



Sunshine Coast Council  
Environment Levy Annual Report  
2021/22



Your Environment  
Levy in action

## Acknowledgement of Country

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### Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:  
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### Acknowledgement

Cover image:  
Melomys – S. Foreman.

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations people.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

**Together, we are all stronger**

## Message from your Mayor and Councillors

Your Environment Levy supports a range of projects, programs and initiatives to protect and enhance our natural assets and helps us to deliver a healthier environment and more liveable Sunshine Coast.

Many of these projects are delivered in partnership with dedicated volunteers, landowners, community groups and research organisations – without whom, we would not be able to advance our efforts to achieve a sustainable Sunshine Coast.

In 2021/22, the Environment Levy has continued to support the purchase of land with important ecological values to grow our conservation estate, establish new reserves, expand existing ones and safeguard precious habitat.

As a council, we have also continued to lead the way in advancing our approach to invasive species management—trailing innovative technologies to improve the management of pest animals and weeds that can impact adversely on our environment, our communities and the resilience of our economy.

This year's program saw the inclusion of new projects focused on protecting waterways, which are assets highly valued by our community and fundamental to maintaining the liveability of our region. Through these projects we are engaging, educating and supporting industry and our community, along with fostering sustainable practices to improve erosion and sediment control.

Our council is pleased to celebrate the success of the projects, programs and initiatives funded by your Environment Levy and we would like to particularly acknowledge the work of our volunteers in working with us in our important stewardship of our region's invaluable natural environment.

Councillor Peter Cox  
Mayor Mark Jamieson  
Councillor Maria Suarez



## Where did your Environment Levy go in 2021/22?

The Sunshine Coast's natural environment is one of our most important assets. It is highly valued by Sunshine Coast Council and our community. The Environment Levy contributes to maintaining and enhancing our natural assets in line with our vision to be Australia's most sustainable region—healthy, smart, creative.

### Environment 2021/22 highlights

Your Environment Levy in action



IN 2021/22 THE ENVIRONMENT LEVY WAS  
**\$80**  
 PER ANNUM  
 PER RATEABLE PROPERTY

THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT LEVY INVESTMENT IN 2021/22 WAS  
**\$13,166,066**

**\$5.67 million** invested into the acquisition of environmentally significant land

**\$1.1 million** invested into coastal protection works and dune rehabilitation

**\$740,000** invested into invasive species research, action and community engagement

**\$610,000** provided to partnership community groups to deliver environmental projects

**\$325,000** in Landholder Environment Grants for 103 private landholders to undertake on-ground projects

**\$220,000** invested into erosion and sediment control and waterway protection

## Environment Levy 2021/22 Program snapshot



Coochin Creek Environment Reserve



Kirby's Road Environment Reserve

## Strategic Land Acquisition Program

The Environment Levy has continued to support the acquisition of environmentally significant land to protect and enhance habitat areas and biodiversity corridors.

Four properties were purchased in 2021/22—adding a further 165 hectares to Council's conservation estate.

### This included:

- **68 hectares of high-value habitat at Witta**  
expanding Kirby's Road Environment Reserve to **280 hectares** and further consolidating landscape connectivity between Maleny and Kondalilla National Parks.
- **65 hectares at Coochin Creek**  
further consolidating the **Regional Inter-urban Break Green Space** and protecting **450 metres of Coochin Creek riparian habitat** (which flows into the RAMSAR designated Pumicestone Passage).
- **19 hectares within the Blue Heart Sunshine Coast project area**  
expanding **Coolum Creek Environment Reserve to 465 hectares**, protecting **Maroochy River riparian habitat** and providing opportunity to consolidate connectivity of the Maroochy-Noosa Wallum biodiversity corridor.
- **13 hectares in Verrierdale**  
expanding an existing protected area of very high biodiversity values to **37 hectares** to further protect **Critically endangered Lowland Rainforest regional ecosystems** and habitat for the Richmond birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*).

Erosion and sediment control education



Flying fox education



Establishing environment reserves





**4** PROPERTIES ACQUIRED

PROTECTING A FURTHER **165** HECTARES



**103** LANDHOLDERS

**19** COMMUNITY GROUPS

SUPPORTED THROUGH **GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**



**1st**

REGIONAL EROSION AND SEDIMENT, EDUCATION AND TRIAL FACILITY ESTABLISHED



**19** EVENTS/SCHOOLS

**1400** VISITORS

TO THE **COASTAL EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY VAN**



**18** ENVIRONMENT RESERVES UNDER ESTABLISHMENT

**22,500** TREES

**87** NEST BOXES

FOR **LAND FOR WILDLIFE PROPERTIES**



**20** SCHOOLS

**340** STUDENTS

PARTICIPATED IN **KIDS IN ACTION**



**5** NEW VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

BRINGING TOTAL TO **92** AND PROTECTING **1425** HECTARES



**1500** PARTICIPANTS IN THE **INVERTEBRATE RESEARCH PROJECT** AT MARY CAIRNCROSS SCENIC RESERVE

MORE THAN **200** ATTENDEES AT THE **2021 CONSERVATION FORUM**



**9** FLYING FOX ROOSTS MONITORED TO INFORM ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

**300** HECTARES MANAGED THROUGH **COASTAL FORESHORE NETWORK**



PROACTIVE EDUCATION, MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE DELIVERED TO ALMOST **500** BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SITES



**5** PROJECTS FOCUSED ON **INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

Conservation Forum

Site compliance education





**Sunshine Coast**<sup>™</sup>  
COUNCIL

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