

# Environment Levy Att 3 Endorsed Descriptions

## ENVIRONMENT LEVY PROGRAM – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following table provides a summary outline of each project endorsed by Council for funding through the Environment Levy Program. The colour key corresponds to the funding themes consistent with the Environment Levy Policy:

<b>Funding Theme 1</b>	<b>Environmental Acquisitions Theme</b>
<b>Funding Theme 2</b>	<b>Major Initiatives and Catalysts Projects Theme</b>
<b>Funding Theme 3</b>	<b>Grants, Incentives and Partnerships Theme</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	<p>The Land Acquisition Program is a key strategic action of the <i>Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020</i>. This Program gives priority to acquiring lands that are of a viable size, demonstrating a high level of integrity and long term viability and that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• build on the region's existing conservation estate;</li> <li>• protect habitat for significant fauna and flora;</li> <li>• consolidate core and connecting habitat areas;</li> <li>• protect important corridors for wildlife movement;</li> <li>• have significant biodiversity values;</li> <li>• represent value for money; and that</li> <li>• deliver multiple benefits for the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning and Legal Costs</b>	<p>This project encompasses the purchase costs of acquiring land including associated consultancy, legal fees, transfer fees and background assessments.</p>
<b>Establishment Management Costs</b>	<p>This project encompasses the establishment activities for acquired land and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resource inventories;</li> <li>• technical advice on specific management issues;</li> <li>• immediate works to prepare for ongoing management; and</li> <li>• development of long term management programs.</li> </ul> <p>These activities are to take place within a reasonable period (three years) after purchase. Any ongoing maintenance of acquired properties will form a component of the annual Environmental Operations programs and budgets.</p>
<b>Waterways and Coastal Foreshores Strategy</b>	<p>This Project pertains to the region's natural rivers, wetlands and lakes; its coastal foreshores and its constructed lakes, wetlands and canals. This Project addresses waterways contamination and degradation within the Sunshine Coast region associated with urban runoff, rural runoff, water-based activities, and a range of environmentally relevant activities identified under the <i>Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy</i>. The Project components span policy, planning and legal provisions; community capacity building; partnerships; knowledge management and reporting; and on-ground works.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Report Card</b>	<p>This project aims to establish a consistent, rigorous and informative monitoring and reporting framework that enables transparent reporting of ecosystem and landscape health for the region over time. This will enable Council to benchmark and track its performance in relation to environmental management and nature conservation. This will be a crucial mechanism for Council (and the community) to evaluate whether it is achieving its <i>vision</i> as Australia's most sustainable region.</p>
<b>Regional Pilots and Catalytic Projects</b>	<p>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. Council contributes to a number of catalytic regional programs including SEQ Council of Mayors, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), SEQ Catchments and State Agencies and groups affiliated with the environmental programs of biodiversity; waterways, coastal and stormwater; climate change and peak oil; and community environmental initiatives. The project will support Council continuing involvement with these regional programs. The project scope specifically relates to Council partnerships with statutory and non-statutory bodies to foster a regional approach to environment policy, programs and catalytic projects. The project scope does not extend to informal</p>

## Environment Levy Att 3 Endorsed Descriptions

Project Name	Project Description
<b>Pest Management – Halting the Invasion on a Regional Scale</b>	groups loosely affiliated and independent of SCRC policy and programs. This project aims 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. This project also facilitates the identification and pursuit of partnership and funding opportunities in conjunction with external stakeholders. In particular, projects targeting the eradication of pest species consistent with the Caring for Our Country business plan.
<b>Coastal Dunal Rehabilitation</b>	This project aims to: 1. Prepare condition/site assessment information and map for the coasts dunal and rocky headland systems; 2. Monitor the health of Pandanus across the dunal system. This will extend upon a project undertaken along the foreshore dunes of the Mudjimba, Marcoola, Yaroomba and Coolum foreshore areas; and 3. Deliver onground ecological restoration works across the regions dunal and rocky headland systems extending from Kings Beach (Happy Valley) through to the northern end of Sunshine Beach.
<b>Pilot Stewardship Offset Project</b>	This project aims to pilot a market based approach for engaging key stakeholders in biodiversity conservation / offsetting partnerships on the Sunshine Coast that taps into carbon sequestration opportunities with links to rural futures. Project outcomes will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened vegetation and riparian corridors and linkages.</li> <li>• Healthier waterways.</li> <li>• A more resilient landscape.</li> <li>• Enhanced community capacity and participation.</li> <li>• Eradication of threatening processes i.e. weeds.</li> </ul>
<b>Road Reserve Conservation Strategy</b>	This project aims to identify the ecological values and threats to those values that occur within Sunshine Coast Council's rural road reserve network. Vegetation on rural road reserves has 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 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.
<b>Community Grants</b>	This project contributes funding towards Council's Community Grants Program, in the Environment category to encourage and support individuals and groups in the community to make a positive and ongoing contribution to the region's environmental sustainability. Priority will be given to projects that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen vegetation and riparian corridors and linkages.</li> <li>• Prevent erosion and sediment runoff into waterways.</li> <li>• Promote waterways and catchment health.</li> <li>• Contribute to landscape scale protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Building community capacity, engagement and participation.</li> <li>• Address major ecological threatening processes e.g. pests</li> </ul>
<b>Community Partnerships</b>	This project contributes funding towards Council's Community Grants Program to establish partnerships with specific groups and community organisations that can assist Council in achieving its vision and to encourage and support groups in the community to make a positive and ongoing contribution to the region's environmental sustainability. Priority will be given to organisations that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen biodiversity conservation, wise management of vegetation, riparian corridors and linkages.</li> <li>• Promote prevention of erosion and sediment runoff into waterways.</li> <li>• Promote waterways and catchment health.</li> </ul>

## Environment Levy Att 3 Endorsed Descriptions

Project Name	Project Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to landscape scale protection, monitoring and rehabilitation of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Building community capacity, engagement and participation.</li> <li>• Address major ecological threatening processes e.g. pests.</li> <li>• Promote community uptake of sustainable lifestyle practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity Partnerships - Growing the Toolbox</b>	<p>This project aims to investigate and scope the potential application of new and market based approaches for engaging key stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, including an Urban Land for Wildlife program. Council currently has a number of partnership programs such as Land for Wildlife, Voluntary Conservation Agreements and Community Grants and Incentives. Under this project, a biodiversity module has been developed to complements Council's Living Smart Homes Program to promote the region's biodiversity and ecological values and to encourage and actively engage local residents in urban communities to create, maintain and manage the landscapes within their own backyards for the purpose of providing habitat for our native wildlife species.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Partnerships - Pilot Bushland Neighbour Targeted Pest Management Program</b>	<p>This project seeks to establish targeted local partnerships with landholders neighbouring Environmentally Significant Areas, in the removal of pest species, in effect reducing Council's and the community ongoing maintenance requirements to conserve our natural assets. This project aims to complement the objectives of the biodiversity module of Living Smart Homes Program in working with urban communities.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Partnerships - Stewards of Our Future – Youth Stewardship</b>	<p>This project seeks to develop an annual youth engagement educational event that uses local environmental issues as a theme for learning, but also provides an opportunity for kids to develop skills, capacities and confidence in being able to do something about local environmental issues. 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.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Partnerships - New Landowners Information Kit</b>	<p>This projects aims to develop an environmental awareness information package and dissemination procedure aimed at existing and new rural, peri-urban and urban landowners. The need for this is based on observations and experiences of Council extension staff that in many cases new landowners to the area often do not have an understanding of the environmental values of the Sunshine Coast Council region or their local area including the property they have just purchased and what the relevant legislation is with regard to their environmental obligations (for example vegetation clearing local laws, declared plant species, environmental covenants on their property, pet management etc).</p>
<b>Biodiversity Partnerships - Equipping the Tool Box</b>	<p>This project outlines the 'tool box' required by Council to both protect and rebuild green infrastructure on private lands. This program will 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. This project is delivered using the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land for Wildlife</li> <li>• Landholder Incentives, including the Landholder Environmental Grants program</li> <li>• Voluntary Conservation Covenants and Agreements</li> </ul>
<b>Community Information and Education</b>	<p>This project aims to implement innovative and effective methods to engage and inform the community about Council's Environment Levy.</p>