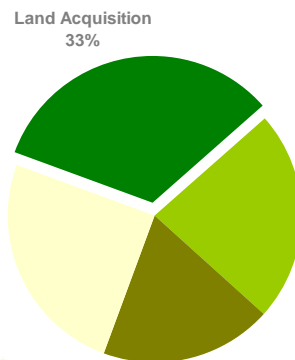


Table 1. Environment Levy acquisitions by Sunshine Coast Council

Financial Year	No. of Properties	Hectares Acquired
2011 - 2012	4	188.29
2010 - 2011	4	323.11
2009 - 2010	2	70.4
Amalgamation - 2009	2	36.41
TOTAL	12	618.21

2011 – 2012 Acquisition: Racemosa Environmental Reserve

Purchased: December 2011

Area: 101.77 hectares

Location: Hardwood Road, Landsborough

Key Attributes:

- Pumicestone Passage Catchment
- Fully vegetated with a mix of remnant 'Of Concern' and 'Least Concern' regional ecosystems
- Tributaries of Mt Mellum Creek
- Core Habitat Area mapped by the *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020*
- Mix of habitats ranging from wetland, healthland to Scribbly Gum forest, with extensive hollow development



2011 – 2012 Acquisition: Triunia Environmental Reserve

Purchased: March 2012

Area: 46 hectares

Location: Carruthers Road,
West Woombye

Key Attributes:

- Petrie Creek Catchment
- Adjoins Triunia Environment Levy Conservation Area, a historic Maroochy Shire Council acquisition;
- Contiguous with Triunia National Park and Triunia Bushland Conservation Reserve;
- Core Habitat mapped by the *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010 – 2020*
- Fully vegetated with a mix of remnant 'Of Concern' and 'Least Concern' regional ecosystems



2011 – 2012 Acquisition: London Creek Environmental Reserve

Purchased: March 2012

Area: 40.15 hectares

Location: MacDonalds Road
Peachester



Key Attributes:

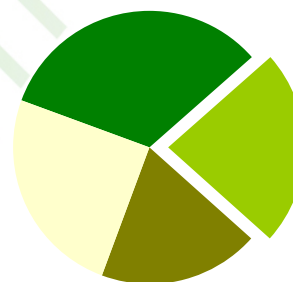
- London Creek Catchment
- Adjoins a historic Caloundra City Council acquisition and adds to the existing London Creek Environmental Reserve
- Contiguous with Crohamhurst Conservation Park and Crohamhurst Ecological Reserve;
- Core Habitat mapped by the *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010 – 2020*
- Vegetated with a mix of remnant ‘Of Concern’ and ‘Least Concern’ regional ecosystems

Major Initiatives and Catalyst Projects Theme

The Major Initiatives and Catalyst Projects Theme allows Council to deliver major pilot projects, large scale rehabilitation projects, investigations and projects that would not ordinarily be funded by general revenue.

The funding provided for these projects places Council in a better position to:

- deliver key strategic outcomes from a number of endorsed strategies including the:
 - *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020*;
 - *Sunshine Coast Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021*; and
 - *Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016*.
- leverage Levy funds to attract further Commonwealth and State funding;
- establish collaborative partnerships with stakeholders to deliver priority projects with benefits for both organisations; and
- pilot projects before commitment through general rates.



Major Initiatives and
Catalytic Projects
23%

Waterways and Coastal Foreshore Strategy Project

The *Sunshine Coast Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021*, adopted in February 2011, provides a ten year framework and sets the future direction for the management of the Sunshine Coast's natural waterways, constructed water bodies and coastal foreshores. For 2011 – 2012, the Waterway and Coastal Foreshore Strategy Project was undertaken under the following project themes:

- Waterways Planning and Policy;
- Rural Runoff;
- Coastal Foreshores; and
- Mooloolah River Corridor Restoration.

Waterways Planning and Policy

Objective

The initiatives delivered in this project theme aim to protect and improve the health of the region's waterways by developing robust legislative and planning instruments, with key outputs including:

- A policy framework for Council to manage the Sunshine Coast's natural waterways, constructed waterbodies and coastal foreshores;
- Comprehensive region wide stream network mapping; and
- Catchment and estuary specific management plans.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Development of the draft Noosa River Catchment and Estuary Plan (2012 – 2015) in conjunction with key community and State government stakeholders including Noosa's Community and Industry Advisory Committee and the Intergovernmental Sunshine Coast Waterways and Coastal Management Committee has continued. The aim of this Plan will be to guide Council and stakeholders in addressing waterway management challenges for the Noosa catchment to achieve a balance of social, economic and environmental values. The draft Plan is incorporating a review of the Noosa River Catchment Management Strategy (2001), outstanding actions of the Noosa River Plan (2004) and current statutory and non-statutory management actions.
- Preparation of a preliminary draft Catchment and Estuary Management Plan for the Pumicestone Passage was commenced as a priority this financial year due to the Pumicestone Passage's high ecological values, diverse land-use pressures and measured water quality declines. To facilitate this development, Council staff have coordinated three broad stakeholder working group meetings, with representatives from approximately 25 community, government, agricultural and other industry organisations. Extensive consultation with individual stakeholder representatives has also been undertaken to inform the development of the preliminary draft plan.

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"Farming represents different things to each person, however as a turf and small crops farmer, to me it is about making a return on my investment and making sure that I have the resources to continue farming into the future. I believe that working with the Council representatives in the catchment area has given me an understanding of Council goals and also given Council an understanding on the issues I face, so we can find common solutions in the catchment."

**Anthony Heilig,
Pumicestone Passage Catchment -Turf and Small Crops Farmer**

- Participated and contributed to the Healthy Waterways Pumicestone Passage Technical Working Group. Outcomes from this group provide important background information and recommendations which has been considered in the development of the preliminary draft Pumicestone Passage Catchment and Estuary Management Plan.
- Annual contribution to the Healthy Waterways Network Pty Ltd core program to deliver:
 - Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program and annual Healthy Waterways Report Card (released in Oct 2011) (refer to Table 2);
 - Water By Design Program to promote the effective uptake of Water Sensitive Urban Design and the protection of waterway health from the potential impacts of construction; and
 - Communication, Education and Motivation Program.

Table 2. 2010 to 2011 Healthy Waterways Health Report Card results

Catchment	Freshwater		Estuarine	
	2011 Rating	2010 Rating	2011 Rating	2010 Rating
Noosa River	A-	B	B+	B+
Maroochy River	B-	C	D+	C
Mooloolah River	B+	B-	B-	B
Pumicestone Passage	C+	C-	C+	D+

A=Excellent
B=Good
C=Fair
D=Poor
F=Fail
(very poor)

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Rural Runoff

Objective

Diffuse rural runoff has been identified by the regional Healthy Waterways Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program as a major management issue of declining waterway health on the Sunshine Coast. The initiatives delivered in this project theme aim to address this issue through a range of projects including large scale rehabilitation and rural road management.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Ongoing support and contribution to Sunshine Coast FarmFLOW initiative which is delivering extensive landholder and primary producer engagement and environmental outcomes throughout the region. Initiatives driven by the project include:
 - Extensive landholder engagement in the Kin Kin Creek, Maroochy canelands and upper Mooloolah catchment to improve management of riparian areas by addressing stock access, revegetation and weed control. To date, approximately 42.4 hectares of weed removal has been undertaken and 39.72 hectares of riparian restoration via stock exclusion established;
 - Targeted remedial action in landslip areas in the upper Mooloolah River catchment with approximately 49.3 hectares of sediment control measures (landslip rehabilitation) established to date;
 - Financial incentives for farmers and graziers to improve farm management practices and therefore the condition of their land;
 - Water quality monitoring within all three catchments; and
 - Building on Council's mangrove propagation partnership project with the Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation. Additional project sites and trials have been targeted within the Maroochy floodplains where historic cane production has left little or no fringing riparian vegetation, resulting in stream bank erosion.

FarmFLOW is a three year initiative which commenced in June 2010 and is being undertaken in collaboration with Maroochy Landcare, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, SEQ Catchments and Council and is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. Council has committed \$75,000 to support this project over the three years, finishing in June 2013.



"The SunCoast FarmFLOW project is making significant progress based on demonstrated regional outcomes and continues to build strong partnerships with landholders and primary producers. An indication of the level of success we are celebrating is that the combined Pumicestone and SunCoast FarmFLOW projects won the Rural Award for the SEQ Healthy Waterways Strategy announced in June 2012.

We have managed to continually build on the project partnership and resource base which will help us to achieve beyond the targeted outcomes by the end of the project."

**Esma Armstrong OAM
President, Maroochy Landcare Group**

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Constructed Waterways

Objective

The initiatives delivered in this project theme aim to:

- deliver a consistent constructed water body (CWB) asset management plan for the region; and
- establish a partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast to undertake research into the application of Ecosystem Health Assessment models to urban constructed water bodies.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Finalisation of the Constructed Water Bodies (Ponds and Lakes) Strategic Asset Management Plan, which includes a framework to classify and manage waterbodies based on its:
 - Functions / services – the extent to which the CWB provides services which benefit the community;
 - Environmental Risk – the minimum level of maintenance required to avoid negative environmental impacts within or downstream of the CWB;
 - Community Expectation – the extent of the community expectation of maintenance service levels for a particular CWB;
 - Minimum service level to maintain the CWB asset – minimum level of service required to maintain the asset infrastructure to achieve the appropriate identified useful life of the asset; and
 - Hazard reduction – the extent of hazard reduction activities required.

Coastal Foreshores

Objective

The initiatives delivered in this project theme aim to ensure strategic management of the region's coastline, with particular consideration to the community's love of the coast, the importance of it as a primary tourism drawcard and the potential impacts of climate change.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Commencement of a recreational water quality monitoring program in partnership with Unity Water to collect background bacteriological water quality (enterococci bacteria) data at patrolled beaches, popular coastal recreational water locations and creek and river inflow sites on major waterways along the Sunshine Coast. This monitoring is being undertaken over a two year period to assess any risks from harmful microbes in the water in order to underpin any necessary management responses and to provide Council the ability to assist in identifying any potential sewage leaks or overflows affecting recreational waters on a week by week basis. In total, 920 samples have been undertaken to date (end of June).

The Healthy Waterways Network Pty Ltd are coordinating a broader recreational-waters program to develop a consistent reporting procedure, public advisory messaging and response procedures and will provide scientific support to our local program.

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In September 2011, the *Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative* was awarded the National Riverprize by the International River Foundation.

The *Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative* delivered by the Sunshine Coast Rivers Community is a partnership between Council, the local community and an active network of stakeholder groups. The *Initiative* won the award for their impressive collection of river health planning and on-ground achievement in six catchment areas, totaling 5000km of waterways across the Sunshine Coast and southeast Queensland. The Environment Levy is a key and on-going funding source for the delivery of a number of major waterway and coastal management projects under the *Initiative*.

“The Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative has done an inspiring job engaging the number of communities they have and working together to improve the rivers around the area, they are very deserving winners”

Matthew Reddy
CEO International River Foundation

Mooloolah River Corridor Restoration Project


Objective

The aim of this project is to identify and target key riparian and terrestrial ecological corridors within the Mooloolah River freshwater catchment area, and use those corridors as a focus for a short-term, intensive conservation and restoration program.

The project seeks to enhance the network of ecological corridors on both public and private lands and to assist community capacity to continue to manage riparian vegetation after project completion.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

The project focus for this financial year has been on finalising revegetation works undertaken over the past 3 three years and ensuring planting success through ongoing maintenance. This maintenance work is being undertaken at the 25 project sites (public and private) where approximately 35,000 plants have been established across 20 hectares of land. In addition, 43 hectares of existing riparian remnant vegetation is being maintained for primary weed control. Replacement plantings have been undertaken in areas subject to storm and flood damage as required.



“Healthy Waterways congratulates Sunshine Coast Council on their selection as a finalist of the 2012 Healthy Waterways Awards for the ‘Mooloolah River Restoration Project’. This large scale project demonstrates Sunshine Coast’s Council’s continued commitment to improving waterway health and riparian vegetation connectivity.”

Dr Peter Schneider
CEO, Healthy Waterways

Building a Biodiversity Report Card Project

Objective

The Biodiversity Report Card project aims is to establish a biodiversity benchmarking framework that enables transparent, rigorous and meaningful reporting of the region's ecosystem health over time. It will allow Council to effectively communicate trends in biodiversity, the principal drivers for those trends (i.e. habitat loss or gain) and inform an adaptive management approach to natural resource management.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Completion of a pilot terrestrial fauna monitoring project undertaken in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast as a component of the Biodiversity Report Card Project. The monitoring results provide Council with an understanding of species abundance within specific vegetation communities enabling projections of expected fauna loss if that particular vegetation type was to be removed. In total 24 sampling sites were chosen from across the Sunshine Coast representing two regional ecosystem types (refer to figure 1). These two vegetation types were chosen as they have a greater level of threat from habitat clearing and fragmentation;
- Established reporting categories and a range of subsequent biodiversity indicators that will form the basis of the Biodiversity Report Card; and
- Completion of GIS data analysis which underpins the vast majority of the biodiversity indicators, including the development of the Core and Connecting Habitat Areas mapping by the Spatial Information Management Unit.

“Working on the pilot fauna monitoring project to support the Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Report Card provided the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) with an exciting opportunity to partner with Council to build our collective understanding of our Sunshine Coast biodiversity values. This project has enabled Council and USC to explore a range of traditional and innovative approaches to monitoring fauna biodiversity, to define best fauna monitoring practice and to provide benchmarks against which the future health of some of our terrestrial ecosystems can be measured. This partnership provides a significant opportunity to enhance the University’s research capabilities, to generate new knowledge, and to provide a range of inspiring learning opportunities for our students, with ongoing benefits to the people, institutions and biodiversity of the region.”



**University of the
Sunshine Coast**
Queensland, Australia

Dr Scott Burnett
University of the Sunshine Coast

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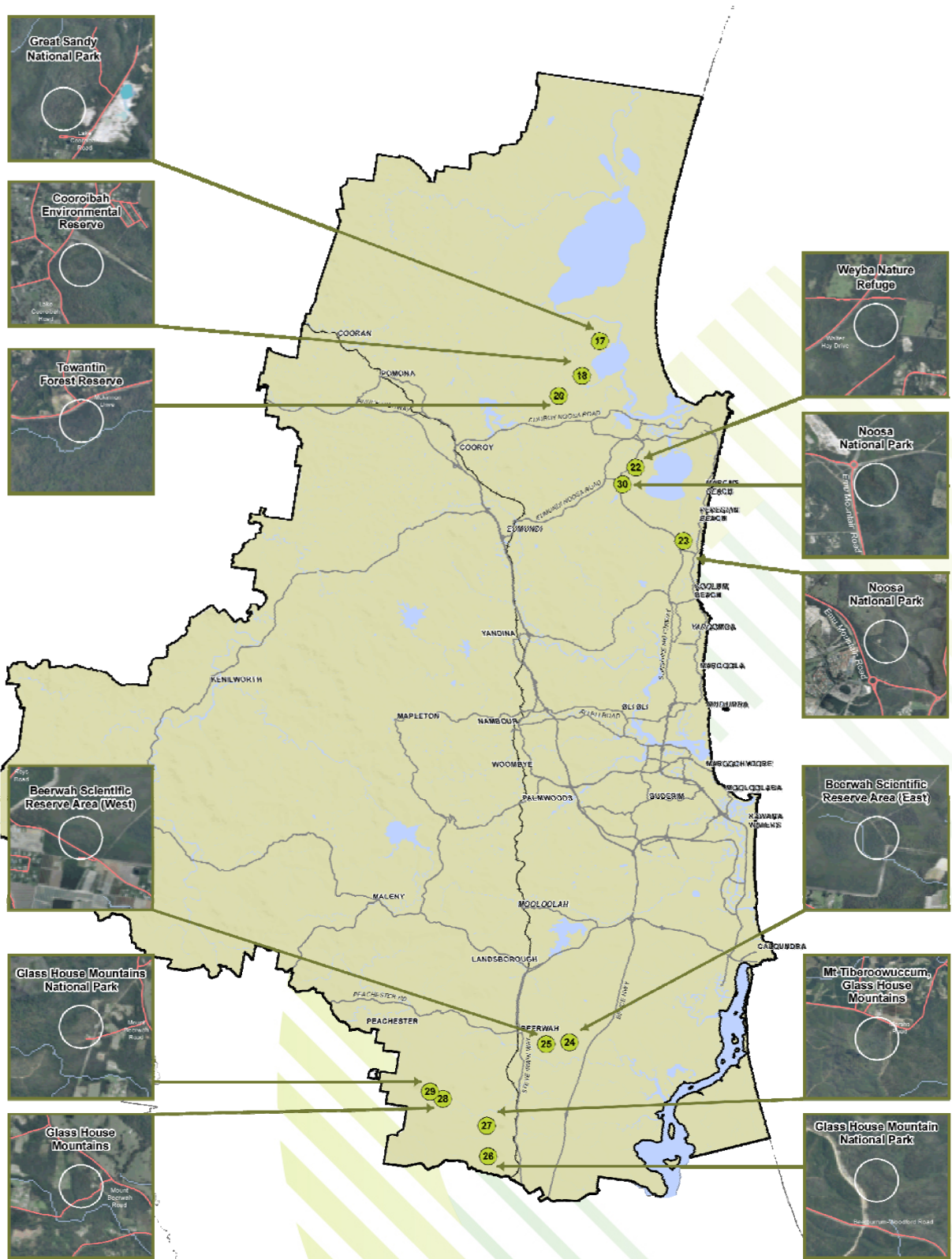


Figure 1. Sampling sites for endangered regional ecosystems used in the pilot terrestrial monitoring project

Regional Pilots and Catalytic Projects

Objective

This project aims to facilitate continued support to a range of key strategic regional environmental initiatives that complement and support Council's programs and initiatives.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

▪ *Picitup Campaign*

The Picitup campaign is an initiative of a local Sunshine Coast resident, sponsored by Council and other key corporate sponsors (Youi Insurance, Southern Cross Media and the Sunshine Coast Daily) as well as local community groups and businesses. The campaign is aimed at mobilising the broader community to pick up a few items of litter whilst out walking to help keep the Sunshine Coast litter free and protect marine life and seabirds from the scourge of plastic in our waterways.

A free reusable jute Picitup Bag has been made available to local residents at a number of locations throughout the region, including all 10 Council libraries and 4 customer service centres as well as via various local events. Over 9000 bags have been distributed to local residents since the official launch in November 2011. The participation rate is steady and feedback to date has been very complimentary and positive.

▪ *Plastic Bag Reduction Trials – Ignite Consulting*

The 'Plastic Bag Reduction Trial' in Maleny, which commenced in 2010 – 2011 ceased this financial year. The project focus was lost on the desire to produce a locally manufactured re-useable bag which was not economically feasible. Without a local person to champion the cause and drive implementation of a plastic bag free retail precinct it was no longer a viable trial to pursue.

The 'Plastic Bag Reduction Trial' in Eumundi, which commenced in 2010 – 2011, was reinvigorated this financial year with an expression of interest received from the Eumundi Combined Community Organisation (ECCO) to be a plastic bag free town. ECCO's proposal was accepted by Council and is currently being implemented through a process which includes:

- research and feasibility;
- business planning with targets, goals and timeframes;
- community engagement including advertising, editorial, information kits and success stories; and
- reward and recognition through the annual Eumundi Business Awards.

ECCO anticipates delivery of results by October 2012.

Pest Management – Halting the Invasion Project

Objective

The objective of this project is to develop and implement a robust, contemporary pest management system across Council to streamline pest management, reduce administration, engage the community and other partners and increase the value of Council's investment in pest management. A key outcome for this project is to pilot an integrated pest management data collection, storage and mapping system to better understand the extent and distribution of pest species across the Sunshine Coast.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

In November 2011 the Tr@cer Weeds program was installed onto staff laptops in the Healthy Places (Community Response Branch) and Pest Management teams (Environmental Operations Branch). Over the last eight months staff have had the opportunity to learn how to use the program and resolve any installation or application issues to improve the functionality of the software for their daily duties.

To ensure a consistent approach by teams using Tr@cer Weeds, five species have been identified by the Pest Management Working Group as target species for the pilot project. These include:

1. Giant rat's tail grass (*Sporobolus* spp.);
2. Annual ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*);
3. Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*);
4. Cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*); and
5. Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*).

Relevant historical data is intended to be integrated into the system and the collection of data and mapping of priority species will continue until June 2013 where a review will take place on the success of the software.

Coastal Dunal Rehabilitation Restoration Project

Objective

The foreshore areas of the Sunshine Coast region have become fragmented with ongoing development, differing setbacks for developments and subsequent dunal / foreshore buffer and the increased need to provide access to the patrolled swimming areas.

The Coastal Foreshore Restoration Project has three key objectives:

- the undertaking of condition/site assessment using a resilience based mapping methodology and development of a map for the regional dunal and rocky headland systems;
- the monitoring of pandanus across the dunal system, and
- the delivery of onground ecological restoration works across the region's dunal and rocky headland systems.

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2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Installation of project signs at high profile sites to advise the community on the value of the region's coastal foreshore and to raise awareness of native coastal plant species and impacting environmental weeds;
- Continued use of the condition assessment mapping to direct coastal rehabilitation works across the current sites. This long term mapping work is intended to provide a basis to assess the success of the works undertaken;
- Continued ecological restoration works at the following high profile foreshore areas:
 - Mooloolah River foreshores at Point Cartwright Reserve, Buddina;
 - Caloundra foreshore at Happy Valley Board Walk, Shelly Beach and Dicky Beach foreshore;
 - Currimundi foreshore at Buderim Street Reserve and Coondibah Creek Reserve;
 - Warana foreshore and Wurtulla foreshore at a littoral rainforest site and wallum project site;
 - Maroochy River (north) foreshores at Maroochy River – Mudjimba Foreshore Bushland Conservation Reserve, Mudjimba – Maroola Foreshore Bushland Conservation Reserve, Stumers Creek Bushland Conservation Reserve and Yaroomba – Coolum Foreshore Bushland Conservation Reserve; and
 - Noosa Spit, Sunshine Beach Park, Sunshine Creek; Peregian Beach Foreshore and Noosa North Shore at Bill Huxley Nature Refuge.

Key weed species targeted at these sites include woody weeds, mother of millions, groundsel, asparagus fern, Singapore daisy and vines such madeira vine and morning glory.

Coastal Foreshore Restoration Project

Sunshine Coast Council is committed to biodiversity conservation including the protection of fragile coastal vegetation communities that exist across our coastline. These vegetation communities are under threat from impacts such as development, environment and weed invasion. As part of a major initiative funded by Sunshine Coast's Environment Levy program, council has commenced a large scale restoration program within the dense and rarely heeded areas of the region's coastal foreshores extending from Kings Beach (Happy Valley) to the northern end of Sunshine Beach. In this area council is undertaking exotic plant and weed removal, and revegetating with native plant species as required. Exotic weeds such as ground asparagus, broad leaf passion tree and mimosa are some of the common species found along the coast. These weeds gut diverse native vegetation and reduce the ability of the natural environment to sustain suitable habitat for many native wildlife species.

The expected outcomes of this project are:

- Reduction in exotic weed populations
- Increase in local native vegetation cover
- Increased public awareness of the value of our coastal ecosystems and the important role they play in biodiversity conservation.

For further information please contact council.

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Native Coastal Plants

- Pigface (*Placochiton plumosus*)
- Beach Anemone (*Platyphragma asperatum*)
- Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*)
- Healy's Gumtree (*Platanus australis*)

Common Coastal Weed Species

- Broad Leaf Passion Tree (*Passiflora foetida*)
- Asparagus Fern (*Phoradendron villosum*)
- Mimosa (*Mimosa*)
- Coast Heath (*Hebe*)

Sunshine Coast Council
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
07 5475 7272

Pilot Stewardship Offset Project

Objective

This project aims to develop an implementation plan, identifying a variety of tools, to assist in the delivery of large scale rehabilitation projects on the Sunshine Coast. These tools are intended to assist Council in engaging with multiple stakeholders and attracting complementary funding to achieve on ground outcomes.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Consultants were engaged to develop an Ecological Infrastructure Plan. Council is continuing to work with the consultants to finalise the plan.

Road Reserve Conservation Strategy Project

Objective

Vegetation on rural road reserves have an important role to play in linking tracts of native vegetation, thus acting as corridors for movement of native fauna, dispersal of native flora at the species and genetic level via seed and pollen dissemination. This project aims to identify the ecological values and threats to those values that occur within Sunshine Coast Council's rural road reserve network. This project will provide a series of recommendations aimed at asset managers for the rural road reserve network and develop best practice management to ensure the ecological values inherent within the road reserve network are maintained or improved.

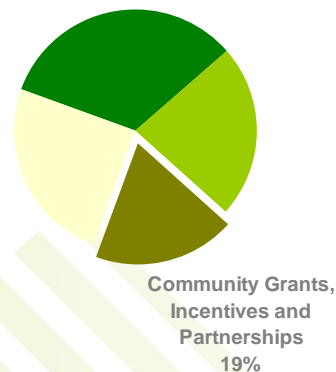
2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Establishment of a working group consisting of representatives from Environmental Operations, Transport and Engineering Services, Business and Major Projects Parks Technical Unit, Development Assessment and Environment Policy Branches to provide the relevant input and ensure stakeholder engagement and buy-in on the project;
- Completed background study on projects completed by other Councils around Australia. Reviewed and analysed methodologies adopted in other projects and the results and final mapping produced;
- Review of available resources to be used to identify ecological values of the rural road reserve network and of GIS layers and data available for use in a GIS data analysis;
- Development of criteria weightings for geographical information system analysis of road network to provide a ranking of ecological values;
- Identification of pilot sites to test weightings and mapping methodology; and
- Commenced development of framework for Road Reserve Conservation Strategy.

Community Grants, Partnership and Incentives Theme

The Community Grants, Partnerships and Incentives Theme allows Council to better engage with private landowners, not-for-profit community groups and other stakeholders to support and facilitate environmental and natural resource management outcomes for the region.

The *Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020* identifies over 50% of the region's remnant vegetation as occurring on private lands. Private landowners and not-for-profit community groups therefore have a major role to play in preserving and rehabilitating natural ecosystems and the biodiversity within those systems. Partnering with non-for-profit community groups and landowners to achieve conservation outcomes for the region is a key strategic outcome of this Strategy.



This funding theme provides invaluable support to assist in achieving this strategic outcome.

Community Environmental Grants Project

Objective

The Community Environmental Grants Program provides a range of grants to encourage and support not-for-profit community based organisations to make a positive and ongoing contribution to the region's environmental sustainability.

Priority is given to non-recurrent projects that:

- contribute to landscape scale protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of biodiversity, which include native plants and animals;
- build community capacity, engagement and participation; and
- adapt and respond to environment/sustainability challenges.

Eligible Minor Grant applicants can apply for project funding of up to \$2000 and eligible Major Grant applicants can apply for project funding of over \$2000 and up to \$50,000. Any applicants requesting over \$7,500 may not apply for full project costs from Council and are required to demonstrate co-funding within their proposal (for example, other grants, applicant contribution, sponsorships and/or in-kind contribution).

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- \$52,378 awarded to eleven not-for-profit community groups through the Community Environmental Grants program (refer to table 3).

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Table 3. Not-for-profit Community Groups successful in 2011-2012

Successful Applicants	Project	Funding Amount
Minor Grant		
Twinnies Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc	Essential equipment and supplies for project rescue vehicle for injured seabirds, waterbirds and native birds	\$1,492
Currimundi Catchment Care Group Inc.	Anti-litter campaign through a kite making event	\$1,460
Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary Support Group Inc	Public awareness information campaign on the existence and values of the wetland sanctuary	\$1,982
Goodstart Childcare	To educate children on sustainability principles through the establishment of a veggie garden and chicken coup	\$2,000
Major Grant		
Maroochy Waterwatch Inc	Upgrade of a community water monitoring program	\$7,500
The Compass Institute Inc	Stream bank stabilisation project	\$3,899
Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at Eumundi	Development of a virtual visitation website for the centre to educate the community on wildlife rehabilitation	\$7,150
Sunshine Coast Environment Council	Public awareness campaign to promote behavioural change across the Sunshine Coast around environmental sustainability issues	\$5,910
Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Worldwide Ltd	Essential equipment required for the establishment of a species blood bank for the Wildlife Hospital	\$6,610
Peregian Beach Community Association Inc	Publication of educational resources on living with local native fauna	\$7,375
Noosa Integrated Catchment Association Inc	Production and event showing of Ecoflicks - an Environmental Film Festival	\$6,000

2011 - 2012 Major Community Environmental Grant

In 2011-2012, Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Worldwide Pty Ltd received a \$6,610 grant to contribute towards essential equipment required for the establishment of a species blood bank for the Wildlife Hospital.

The Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital provides a life line to these innocent victims by offering a 24 hour, 7 day a week service to treat injured wildlife. The species blood bank allows the Hospital to collect the blood from its patients and store it until required for transfusion into a compromised patient of the same species. This will enable the Hospital to save many more wildlife patients lives than they could if they did not have this project in operation.



Photos supplied by Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Pty Ltd

Community Environmental Partnerships Project

Objective

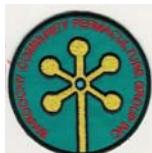
The Sunshine Coast is home to a wide range of proactive community based organisations that have formed to address an important environment or sustainable development related issue within the region. The Community Environmental Partnerships Program facilitates partnership agreements with environmental/natural resource management organisations to:

- contribute to the achievement of environmental outcomes which assist with the realisation of Council's vision for the region and the implementation of strategies and actions outlined in Council's environment policies and strategic documents;
- contribute to landscape protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of biodiversity and address major ecological threatening processes;
- promote waterways and catchments health, and reduce erosion and sediment runoff into waterways;
- establish partnerships and links with external agencies and residents which improve the protection, restoration and/or management of the region's environment and extension activities, for example, property vegetation management planning;
- facilitate investment by the commonwealth and state governments, regional bodies for natural resource management, research organisations, community groups and industry in priority environmental projects in the region;
- foster the establishment of not-for-profit community-based enterprise partnerships, which include, but are not limited to, farm forestry, native plant products, nature-based recreation and ecotourism activities; and
- manage environmental research projects that are directly relevant to improving the protection, restoration or management of the region's environment and are guided by existing environmental strategies.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- An additional 5 three year Community Environmental Partnerships and 3 one year partnerships (2011 -2012) established to the total value of \$256,296 (refer to table 4). In total, Council now has 14 three year Community Environmental Partnerships. The 2012 – 2013 partnership round closed at the end of May 2012. New partners will be determined in 2012 – 2013.

Three Year Community Environmental Partnership (2011 - 2014)



"Funding through the Environment Levy has allowed us to maintain a very high level of quality workshops presented by people who are experts in their field. As a result of these workshops, the Gardens has seen a very satisfying increase in both our membership numbers and volunteer numbers, and through this, we feel we are providing a valuable community resource."

**Linda Mahony
Maroochy Community Permaculture Group Inc
(Yandina Community Gardens)**

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Table 4. Community Environmental Partnerships established in 2011-2012

Successful Applicants	Partnership Outline	Funding Amount
2011 - 2014 Three Year Community Environmental Partnerships		
Sunshine Coast Environment Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate World Environment Day Festival held annually on the Sunshine Coast ▪ Delivery of education programs ▪ Promoting green economy 	\$30,000
Night Eyes Association Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community engagement in litter collection from our waterways ▪ Patrol boat operation and maintenance 	\$18,663
Reef Check Foundation Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake reef health surveys conducted throughout the Sunshine Coast ▪ Host one underwater clean up per annum ▪ Provide volunteering training courses in reef check monitoring ▪ Participate in education and awareness campaigns and provide access to collected data through reef health database 	\$25,000
Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors World Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of food and medical expenses to treat wildlife ▪ Continued operation of a 24 hour wildlife emergency hotline 	\$50,000
Maroochy Community Permaculture Group Inc (Yandina Community Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational and administrative cost to deliver workshops on affordable sustainable living to the community and volunteers 	\$18,790
2011 – 2012 One Year Community Environmental Partnerships		
Wildlife Volunteers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured wildlife ▪ Educating the community and bringing awareness to the protection of fauna and flora on the Sunshine Coast ▪ Educating staff through training workshops to upskill them in caring and treating wildlife ▪ Running of the emergency hotline and production of membership and hotline cards 	\$17,300
Mooloolah River Waterwatch and Landcare Inc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational and administrative costs ▪ Publication of Mooloolah Meanderings Newsletter ▪ Administration hub support ▪ Water quality monitoring activities ▪ Native frog and birdwing butterfly monitoring with community assistance ▪ Landowner support, community education and involvement through publications, extension activities and event participation ▪ Riversweep and Clean Up Australia Day program. 	\$56,227
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland – Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake targeted fauna surveys at twenty key sites per season ▪ Implementation of community program (Fauna Watch) and contribute towards overall implementation costs. 	\$40,316

Community Environmental Partners



Photos supplied by Reef Check Australia

Reef Check Australia

Role of group:

Regular monitoring and reporting of the reef health on the Sunshine Coast by trained volunteers

Levy funding: \$25,000 annually

Type: Three year partnership

Year of commencement: June 2011

Partnership outline:

- Undertake reef health surveys conducted throughout the Sunshine Coast
- Host one underwater clean up event per annum
- Provide volunteer training courses in reef check monitoring
- Continue to monitor and report on local reef health issues
- Participate in education and awareness campaigns and provide access to collected data through reef health databases

Benefit to the Community:

Reef Check Australia educated the community regarding local environmental issues affecting our marine habitats. Their volunteer teams contribute to long-term monitoring on the condition of Sunshine Coast reefs. They also actively engage with the local community on best practice approaches to help protect our reefs and oceans.



Photos supplied by Reef Check Australia



Photos supplied by Sunshine Coast Environment Council

Sunshine Coast Environment Council

Role of group:

Representing local environmental and community groups aimed at protecting and conserving the natural environment of the region and promoting sustainability.

Levy funding: \$30,000 annually

Type: Three year partnership

Year of commencement: June 2011

Partnership outline:

- Coordinate World Environment Day Festival held annually on the Sunshine Coast
- Deliver education programs
- Promote green economy

Benefit to the community:

The Sunshine Coast World Environment Day Festival is delivered by Sunshine Coast Environment Council in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council and the University of the Sunshine Coast. Outcomes of this festival for the Sunshine Coast community and the region's visitors include:

- Raised awareness and education around biodiversity, regional ecological sustainability and climate change
- Improvement in sustainable lifestyle choices
- Improvement in sustainable business practices
- Tourism support
- Increased social cohesion



Photos supplied by Sunshine Coast Environment Council

Growing the Toolbox – Backyard Biodiversity Module Project

Objective

Council currently has a number of partnership programs such as Land for Wildlife, Voluntary Conservation Agreements and Community Grants and Incentives. These programs, while successful in their own right, tend to focus on a particular audience. It was identified that an urban partnership program would assist Council in engaging a wider audience, in particular landholders and residents who are currently not eligible for these existing programs.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

The backyard biodiversity module was launched in September 2011 as part of the revitalised Living Smart Homes program. Since launch the Program has focused on:

- Refining the online resources available;
- Extension opportunities made available to Living Smart members and the wider community. Workshops held this financial year include 'Growing Native Bushfoods', 'Native Wildlife Presentations' and 'Interactive Insect Workshops'; and
- Sponsorship of My Native Tree photographic competition to encourage residents to immerse themselves in the region's biodiversity.

"From the Sunshine Coast Qld Environmentally Sustainable Schools (QESSI) Hub perspective, the comprehensive links in the Living Smart Biodiversity module with their specific and local focus, are invaluable for the work we've been undertaking with local schools in supporting them to develop their School Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs). Council has provided an excellent resource in recognition of the need in the community for increased knowledge and guidance about local biodiversity.

Of the 4 SEMP (School Environment Management Plans) themes, Biodiversity improvements in local school ground is the most challenging for schools to understand, plan for, implement and manage. Evidence indicates substantial gaps in the level of local environment knowledge and awareness in the adult community, including that of many of our local educators. We now have the opportunity to connect the excellent information from the Biodiversity Module in Living Smart QLD with teaching and grounds staff, other school staff, school communities, families and the wider community. This resource is also being extended to other regions, eg Moreton Bay where the population is becoming more aware of the potential for often neglected school grounds to be utilized as living outdoor classrooms. By utilising this hub of Living Smart QLD information, schools can become great examples for the community to become inspired to learn about their local environment and use the information to improve their own backyards.



This module also provides a great resource for the work environmental organisations such as Maroochy Waterwatch undertake, in working to raise local biodiversity awareness in the broader community.

We hold this information in very high regard.

Sandy McBride
Earth Smart Science Program Coordinator
Sunshine Coast QESSI Hub, Maroochy Waterwatch

Pilot Bushland Neighbour Targeted Pest Management Program Project

Objective

The *Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016* has identified the need to encourage local community involvement in strategic site based management programs for pests within and adjacent to Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) which includes Council owned land being managed for conservation purposes. This project aims to pilot a targeted local partnerships program with neighbouring landowners in the removal of pest species, in effect reducing Council's and the community ongoing maintenance requirements to conserve our natural assets.

The project will initially target three ESA's owned and managed by SCC in which Council and community are working together to actively protect and enhance biodiversity values and ecological processes.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Development of criteria to identify suitable ESA's to target neighbouring landowners. Final criteria included:
 1. The presence/absence of a community nature conservation group working in partnership with Council on Council managed lands. Priority was determined based on environmental benefits/behavioral change amongst bushland neighbours and as such reducing on ground resources in the ongoing management of Council managed reserves.
 2. Biodiversity assessment through the identification of key biodiversity factors, such as reserve size, regional ecosystems, scheduled species and corridors.
 3. Validation of environmental risk to biodiversity based upon weed species present as classified under the *Sunshine Coast Local Government Pest Management Plan 2012-2016* management categories, extent and source of incursion and threat to biological diversity determined via ground truthing.
- Identification of three ESA's suitable:
 1. Alex Dan Bushland Reserve, Noosa Heads
 2. Yaroomba-Coolum Foreshore Bushland Reserve
 3. Peregian Beach Foreshore Bushland Conservation Reserve

The project is be managed by Council's Community Nature Conservation Officers with on ground works being delivered by qualified contractors. Residents within the target areas will be engaged through a range of marketing approaches such as direct marketing, letters to residents and community engagement initiatives held in the identified reserves. Individual works will be selected on the basis of identified priority of pest species as per the *Pest Management Plan* and co-contribution costs on a tender basis. Outcomes will be measured against reduction in negative behavior, reduction of weed infestations in environmental reserves and the up take of the incentive.

Stewards of our Future – Youth Engagement Project

Objective

This project seeks to develop an annual youth engagement educational event that uses local environmental issues as a theme for learning and provide an opportunity for kids to develop skills, capacities and confidence in being active with local environmental issues.

The annual event is proposed to be primarily centered around three activities - youth forum, environmental restoration on an environmental reserve owned or managed by Council and workshops for students and teachers. Additionally the project aims to strengthen teacher capacity and position Council as an educational resource broker in the region by updating and revising school's resources available on the Sunshine Coast Council web in partnership with local environmental organisations.

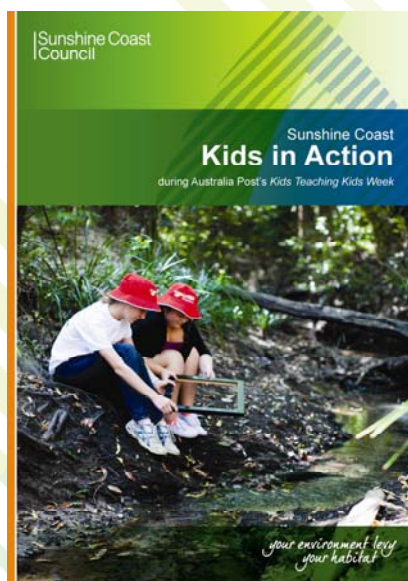
2011 – 2012 Achievements

Planning for the first Sunshine Coast Council annual regional youth forum event called "Kids in Action" was undertaken this financial year. This event has targeted twenty five local schools across the region with a focus on local environmental issues as a theme for learning and making connections to the wider community.

The event will implement a school based learning model and program of events and activities aimed at inspiring young people to learn and care for their environment. The theme for this year's conference is "Our Green Community" and the aim is to inspire students and cultivate a culture of sustainability in our Sunshine Coast community. Individual school presentations and workshops will be celebrating and showcasing environmental initiatives in their school or educating other students about an environmental issue or topic locally relevant to their school and community.

This event builds on a two year history of Sunshine Coast Council's involvement with Australia Post's Kids Teaching Kids Week where Council partnered with community organisations to host environmental projects day and mentor schools to assist them in preparation for conference workshops.

The Youth Engagement Forum will be held in August 2012. Outcomes from this event will be reported in the 2012 – 2013 Annual Environment Levy Progress Report.



New Landowners Information Kit Project

Objective

This projects aims to develop an environmental awareness information package and dissemination procedure aimed at existing and new rural, peri-urban and urban landowners. In many cases new landowners to the Sunshine Coast region often do not have an understanding of the environmental values of the region, local area or their property and what their legal environmental obligations are (for example vegetation clearing laws, declared plant species, environmental covenants and domestic pet management).

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This project will assist Council in engaging with new residents to provide relevant and up-to-date information to encourage behavioral change and assist residents in identifying their legal environmental obligations to minimise their impact on the ecological values of the region. In addition, it will provide the opportunity to promote ongoing partnerships with Council through such programs as Bushcare Groups and Land for Wildlife.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Collation and review of existing environmental education resources and relevant materials retained by the former three Councils and externally produced resources utilised or distributed by Council;
- Consultation with relevant groups / teams within Council to:
 - determine the relevance and currency of the content within the existing resources and identify what changes / updates are required; and
 - identify information gaps in the existing resource base and requirements for additional resources.
- Reformatting of existing Council environmental resources into the new corporate templates and development of new resources including factsheets for both urban and rural (large) backyards; and
- Consultation and planning to establish an automated electronic process to identify new land owners and increase environmental awareness by promoting and distributing the new kit.

Equipping the Toolbox Project

Objective

Promotion of landscape stewardship helps protect, strengthen and connect the Sunshine Coast's high value natural assets. The objective of this project is to enhance the region's biodiversity values and encourage best practice land management. This project delivers the 'tools' required by Council to establish partnerships with private landholders to both protect and rebuild green infrastructure on private lands through three programs:

- **Land for Wildlife (LfW) and Incentives** – a free, voluntary conservation program that supports private landholders in protecting, enhancing and rehabilitating native flora and fauna on their property. The LfW program offers an initial on-site property assessment, a folder of technical notes, an iconic LfW sign and on-going access to practical advice on sustainable land management.
- **Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCA)** – aims to partner with private landholders who wish to permanently protect ecologically significant areas on their property by registering a conservation covenant on title under the *Lands Titles Act 1994*. Once registered, ongoing financial assistance to manage the conservation area is provided to the landholder.
- **Landholder Environmental Grants (LEG)** – provides financial assistance for private landholders to undertake on-ground projects that protect and enhance the natural assets and biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast, and promote ecologically sustainable management of the region's environmental values.

Environment Levy App A Program

These programs equip private landholders with the necessary skills, knowledge and resources to undertake protection and restoration works on their properties. Partnerships with private landholders are a key mechanism for the protection of our natural assets and complement the protected estate.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

Land for Wildlife and Incentives

65 Land for Wildlife partners were registered this financial year in the region and 24 are working towards registration. The contribution of all Land for Wildlife properties to biodiversity conservation and rehabilitation as at June 2012 are shown below:

	Land for Wildlife Properties	Total Property Area (ha)	Retained Habitat (ha)	Habitat under restoration (ha)
TOTAL	1,155	16,271	8,386	1,180

All registered Land for Wildlife partners are eligible to apply annually for up to 300 native trees or 5 nest boxes to assist in providing habitat for wildlife on their properties. In this financial year, 125 landholders received incentives totalling \$60,017. In total, 76 received the native tree incentive resulting in 20,850 native trees in the ground and 424 nest boxes were installed at over 49 member properties. In addition, Council staff delivered 28 workshops and field days to LfW members on a range of topics including fire management, weed control, plant identification and bird walks.

Based on recent survey results it is estimated that for the 2011 – 2012 financial year participants in the Land for Wildlife program invested as much as \$3 million in cash and in-kind labour valued at \$20 million towards managing their properties for nature conservation.

Land for Wildlife – a Landholder’s Perspective

“LfW to us means community. You become part of a community that shares the same values – repairing past environmental mistakes and at the same time ensuring a continued and increasing diversity of wildlife and flora.

Although at first you think you know it all and have all the answers you soon realise you don't. That is where being part of LfW is essential. Property visits, advice and encouragement from Council environmental partnership officers, and the realisation that one size does not fit all, contribute to picking you up when it all seems too much. Everyone responds to encouragement. The annual LfW tubestock grant not only encourages you to keep on planting but also forces you to plan for a particular area to be revegetated. It also helps you to prioritise those areas at most risk. Let's face it revegetation on larger properties is expensive. Tubestock grants, together with LEGs has certainly enabled us to revegetate and restore major areas that we would never have been able to.



The journey from property purchase to the LfW community to receiving LEG grants to seeing the obvious beneficial results led us to the next logical step – progressing to a VCA.”

**I. Webster and D. Lanksey
Sunshine Coast Land for Wildlife members**

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Voluntary Conservation Agreements

14 new Voluntary Conservation Agreement partnerships with private landowners have been achieved this year. This brings the region's total up to 54 properties, protecting 780 hectares protected via Voluntary Conservation Agreements across the Sunshine Coast.

Landholder Environment Grants

This program awarded \$638,934 of grants to 228 landholders to undertake natural resource management projects including:

- fencing to restrict stock access to significant vegetation, wetlands or waterways;
- installing off-stream stock watering points and stock crossings;
- revegetation of degraded areas, establish vegetation corridors and buffer zones;
- sediment and erosion control;
- control of environmental weeds to rehabilitate native vegetation areas; and
- modification of existing fencing to make it more wildlife friendly.

The Landholder Environment Grants program stimulates significant cost effective on-ground outcomes in sustainable land management across the region and also initiates community engagement, new partnerships with landholders as well as employment through supporting small local businesses and community groups to supply or undertake on-ground works.

Profile: Landholder Environment Grant

In 2011 – 2012, Mark and Pam Hanson, primary producers at Kin Kin received a grant for \$7000 to:

- Establish 1450 native plants across 0.5 hectares to revegetate an area of their property prone to landslip;
- Establish a wider corridor of riparian vegetation along Wahpunga Creek to exclude cattle; and to
- Actively manage the revegetation site to reduce establishment of weeds and exotic grasses.

The creek that traverses their property supports an endangered riparian vegetation community and contains a great diversity of native plants, including the vulnerable tree Southern penda (*Xanthostemon oppositifolius*).

“This grant has helped us fast track our planting through this whole property”

**Mark and Pam Hanson
Kin Kin**



*your environment levy
your habitat*

Community Information and Education Project

Objective

The objective of this project is to better promote the achievements and benefits of the Environment Levy to ratepayers and residents of the Sunshine Coast.

2011 – 2012 Achievements

- Presence at community and stakeholder events (for example, World Environment Day) with a suite of project information, case studies and community examples of Environment Levy investments;
- Installation of new naming signs for newly acquired Environment Levy reserves and retrospective signage for historic acquisitions;
- Installation of project signs for Mooloolah River Corridors Restoration Project and Coastal Dunal Rehabilitation Project;
- Development of partnership posters for all three year not-for profit community group partners; and
- Development of three 'Green TV' videos promoting aspects of the Environment Levy program, including:
 - Backyard Biodiversity Module – Living Smart Homes program;
 - Coolum Creek Environmental Reserve network and rehabilitation project; and
 - Walking trails through Environment Levy reserves.



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your habitat*