Welcome to the July – September Quarterly Report for the Sunshine Coast Council’s Environment Levy. The Environment Levy assists Council and the community to deliver on the corporate goal of providing an enviable lifestyle and environment for the Sunshine Coast Council area.

In June 2015, Council endorsed the 2015/16 Environment Levy Program. Program implementation involves numerous departments across the organisation including Infrastructure Services, Community Services, Finance and Business and Regional Strategy and Planning.

Key Achievements

Key program achievements for July – September are provided below across four key messages.

Protecting and enhancing our environment

Pest Management
A newly established Coastal Fox Control Program that was conducted for 8 weeks from 9 June to 28 July removed 32 foxes and 2 wild dogs from our valuable dunal environments. This was implemented in partnership with Coolum Coast Care, Biosecurity Queensland and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for this program.

Koala Activity in Triunia
The Triunia Environmental Reserve which was acquired, and is managed through the Environment Levy Program is located in Woombye. Motion-sensing cameras set up in the reserve detected a koala (see photos below - 15/8/2015) after an officer noticed scats and scratches at a particular tree.

Providing healthy waterways and foreshores

Pumicestone Passage Rehabilitation Project
The Pumicestone Passage Rehabilitation Project being implemented at Bells Creek continues to receive good support from the neighbouring property owners. The site is responding well to the works undertaken including planting of native plants and the treatment of weeds.

Mary River Rehabilitation Project
An investigation reach has been identified for this project and planning is continuing to identify specific sites.
Maroochy River Rehabilitation project
Maroochy Catchment Services has been awarded the contract for this project with further on ground activities due to commence in late October.

Building our knowledge

Fauna Monitoring Project
Stage 1 baseline inventory data collection at 10 sites is nearing completion for this project. The Glasshouse Mountains Environmental Reserve and Marist Brothers Nature Refuge have been added as new sites to the project.

Engaging and supporting the sunshine coast community

Flying Fox Sunset Cruise
A community flying-fox sunset cruise on the Maroochy River was held on 27th July 2015 in partnership with Maroochy Cruises. The cruise included guided commentary by flying fox expert Dr Les Hall and council officers, on the importance and complexity of this animal.

Kids in Action Conference (KIA) 2015
24 schools, 320 students and teachers participated in this successful event, which is now in its 4th year of delivery. An outcome of this year’s conference was a youth environmental vision for the future, which was developed by students and presented to Council at the September Ordinary Meeting. (Below photo was taken at KIA 2015)

The Sunshine Coast Conservation Forum
The Environment Levy funded Sunshine Coast Conservation Forum was held on the 15th August at Lake Kawana Community Centre, with 9 speakers and approximately 200 attendees.

Tim Cope, an international award-winning Australia author, adventurer and filmmaker, was the keynote speaker at the event and shared stories from his journey along the trail of Genghis Khan.

Other topics covered were: Aboriginal landcare, fungi, experiences of a Land for Wildlife landholder and a volunteer, converting a backyard pool to a pond, and fighting disease in koalas.

Land for Wildlife
There has been great uptake for the Aug/Sept Land for Wildlife Incentives: 29 landholders received a herbicide package and participated in training; 45 landholders installed 225 nest boxes; and 82 landholders received 22,525 native seedlings.
Environment Levy Partnerships

Five new Environment Levy Partnerships ($104,850) were approved by Council in August. In 2015/16 a total of $548,738 (22 partnerships) is being invested through this program to support the activities of the community groups involved.

Pest Plant Property Inspections

Over 250 private property inspections were conducted to provide education to landowners on pest plants and issue notices where required.

Weed Decks distributed

To increase landholder’s knowledge in the identification and treatment of pest plants on their private properties, the produced Weed Decks will be distributed.

Wick wiper trailer

The custom designed and built trailer for the two wick wiper systems purchased by the Environment Levy has been constructed to assist their use by private landholders. This will allow both wick wipers to be delivered efficiently by council to landowners on a loan system. Wick wipers are able to treat Giant Rats Tail grass and other pest plants.


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