

2025/26 ENVIRONMENT LEVY PROGRAM

PROJECT	PURPOSE	Environment Levy Funding theme	Transformational Action	Transformational Action - Task	Proposed 2025/26 EL Program	Indicative outer years	
						2026/27	2027/28
Transformational Action 6: Conserving our biodiversity							
Land Acquisition Program	Identify and purchase priority lands throughout the LGA to support the delivery of strategic natural environment outcomes	Land Acquisition	6	6.1	\$3,277,910	\$3,318,666	\$3,318,666
Planning and Legal for EL Land Acquisitions	Undertake the planning and legal requirements and works to protect acquired lands in perpetuity	Land Acquisition	6	6.1	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Establishment of Environment Levy Acquired Properties	Undertake planning and on-ground actions to establish Environment Levy acquired properties	Land Acquisition	6	6.1, 13.1	\$590,000	\$640,000	\$640,000
Maintenance of EL Conservation Estate	Undertake ongoing maintenance of acquired Environment Levy properties to endorsed service levels	Environmental Operations	6	6.1, 13.1	\$1,821,000	\$1,821,000	\$1,821,000
Environmental Operational Expenses	Support salaries and wages, education facilities, conservation estate management and Community Conservation Partnerships	Environmental Operations	6	6.1, 13.1	\$1,683,204	\$1,683,204	\$1,683,204
Environment Levy Partnerships	Funding towards operational expenses to not-for-profit community organisations whose operations and/or services contribute to the enhancement and protection of the environment.	Community Education & Support	6	6.5	\$635,500	\$668,000	\$674,680
Environment Levy Grants	Assistance for not-for-profit community-based organisations to undertake on-ground projects that make a positive and ongoing contribution to the region's biodiversity and waterways values.	Community Education & Support	6	6.5	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Landholder Environment Grants	The purpose of the grants is to protect and enhance the natural assets and biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast and promote ecologically sustainable management of the region's environmental values.	Community Education & Support	6	6.5	\$325,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
Land for Wild Incentives	To provide Land for Wildlife members with native plants, nest boxes and monitoring, weed control training, and reference and other materials to increase environmental outcomes across Land for Wildlife properties.	Community Education & Support	6	6.5	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$120,000
Voluntary Conservation Agreement Initiatives	Provide support to establish vegetation protection covenants and Voluntary Conservation Agreements and ongoing maintenance on environmentally significant private land.	Community Education & Support	6	6.5	\$515,000	\$550,000	\$500,000
Shorebird Conservation Program 2025-2030	To support the recovery of ecologically sustainable migratory and resident shorebird populations across their range by reducing threats, protecting quality habitat, and working with an educated community.	Community Education & Support	6	6.2, 6.5, 10.4	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Coastal Education and Engagement	Engage the Sunshine Coast community and students through education and interpretive programs to support and achieve effective coastal management.	Community Education & Support	6	6.5, 10.4	\$125,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
Koala Conservation and Management	Implement the Sunshine Coast Koala Conservation Plan through on-ground actions, education and research	Major Projects	6.5	6.2, 6.3, 6.5	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Macropod Conservation and Management	Implement the Sunshine Coast Macropod Conservation Plan	Major Projects	6.5	6.2, 6.3	\$32,500	\$42,500	\$42,500
Planning for Improved Fauna Movement	Better understand the impact of road infrastructure on fauna movement, and to plan and implement the recommendations—improving fauna movement between priority habitat areas across the Sunshine Coast Council local government area.	Major Projects	6	6.1	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Flying fox research and education	Develop and deliver an annual program of research, monitoring and education to support effective long term management and conservation of local Flying Fox species.	Environmental Operations	6	6.2	\$55,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
Marine Turtle Conservation Plan	Implement the Marine Turtle Conservation Plan	Major Projects	6	6.2, 6.5, 8.2	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Our Environment Forum	Funding to support a networking event for all involved in environmental conservation on the Sunshine Coast to learn about current issues, management approaches and work towards a sustainable future.	Community Education & Support	6	6.2	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$15,000
Nature Watch Sunshine Coast	Contribute to the delivery of Council's environment reserve monitoring objectives and provide opportunities for community participation to encourage environmental stewardship and connection with nature on Council reserves.	Community Education & Support	6	6.2, 24.1, 24.3	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Transformational Action 7: Keeping our waterways and wetlands healthy							
Regional Erosion and Sediment Education and Training (RESET) site	The Project is to provide an area to support internal and external training of erosion and sediment control (ESC) practices on the Sunshine Coast.	Major Projects	7	7.2	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
Construction Management and Waterway Protection Taskforce (CMWP)	To improve construction management practices and levels of compliance regarding erosion and sediment control (ESC), resulting in improvements in our waterways wetlands and ocean health.	Environmental Operations	7	7.2	\$256,000	\$0	\$0
Upper Mary River Catchment Health Report	Assess the ecological health of the upper Mary River and its Sunshine Coast catchment area to track progress against our ELS target and guide local management actions	Major Projects	7	7.4, 7.5	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Transformational Action 10: Healthy Coast							
Coastal Dunal Rehabilitation Program	On ground dunal rehabilitation works across the Coastal Reserve network supported through research and monitoring	Major Projects	10	10.2	\$900,000	\$990,000	\$990,000
Shoreline Erosion Management Plan Dune Building Program	Support the implementation of environmental based responses as outlined in councils' Shoreline Erosion Management Plan	Major Projects	10	10.2	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Coastal Health Report 2	Undertake follow-up coastal monitoring to understand current health, track changes from the baseline and report on progress towards our ELS target.	Major Projects	10	10.5	\$260,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
Transformational Action 11: Expanding our green space							
Blue Heart Sunshine Coast	Provide a foundation for wide-scale operationalisation of the Blue Heart Sunshine Coast project through background studies, targeted blue carbon and restoration actions on council lands and community education initiatives.	Major Projects	11	11.1	\$150,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Sunshine Coast Ecological park	To create an ecological park, located within the Mountain View Green Space, that protects, celebrates, and restores the site's environmental values and recreation, education, research and cultural heritage.	Major Projects	11	11.1	\$250,000	\$286,000	\$200,000
Transformational Action 13: Managing our invasive plants and animals							
Pest management operational expenses - project management	To fund three officer roles to support biosecurity measures to address invasive plant and animal management on the Sunshine Coast. This meets council's legislative responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and safeguards our economy, agricultural and tourism industries, environment and way of life from the biosecurity threats.	Environmental Operations	13	13.1	\$408,886	\$446,503	\$446,503
Pest Action and Engagement Program	To support biosecurity measures to address invasive plant and animal management on the Sunshine Coast. This meets council's legislative responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and safeguards our economy, agricultural and tourism industries, environment and way of life from the biosecurity threats.	Environmental Operations	13	13.1	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Invasive Weeds Project	The purpose of this project is to undertake weed management control options at key locations. Additionally, this project explores alternative weed management practices, including innovative technology, for invasive plant identification, management, monitoring and surveillance. Sharing of findings and outcomes from these trials presented through education and extension to the stakeholders.	Environmental Operations	13	4.9, 13.1, 18.2, 18.4, 18.5	\$594,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Transformational Action 14: Celebrating people and nature							
Kids in Action Program	KIA initiative seeks to connect schools with local environment groups, promoting learning exchanges between future and current environmental custodians.	Community Education & Support	6, 14	6.4, 6.5, 8.2	\$150,000	\$155,000	\$155,000
Transformational Action 18: Building our knowledge							
Healthy Land and Water Partnership	Support regionally coordinated catchment and waterway health assessment and reporting and regional catchment and waterways research, planning and management initiatives.	Community Education & Support	18	18.2	\$155,000	\$160,000	\$165,000
Fire Management Planning and Ecological Monitoring	Undertake Environment Reserve Digital Fire Management Plans and Fire Ecological Monitoring	Environmental Operations	18	18.2, 18.3, 18.4	\$63,000	\$64,500	\$65,000
Cultural Burn Workshops	Engage with Kabi Kabi and Jinibara First Nations People and other regional First Nations groups to deliver an annual Cultural Burn Workshop to heal country and provide knowledge sharing and capacity building opportunities for our First Nations and wider communities and council staff.	Community Education & Support	24	24.1, 24.4, 24.5, 24.6	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
NEW PROJECTS							
Resilient River Initiative	Contribution to the regional Resilient Rivers Initiative through the SEQ Council of Mayors. Required to leverage off \$20 million funding provided through Commonwealth and State Governments.	Environmental Operations	7	7.1, 7.3, 7.4	\$351,804	\$357,107	\$362,516
TOTAL					\$13,307,804	\$13,326,480	\$13,038,069
REVENUE							
					\$12,956,000	\$13,129,610	\$13,305,547