

6.2 NOOSA ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY - YEAR THREE (2021/2022) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ANNUAL UPDATED

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Index	Subject/21.44 - Environment Strategy
Attachments	1. Attachment 1 - Summary of action outcomes 2. Attachment 2 - Environment Grants Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report and attachments have been prepared to provide an update on the performance of the Noosa Environment Strategy 2019 inclusive of:

- Summary of progress against Noosa Environment Strategy Implementation Plan 2019 (2020-2023), which is a three-year plan containing several actions intended to initiate progress towards the targets in the Noosa Environment Strategy.
- Summary of Outcomes from the Environment Grants 2021/22 FY, a key part of the delivery of the Noosa Environment Strategy.

The report and attachments show the status of the Noosa Environment Strategy and Implementation Plan between 1 July 2021 to June 30, 2022, which is the end of the third year of the strategy life. The delay in the completion of third-year reporting was due to disruptions caused by staff changes in the Environmental Services Team and reduced capacity due to staff vacancies.

The report and attachments highlight how actions nominated in the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan are progressing and areas where attention is needed and/or further data is required for effective monitoring.

The Year 4 (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023) Monitoring Report and review and update of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan will be prepared and presented to Council by September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report by the Principal Environment Officer to the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting dated 11 July 2023 regarding the Noosa Environment Strategy – Year Three (2021/2022) Implementation Plan Annual Update and note;

- A. Year 3 (1 July 2021-30 June 2022) Summary Report provides an update on the progress of the 42 actions outlined in the Noosa Environment Strategy Implementation Plan for the 2021/22 FY. These actions are made up of four (4) enabling actions that will deliver outcomes across all four themes of the Environment Strategy, and 38 actions that are specific to each of the four themes: *Biodiversity; Waterways, wetlands & coasts; Sustainable living; and Climate change resilience and adaptation.*
 - B. Year 4 (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023) Monitoring Report and review and update of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan will be prepared and presented to Council by September 2023.
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REPORT

At the June 2019 Ordinary Meeting Noosa Council endorsed the [Noosa Environment Strategy](#) and [Noosa Environment Strategy Implementation Plan 2019-2023](#). The Noosa Environment Strategy is the key strategic policy document for Council related to our environment and the way we live within it. The Noosa Environment Strategy identifies key strategies, outcomes, and measurable targets that guide decision-making and support prioritisation of investment over the 10-year life of the strategy.

The Noosa Environment Strategy provides a clear monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework that consists of:

- Annual reporting on the progress of specific implementation actions associated with the Environment Strategy.
- Biennial reporting against the 12 targets identified in the Environment Strategy to measure the success of implementation.

A summary of the Environment Strategy, Implementation Plan and reporting requirements are summarised in Figure 1.

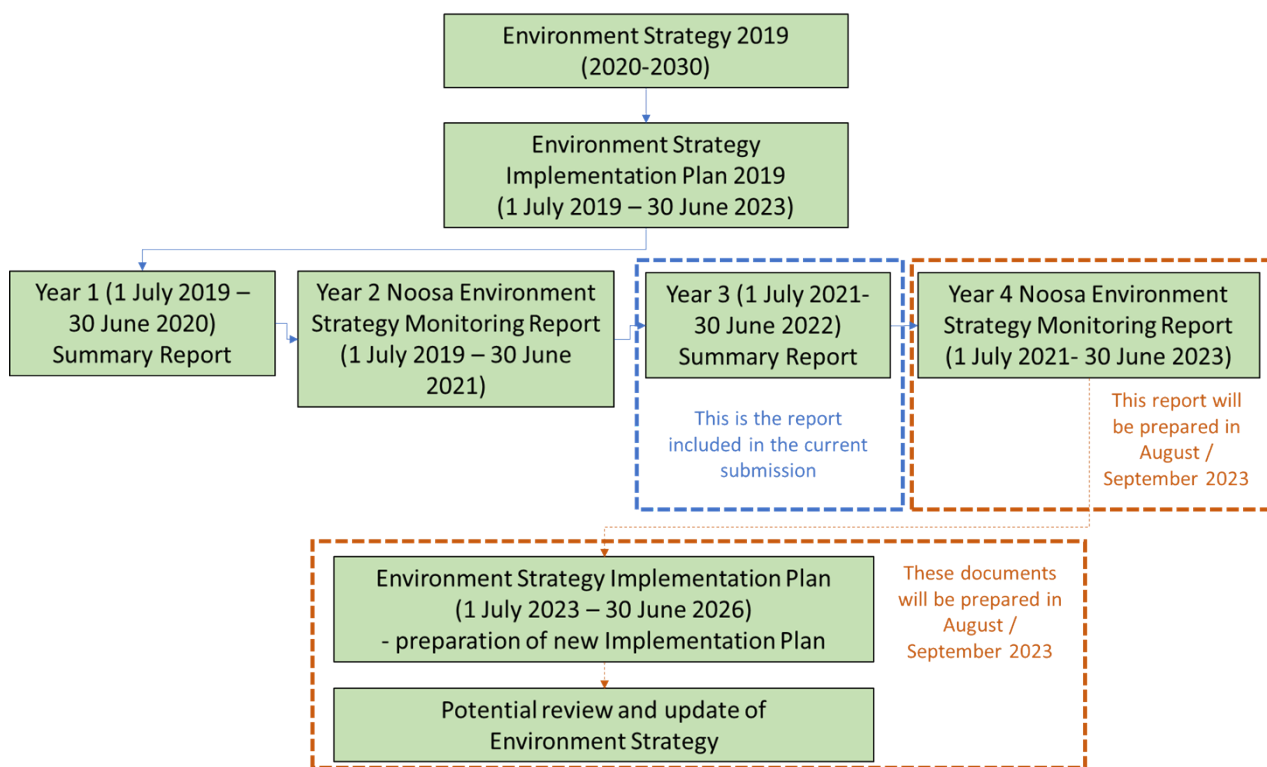


Figure 1. Environment Strategy, Implementation Plan, and reporting requirements

This Year 3 (1 July 2021-30 June 2022) Summary Report provides an update on the progress of the 42 actions outlined in the Noosa Environment Strategy Implementation Plan for the 2021/22 FY. These actions are made up of four (4) enabling actions that will deliver outcomes across all four themes of the Environment Strategy, and 38 actions that are specific to each of the four themes: *Biodiversity*; *Waterways, wetlands & coasts*; *Sustainable living*; and *Climate change resilience and adaptation*.






The Year 4 (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023) Monitoring Report and review and update of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan will be prepared and presented to Council by September 2023.

Implementation Plan - Summary of Progress

Progress of each of the actions in the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan have been assessed against the following criteria:

- **Completed:** action is complete, and no further action is required.
- **On target:** action is progressing in accordance with the delivery schedule/ implementation plan requirements.
- **Progressing:** steps have been taken towards this action, but the action is not being delivered in accordance with the delivery schedule/implementation plan requirements due to issues such as resourcing, financial constraints, or other delays.
- **Needs attention:** action either has not started, or not significantly progressed in accordance with the Implementation Plan.
- **Scheduled for future:** action has not begun and is intended to be initiated in future years, as identified in the Implementation Plan.

Of the 42 actions, only one was not planned to begin until the 2022/23 FY. **Attachment 1** provides details on the progress of each individual action item.

	Completed 	On target 	Progressing 	Needs attention 	Scheduled for future 
Environment Strategy	1	22	11	7	1
<i>Enabling actions</i>	0	2	1	1	0
<i>Biodiversity</i>	0	6	2	2	0
<i>Waterways, wetlands & Coasts</i>	0	3	5	2	0
<i>Sustainable living</i>	1	6	0	1	1
<i>Climate change adaptation & resilience</i>	0	5	3	1	0

Significant achievements in Year 3 (2021/2022)

A summary of the significant achievements delivered by Council against the actions nominated in the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan are provided below:

- Continuation of the Environment Grants Program supporting 8 community groups and 10 projects. The program also provided operational support to 6 community groups.
- The Bushland Reserve Strategic Management Plan identified 57 priority reserves requiring a Bushland Operational Assessments (BOAs), all of which were completed in the 2021/22 FY.
- In the 2021/22FY, 82 properties were visited as part of Council’s approved Biosecurity Surveillance Program, targeting Cats Claw Creeper and other priority weeds, with 3 advisory letters and 2 biosecurity orders issued.
- Rehabilitation actions are on target with Greenfleet and Noosa Landcare continuing revegetation works at Yurol and Ringtail State Forests.

- Continued growth of the Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) properties in the Noosa Shire, with 2 new VCAs signed up in the financial year. A highlight was the registration of a 32-hectare rural residential zoned property at Cooroibah that includes endangered regional ecosystems.
- Delivery of the second year of the Urban Wildlife Gardens Program (UWG), with continued growth of landowners involved in the program in the Noosa Shire.
- Commencement of the fine scale regional ecosystem (RE) mapping project of the Noosa Shire to improve knowledge of the region's environmental values and correct discrepancies between the Council biodiversity overlay and State vegetation management mapping. At the close of the 2021/2022FY approximately 29% of the Shire was completed.
- Delivery of fauna monitoring programs, including koala surveys using drones of Yurol Ringtail State Forest by QUT, monitoring Glossy-black Cockatoos through the Glossy Black Conservancy, and flying-fox monitoring under the National Flying-fox Monitoring Program.
- Wild dog control including trapping and baiting has been undertaken in some of the identified Koala Habitat Areas mostly on private land in the localities of Como, Kin Kin, Cootharaba, Cooran, Federal, and Ridgewood with 3 wild dogs trapped in these areas.
- Consolidation of water quality monitoring data for the Noosa Shire into the SWIM local database to allow long term trend analysis and identification of catchments requiring further management actions to be identified.
- The foundations for oyster reef ecosystems in place at four restoration sites in the Noosa River Estuary as part of the Noosa Oyster Ecosystem Restoration Project.
- Council has supported 18 Bushland Care Groups involved in various projects working towards the preservation of riparian vegetation under Bushland Restoration Plans.
- Scoping for the Eastern Beaches Coastal Foreshores Management Plan (EBFMP) commenced, and good initial progress made. A draft is scheduled for completion in the 2022/23 FY.
- The introduction of green waste bins saw approximately 16,000 tonnes annually of organic waste, that previously would have gone to landfill, diverted, and recycled for consumer use.
- The Waste Education and Sustainability Officer has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to deliver multiple education programs and events. More than 1300 students attended talks at the new waste education centre at the landfill.
- Council has extended its' solar array to 680kW to reduce greenhouse gas emissions GHGs. The total GHG emissions footprint for the 2021/22 financial year was 45,259 tonnes of CO2 equivalent, representing a 12% reduction on the previous year.
- 'Give a Sheet' was delivered in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul and BlockTexx Textile Recovery Technologies. The event was a Queensland-first circular economy initiative to reduce environmental impact by textile recycling.

Actions requiring review and further attention

Actions which were identified as requiring review and further attention to deliver the outcomes of the Environment Strategy include:

1. Implement an Environment & Sustainability Roundtable to provide a mechanism for local community groups, government stakeholders and experts to have input into the development of Council policy.
2. Identify priority land parcels that enhance landscape connectivity and seek to have them managed for environmental outcomes, either through direct purchase by Council, or utilising other appropriate protective mechanisms.

3. Work with stakeholders to review current fishing practises and achieve sustainable recreational and commercial fishing outcomes in the Noosa River.
4. Implement propagation programs that grow threatened plant species and result in new populations at appropriate, low-risk locations.
5. Implement a septic system inspection program in high priority areas (such as Noosa North Shore) to better understand the impact of these systems on the quality of surface water and groundwater systems.
6. Advocate for mandating minimum energy efficiency and renewable energy generation to all new development in the shire, including domestic residences.
7. Identify potential areas for carbon sequestration in the Noosa Shire and support landholders to take advantage of available opportunities.

Summary of outcomes from Environment Grants Program 2021/22 FY

Council has a long history of working with and supporting the community to achieve significant environmental outcomes. The Council's Environment Grants Program is funded by the Environmental Levy intends to support the implementation of the Noosa Environment Strategy, as well as Council's other key environment strategies and plans.

The Environment Grant Program is designed to enable collaboration with the community in initiatives that work towards the outcomes and targets identified in the Noosa Environment Strategy. All initiatives funded by the Environment Grants Program must have tangible and measurable outcomes.

There are three types of grants currently available under the Environment Grants Program:

1. Environment Project Grants: 1-year grants for projects, programs or events that align with the Noosa Environment Strategy, as well as Council's other key environment strategies and plans, and have a positive impact on the environment.
2. Multi-year Environment Collaborative (MEC) Grants: 3-year grants that support longer-term, larger-scale strategic initiatives that align with the Noosa Environment Strategy and have a significant positive impact on the Noosa environment.
3. Environment Organisation Alliance Grants: 3-year grants that provide organisational support to community groups that are primarily focused on environment activities.

The following funding amounts were allocated to the Environment Grants Program in 2021/2022 FY:

1. Environment Project & Climate Change Grants - \$75,000
2. Multi-year Environment Collaborative (MEC) Grants - \$261,574
3. Environment Organisation Alliance Grants – \$68,615

A summary of outcomes arising from the Environment Grants program is included in **Attachment 2**. This information has been gathered from the grant acquittal process and indicates that significant positive environmental outcomes are being delivered by the Environment Grants Program.

Link to Corporate Plan Theme No 1. - Environment

Focus areas include the natural environment, built environment, waterways and coasts and conservation and heritage.

The Environment Strategy and this summary report link to all Environment objectives (1.1 - 1.8) of the Corporate Plan.

Previous Council Consideration

Ordinary Meeting, 17 February 2022, Item 2, Page 4

That Council note the report by the Acting Environmental Services Manager to the Planning & Environment Committee Meeting dated 08/02/2022, providing the year 2 annual report on the implementation of the Noosa Environment Strategy.

Finance

The Noosa Environment Strategy 2019 and Implementation Plan is a funded program. Budget was allocated for the 2022/23 FY in the following areas to maintain and improve performance in the delivery of the Environment Strategy:

1. Biosecurity surveys to improve the knowledge on the distribution and abundance of invasive species through shire wide targeted plot survey, combined with an education extension program on selected land parcels, consistent with Action 5.0 of the Noosa Biosecurity Plan 2020.
2. New position (1 FTE) and supporting budget for accommodating growth in the Community Bushcare Program.
3. Continued funding for the Project Officer Fauna Management position (1 FTE) for threatened species management and Environment Officer Coastal Management position (1 FTE) to continue the preparation of foreshore management plans.
4. Support the growth in the Private Land Conservation Partnership program with increase in extension and education services through an additional 0.3 FTE.
5. Modernise Water Monitoring Programs for Noosa and Mary River by working with the Peregian Digital Centre and NRM Groups to use new technology and create new public dashboards so data can be used in decision making.

Risk & Opportunities

The highest risks associated with the implementation of the Noosa Environment Strategy 2019 lie with the actions which are identified as ‘progressing’ or ‘needing attention’ in Attachment 1. These actions have been reviewed and will be considered in more detail as part of the Year 4 (2022/2023) report and review the Implementation Plan and Environment Strategy.

Consultation

External Consultation - Community & Stakeholder

There has been no external consultation for this specific report, though it is noted that many of the programs have external implementation partners who are key community stakeholders.

Internal Consultation

Departments/Sections Consulted:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Councillors <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Executive Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Support	Community Services <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Community Development <input type="checkbox"/> Community Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries & Galleries	Corporate Services <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Services <input type="checkbox"/> Fleet <input type="checkbox"/> ICT
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- Local Laws
- Waste & Environmental Health

- Procurement
- Property
- Revenue Services

Executive Services

- Director
- Community Engagement
- Customer Service
- Governance
- People and Culture


Environment & Sustainable Development

- Director
- Building & Plumbing Services
- Development Assessment
- Economic Development
- Environmental Services
- Strategic Land Use Planning


Infrastructure Services

- Director
- Asset Management
- Buildings and Facilities
- Civil Operations
- Disaster Management
- Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery



Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

Enabling Actions	Status	Progress comments
<p>A. Implement an Environment Grants program to support community projects and programs that lead to implementation of the Environment Strategy.</p>		<p>Projects that contribute to implementation of the Noosa Environment Strategy are funded by Noosa Council through three different grant streams. The grant streams, and key projects they supported in the 2021/22 FY, are listed below.</p> <p>Projects funded by Environment Project Grants in the 21/22FY include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Series of workshops developed by Noosa District Landcare to support regenerative land management practices for private landowners. Council Investment of \$11,330. - Replace/relocate approximately 30 fishing line recovery bins installed at permanent sites along Noosa River to improve recreational fishing waste disposal behaviours. Council investment of \$11, 670. - Urban Wildlife Garden Program provided service to urban landowners wishing to enhance urban ecology by using native plants and increasing the understanding of biodiversity values on their property. Council investment of \$7,656. - 2021 and 2022 Noosa Electric Vehicle Expo with over 50 EV, EBuses, EScooters and Ebikes increase public knowledge and interest in E transport options. Council Investment \$7,500. - Solar Panel Installation for Heritage Centre in Cooroy. Council investment of \$2,765. - Solar for Strata delivered by ZEN and Tourism Noosa to address barriers to uptake of rooftop solar by body corporate committees. Council investment of \$18,000. <p>Projects funded by MEC grants in the 21/22FY include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging Local Communities in Restoring Bush (Roving Restorers Noosa Chapter) which is delivered by Noosa Landcare is a program that facilitates a group volunteer who deliver restoration and weed management works on both private and public land. Council investment of \$23,620.00 over three years. - Keep in in Kin Kin, delivered by Noosa & District Landcare is a large-scale soil conservation project in the Kin Kin creek catchment that focuses on engaging private landholders to undertake remediation works in priority riparian areas on their properties. Council investment of \$240,000 over three years. - Plastic Free Noosa, by Tourism Noosa, is a program aiming to drive wide-scale change by empowering the Noosa community in eliminating single-use plastics through


Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

Enabling Actions	Status	Progress comments
		<p>direct engagement and facilitating circular economies. Council investment of \$185,400 over three years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hinterland Rural Extension Program, delivered by Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, also focuses on private land riparian remediation. Council investment of \$105,000 over three years. <p>Organisations that received operational support from the Environment Organisation Alliance Grants in the 21/22 FY period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife Noosa; - Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA); - Noosa & District Landcare; - Noosa Environmental Education Hub (NEEH); - Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN) Inc.; - Wildcare Noosa; - Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC); and - Flying-fox Rescue Release Noosa Inc.
<p>B. Implement an Environment & Sustainability Roundtable to provide a mechanism for local community groups, government stakeholders and experts to have input into the development of Council policy.</p>		<p>The intent of this Noosa Environment Strategy enabling action is to transition from informal stakeholder engagements to a more formal mechanism for providing input to Council’s key environmental initiatives. Disruptions to normal operations and staffing due to COVID limited progress toward this enabling action in the 21/22 FY.</p> <p>Meetings with key local Natural Resource Management groups were conducted to share program information. In addition, the Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the Climate Change Response Community Advisory Group continue to provide opportunity for stakeholder input into development of Council Policy.</p> <p>Implementation of the formal Environment & Sustainability Round Table will be further considered in the next financial year.</p>




Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

Enabling Actions	Status	Progress comments
<p>C. Support community environmental and sustainable development networks and forums to build partnerships to drive the implementation of the Environment Strategy.</p>		<p>Noosa Council supported the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF) to (1) develop a Sustainability Forum, due to launch in the next financial year, that will bring social, economic, and environment sectors together, and (2) explore development of a data sharing portal to provide easy access to research data for Noosa Shire.</p> <p>‘Give a Sheet’ was delivered in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul and BlockTexx Textile Recovery Technologies. The event was a Queensland-first circular economy initiative to reduce environmental impact by textile recycling.</p> <p>Noosa Council were also participating members at a range of environmental management networking events such as a Healthy Land and Water regional forum to improve catchment management, and Landcare events.</p>
<p>D. Undertake monitoring programs required for evaluating and reporting on the success of the implementation of the Environment Strategy.</p>		<p>Monitoring programs are underway for ecosystems, important habitat, threatened species, and water quality. See below for actions 7, 8, and 11 for monitoring to evaluate success of Environment Strategy implementation.</p>




Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

THEME: BIODIVERSITY		
Actions: Protect and enhance existing ecosystems, vegetation networks and habitats		
<p>1. Undertake environmental restoration activities throughout Council’s conservation reserves. Prepare Bushland Operational Assessments (BOAs) for Council reserves to monitor the success of work.</p>		<p>The 2021/22 FY was the first year of Bushland Reserve Strategic Management Plan implementation, which is the guiding document for managing Council’s Bushland Reserve network up to 2026. The plan has identified 57 priority Bushland Reserves for ecological restoration activities. The Natural Areas team and Community Bushland Care Program have commenced activities to enhance ecosystem condition and resilience by best practice methods defined in <i>South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Guideline and Manual</i>.</p> <p>The Noosa Bushland Reserve Strategic Management Plan provides recommendations for how Council should manage its bushland reserve network over the next five years to achieve bushland reserve network objectives. Three management categories - Protect, Enhance, and Monitor - have been allocated to priority reserves. Approximately 38% of Council’s bushland reserve network is included within the Enhance management program, under which ecological restoration activities focus on developing ecosystem resilience, adhering to best practice detailed in the SE Qld Ecological Restoration Framework Guideline and Manual (Chenoweth 2012).</p> <p>Bushland Operational Assessments (BOAs) are a resilience-based method for mapping native vegetation condition. Mapping guides on-ground restoration works to improve ecosystem resilience. The BOAs provide quantitative baseline data to monitor efforts for the next 5 years. The Bushland Reserve Strategic Management Plan identifies 57 priority reserves requiring a BOA, all of which were completed in the 2021/22 FY.</p> <p>There is a risk of being unable to adequately manage continued growth and participation in the Community Bushland Care Program and this has been identified as a priority for funding consideration in the 2022/23 FY budget.</p>



Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

<p>2. Reduce the threat of priority biosecurity risks, such as pest plants and animals, on Council land and support private landholders to do the same.</p>		<p>In the 2021/22 FY, 82 properties were visited as part of Council’s approved Biosecurity Surveillance Program, targeting Cats Claw Creeper and other priority weeds. Biosecurity threats were detected on 15 of these properties with 3 advisory letters and 2 Biosecurity orders issued. Ongoing assistance is provided to landholders to control Fireweed in the Lake MacDonald area and Cats Claw Creeper in the Upper Six Mile Creek catchment area.</p> <p>Pest Management Officers continue to provide ongoing assistance to landholders in the control of Wild Dogs, Fox, Deer, Feral Cat and Myna Birds on private land as part of their regular business.</p> <p>In 2021/22, 26 landowners received Land for Wildlife management incentives, with 13.7 hectares of land managed for weeds including Camphor Laurel, Cat’s Claw vine and lantana. Council also invested \$25,000, with a landowner co-contribution of \$15,500 and materials totalling \$2,900.</p>
<p>3. Implement rehabilitation programs of former forestry areas in the Yurol and Ringtail State Forests, in preparation for the land to be transferred to National Park.</p>		<p>Rehabilitation actions are on target with Greenfleet and Noosa Landcare continuing revegetation works.</p>
<p>Actions: Expand vegetation networks and habitat</p>		
<p>4. Support private landholders to achieve environmental outcomes on their property through an expanded Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement Program.</p>		<p>As of 30 June 2022, there are 419 Land for Wildlife properties collectively managing 2,700 hectares of retained habitat and 470 hectares of habitat under restoration, and there were 21 active Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) properties, with 2 new VCAs signed up in the financial year. A highlight was the registration of a 32-hectare rural residential zoned property at Cooroibah that includes endangered regional ecosystems.</p>



Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

<p>5. Identify priority land parcels that enhance landscape connectivity and seek to have them managed for environmental outcomes, either through direct purchase by Council, or utilising other appropriate protective mechanisms.</p>		<p>Several properties were assessed for potential acquisition during the year however no acquisitions were made due to high market prices and staff resourcing limitations.</p>
<p>6. Undertake an urban environmental education program to improve environmental outcomes for urban wildlife in strategic locations.</p>		<p>The Urban Wildlife Gardens Program (UWG) commenced its second year with good uptake from landholders. This is a Council program, funded through the Environment grants, that has been developed and is delivered by Noosa Integrated Catchment Association. The program aims to assist urban property owners in enhancing habitat opportunities in their own backyards through education and professional advice. Participants receive a property visit from the program coordinator who provides information and advice tailored to their properties and supplies a number of appropriate native plants. Six relevant workshops per year are also available to UWG participants. An Urban Wildlife Gardens welcome pack for new residents has been developed and is proving to be quite popular with local real estate agents. The pack includes an invitation to join UWG, a copy of Noosa Native Plants – a field guide to our local flora, and information on responsible pet ownership and managing weeds.</p>
<p>Actions: Improve long-term survival for threatened species and ecological communities</p>		
<p>7. Undertake detailed biodiversity assessments across different Broad Vegetation Groups, with a view to understanding and monitoring the health of biodiversity across the Shire.</p>		<p>ShapingSEQ 2017 maps biodiversity values and identifies matters of state environmental significance (MSES) critical to protecting ecosystem functions and species at regional scale, and states that “these values are to be investigated and refined by local government for protection as matters of local environmental significance (MLES)” (p. 89).</p> <p>Fieldwork has been undertaken to (1) improve knowledge of Noosa Shire’s environmental values by fine-scale RE mapping, (2) improve accuracy of baseline State preclear mapping, (3) correct discrepancies between Council biodiversity overlay and State vegetation management mapping, and (4) update cleared areas, regrowth, and high-value regrowth in mapping products. At the close of the 2021/22FY approximately 29% of the Shire fieldwork and mapping was completed.</p>



Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

		<p>In conjunction with the above fieldwork, data was collected on EVNT species and large, hollow-bearing trees. During the 2021/22FY, approximately 60 ENVNT species records were added to local and State databases and 48 hollow-bearing trees were recorded to inform development of an old-growth overlay, protection of old-growth rainforest and eucalypt forest, and management of hollow-dependent fauna.</p>
<p>8. Scope and undertake monitoring programs on populations of 6-8 key representative threatened species, to mitigate against local extinctions.</p>		<p>Delivery of ongoing monitoring programs including koala surveys using drones of Yurol Ringtail State Forest by QUT, monitoring Glossy-black Cockatoos through the Glossy Black Conservancy, and flying-fox monitoring under the National Flying-fox Monitoring Program.</p> <p>Given there has been no other notable work on this significant action, and considering community concerns for various species, Council appointed a Fauna Management Project Officer in March 2022. This has resulted in a draft Threatened Fauna Recovery Road Map being endorsed for public consultation by Council in May 2022.</p> <p>The limited progress on this action prior to the appointment of the Fauna Management Project Officer was identified as a key risk for biodiversity in Noosa Shire. Therefore, the consideration of priority funding in the 2022/23 FY budget for threatened fauna recovery has been requested. Assuming funding for the Fauna Management Officer is on-going, commitments under Strategy 1.3 of the NES are expected to be on target in the next reporting period.</p>
<p>9. Implement propagation programs that grow threatened plant species and result in new populations at appropriate, low-risk locations.</p>		<p>Council has provided financial support to Noosa Landcare who undertake propagation of threatened plant species. Council has provided letters of support for the Community Sustainability Action Grant – Threatened Species Recovery CSAT22019 via the NBCC bushland care group (auspiced by Noosa Integrated Catchment Authority) to propagate <i>Eucalyptus conglomerate</i> and establish populations across Tewanin National Park and Girraween Nature Reserve. Council will continue to maintain planted species. Council's role in implementing propagation programs will be reviewed as part of the Implementation Plan Review in 2023.</p>





Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

<p>10. Undertake targeted wild dog control in key Koala Habitat Areas as identified in Koala Threat Mapping.</p>		<p>Wild dog control including trapping and baiting has been undertaken in some of the identified Koala Habitat Areas mostly on private land in the localities of Como, Kin Kin, Cootharaba, Cooran, Federal, and Ridgewood with 3 wild dogs trapped in these areas. A significant portion of the Koala Habitat Area identified is National Park and an agreement/partnership is yet to be developed concerning wild dog control in these areas.</p>
<p>THEME: WATERWAYS, WETLANDS AND COASTS</p>		
<p>Actions: Maintain & improve the health of waterways, wetlands & catchments</p>		
<p>11. Develop an integrated water monitoring network for Council, community, and other agencies, including event monitoring of sediments, nutrients and litter for Noosa and Mary Catchments, and a Mary River sub- catchment baseline and report card.</p>		<p>Three workshops have been held with external stakeholders involved in the integrated water quality monitoring program - Noosa & District Landcare, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, and Noosa Integrated Catchment Association, to discuss the purpose and objectives of the program. Components of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-catchment reporting to supplement the annual Noosa River Healthy Land & Water Report Card; Trial telemetry logger program and locations for installation; • Development of live dashboard with water quality monitoring data accessible to the public and consistent with water quality monitoring methodology; and • Training to ensure methods are replicated between all stakeholders. <p>All water quality monitoring data (except for Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee which is still in progress) has been uploaded into the SWIM local database. SWIM local have provided training workshops to Council, Noosa Integrated Catchment Association and Noosa & District Landcare in the use of the program and provide support where necessary.</p> <p>Council will continue to liaise with natural resource management groups to implement the program.</p>



Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

<p>12. Improve the water quality and biodiversity of the Noosa River by restoring aquatic habitats, such as oyster reefs, and improving riparian vegetation.</p>		<p>The foundations for oyster reef ecosystems are in now place at four restoration sites in the Noosa River Estuary as part of the Noosa Oyster Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Nature Conservancy and NICA will continue post reef construction monitoring and reporting, reef seeding events and targeted community engagement activities.</p> <p>Under the Community Bushland Care Program, there are 18 Bushland Care Groups involved in various projects working towards the preservation of riparian vegetation under Bushland Restoration Plans. NSC supports Community Group projects through grant funding. Land for Wildlife members also receive extension advice on riparian vegetation management if applicable.</p> <p>Noosa Council's Natural Areas team undertake vegetation management works under the same plans and work with community groups to manage riparian areas throughout Council's Bushland Reserves.</p> <p>Council has also provided support through grants to the Keep It In Kin Kin project delivered by Noosa & District Landcare, aimed at reducing the mobilisation of soil in the upper Kin Kin Creek catchment and reducing fine sediment loads from entering Lake Cootharaba. The project consists of extension services to landholders, direct management of invasive weeds, community workshops and engagement activities, and water quality monitoring at 10 locations in the catchment.</p>
<p>13. Investigate and implement best practice solutions to reverse the decline of benthic biodiversity and primary production in the lower Noosa Estuary.</p>		<p>The report released in August 2020 highlighted fine silt sediments as the primary cause of benthic biodiversity and primary production decline in the Noosa River.</p> <p>Two major projects are underway to progress this action, Keep it in Kin Kin – a large scale project aimed at preventing mobilization of soil in the upper Kin Kin creek catchment to reduce fine sediment loads entering the Noosa River, and Noosa Oyster Reef Ecosystem Restoration – aiming to re-instate oyster habitat in the Noosa River. Council's Rivers & Coast branch are working closely with local NRM groups on investigation of options for seagrass restoration in the Noosa River.</p>





Attachment 1 - Year Three (2021/2022) Summary of progress against actions of the Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.

<p>14. Enhance Integrated Catchment Management of the Noosa River and Mary River sub- catchments, with a focus on improving land use, wetland, and riparian management practices through landholder engagement on on-ground rehabilitation programs.</p>		<p>Council grants support three projects that contribute to this action. Keep it in Kin Kin, the Hinterland Rural Extension Program, and the Noosa chapter of Roving Restorers.</p> <p>Council's Natural Areas team contribute directly to this action through management of Bushland Reserves, and Land for Wildlife members receive extension advice on improving land use, wetland and riparian management at property visits/inspections.</p>
<p>15. Implement a septic system inspection program in high priority areas (such as Noosa North Shore) to better understand the impact of these systems on the quality of surface water and groundwater systems.</p>		<p>Noosa Council's Plumbing team are responsible for undertaking inspections of septic tanks. The Rivers & Coast team will work with Environmental Health and Plumbing to determine high priority areas to focus on.</p>
<p>Actions: Protect and enhance coastal environments and vegetated buffers to coastal foreshores</p>		
<p>16. Investigate the need and appropriateness of statutory mechanisms to protect Noosa's coastal and marine waters, including the lower reaches of the Noosa River.</p>		<p>Through the Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Noosa Council has been working closely with Maritime Safety Queensland on the introduction of new regulations concerning vessel management in the Noosa River, including vessel speed, anchoring, mooring, and live-aboard vessels. The possible expansion of Councils Local Laws governing foreshores is also currently being investigated</p>
<p>17. Implement an Eastern Beaches dune rehabilitation program to improve the condition, species diversity and stability of dune ecosystems and enhance resilience to climate change.</p>		<p>Scoping for the Eastern Beaches Coastal Foreshores Management Plan (EBFMP) has commenced, and good initial progress made. A draft is scheduled for completion in the 2022/23 FY.</p> <p>The Eastern Beaches Bushcare Collaborative continue to undertake dune rehabilitation works, enabled by Council funding commitment of \$225,000 over three years through MEC grants. Six Community Bushland Care groups undertook dune rehabilitation in the 2021/22 financial year. The Eastern Beaches continue to be the area of highest interest and participation by community Bushcare groups.</p>





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		<p>The Noosa Environment Strategy 2019 requires review of changes to the extent and number of coastal Regional Ecosystems (REs) every five years. Detailed RE mapping for the Eastern Beaches Foreshores Reserves was extracted from State government datasets as part of EBFMP development, revealing significant expansion of mapped High Value Regrowth (HVR) and some expansion of mapped REs. The total mapped HVR and RE vegetation increased from 87.3 ha to 126.9 ha from 2021 to 2022, including four new REs - 12.2.5, 12.2.7, 12.2.13, and 12.2.15. While most of the increase reflects more detailed and accurate mapping rather than increased vegetation extent alone, this updated data provides an accurate benchmark for future monitoring.</p>
<p>Manage waterways and coasts to protect environmental values while enabling sustainable public access, recreation and commercial use</p>		
<p>18. Work with stakeholders to review current fishing practises and achieve sustainable recreational and commercial fishing outcomes in the Noosa River.</p>		<p>The Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee has determined that review of fisheries practices is not a priority for their immediate attention.</p> <p>It is noted that the Qld Government Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 includes progressive annual reporting. See https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/sustainable-fisheries-strategy-overview</p>
<p>19. Undertake a stormwater quality improvement program that includes an audit of stormwater quality improvement devices, analysing current infrastructure, current best practice and options to improve infrastructure as it is due for replacement.</p>		<p>The Assets team has been undertaking an audit of stormwater quality improvement devices to determine asset condition. Each device is given a rating from 1 - 5 to determine priorities for drain upgrades and further water sensitive urban design solutions.</p>




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<p>20. Work in partnership with a range of stakeholders including Kabi Kabi to provide an on-river presence to deliver a range of environmental and education programs, and support compliance with regulations on the Noosa River.</p>		<p>Noosa Integrated Catchment Association deliver a long-standing Council funded program that addresses this action. Program objectives include: assisting implementation of local, catchment and regional strategies; providing information to facilitate education and awareness on catchment, river, biodiversity, water quality, ecosystem health, and fisheries management; providing assistance to institutional, government, and industry based research; identifying environmental issues and potential project sites; coordinating litter collection and assisting with pollution control; and promoting community discussion and participation. Council supports a river ranger program through the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program.</p>
<p>THEME: SUSTAINABLE LIVING</p>		
<p>Actions: Reduce waste to landfill</p>		
<p>21. Work with other agencies on a Regional Waste Strategy to develop broader regional solutions to local waste management problems.</p>		<p>The Waste Manager has now joined the COMSEQ waste group to discuss opportunities in South East Queensland. Previously we were not able to do this as Noosa Shire Council was not a member of COMSEQ. Noosa Council has progressed a regional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gympie Shire Council regarding waste management solutions and will continue to work with Gympie Shire Council on specific projects. Noosa Council, Sunshine Coast Council and Unitywater are also in preliminary discussions regarding collaboration and investigating regional solutions.</p>
<p>22. Improve rates of commercial recycling and green waste diversion through implementation of bulk green waste bins and targeted education and behaviour change programs for commercial users.</p>		<p>Green waste bins are now available to all residents resulting in 16,000 tonnes of green waste being diverted from landfill. Targeted education and behaviour change programs will be implemented as part of the Noosa Waste Strategy 2023-2027.</p>
<p>23. Develop a waste education centre at the Noosa Landfill Resource Recovery Centre to support waste and sustainability education programs for school-aged children and broader community</p>		<p>This action has been completed. A recycling talk and landfill tour was delivered to over 1300 students in this reporting period. Participation in climate conversations community talks and supporting schools with waste audits and implementation of a waste strategy to improve waste behaviours.</p>




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<p>24. Continue to increase the different types of recycling services available to Noosa residents.</p>		<p>As part of a ‘continuous improvement’ way of operating, the waste team continues to investigate opportunities to divert different waste streams from landfill subject to available technologies, operational viability, and market drivers.</p>
<p>25. Provide waste and sustainability education programs to improve the understanding of waste management and sustainability in the Noosa community.</p>		<p>This work is ongoing. The Waste Education and Sustainability Officer has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to deliver multiple education programs and events, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling talks to schools, kindergartens, and community groups; • Weekly Facebook posts for “Waste Free Friday”; • A public landfill tour; participation in Green drinks; • Annual textile drive; and • Plastic free initiatives. <p>More than 1300 students attended talks at the new waste education centre at the landfill.</p>
<p>Actions: Encourage incorporation of more sustainable building elements</p>		
<p>26. Advocate for mandating minimum energy efficiency and renewable energy generation to all new development in the shire, including domestic residences.</p>		<p>The Noosa Plan 2020 sets the minimum requirements for sustainable building design for multiple dwellings and commercial development through the Sustainable Building Design Works Code and supporting Planning Scheme Policy for Sustainable Design. Work is ongoing preparing submissions to the Federal Government to advocate for updates to the National Construction Code for higher energy efficiency standards, as well as preparations for a CoAG motion to help with this (submitted in August 2022).</p>
<p>27. Advance the idea of a Noosa Sustainability Institute to establish a coordinated approach to research and activity occurring in our community towards sustainability.</p>		<p>Discussions with Economic Development and Strategic Planning have continued. It was agreed that any actions should align with the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation's future priorities and strategic plan, which are still being finalised.</p>

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Actions: Adopt sustainable agricultural practices		
<p>28. Support the community to connect a circular economy for organic waste through enhanced connectivity between providers and end users.</p>		<p>This action has progressed well. The introduction of green waste bins saw approximately 16,000 tonnes annually of organic waste, that previously would have gone to landfill, diverted, and recycled for consumer use. The waste team are currently developing a Waste Strategy and further enhancement of this action will be a key component.</p>
<p>29. Support on-ground actions with landholders that improve environmental, economic, and social outcomes on rural properties throughout Noosa while contributing to long-term sustainability of rural landscapes in the Shire.</p>		<p>The action is progressing and at this stage is serviced through the following two different program streams. Council’s Community Conservation Partnership programs, Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreements where participants receive extension advice on sustainable land management as well as contractor support and materials such as tube stock for riparian revegetation.</p> <p>The other being through Council’s grants program which funds multiple projects contributing to this action. These are: The Keeping it in Kin Kin project and Regenerative Land Management Workshop series, both delivered by Noosa Landcare; the Hinterland Rural Extension Program delivered by MRCCC; and the Roving Restorers by Hinterland Bush Links. Combined total Council investment is \$405,189.00</p>
THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE		
Actions: Reduce emissions and resource consumption		
<p>30. Identify potential areas for carbon sequestration in the Noosa Shire and support landholders to take advantage of available opportunities.</p>		<p>Council participated in the WRI Pilot Project for the Land Sector and Removal Guidance, and an option analysis for purchasing vs generating offsets on Council land has been conducted. Identification of potential strategic areas for carbon sequestration needs to be completed.</p>

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<p>31. Investigate emission reduction opportunities at Noosa landfill for reducing the creation of methane-based emissions.</p>		<p>New vertical wells have been installed and gas capture has increased significantly. Staff are in ongoing discussions with LMS energy for future emissions reduction opportunities.</p> <p>In addition to the role out of the Green waste bins, the Waste team are currently working towards producing a strategy to reduce organic waste to landfill. These initiatives are to be incorporated into the Noosa Waste Strategy 2023-2027.</p>
<p>32. Implement energy efficiencies throughout Council-owned facilities and operations, such as the installation of solar PV systems and use of lower-emission transport options.</p>		<p>Over 680 kW of solar has now been installed across Council buildings and facilities, resulting in emissions reductions and cost savings.</p>
<p>33. Investigate Noosa Council’s future emission offset possibilities, identifying the options with the most environmental, social and economic co-benefits.</p>		<p>The 2021/22 Carbon footprint was 45,259 tonnes CO₂e. This was a 12% reduction on the previous year’s carbon footprint.</p>

Attachment 2 - Summary of projects funded from Environmental Grants 2021/22FY

Noosa Council provides funding to projects working towards Noosa Environment Strategy targets through three different grant streams, these are:

- 1) Environment Project Grants
- 2) Multi-year Environment Collaborative (MEC) Grants
- 3) Environment Organisation Alliance Grants

Projects funded by Environment Project Grants in the 21/22FY are detailed in the table below.

Grant program	Organisation	Project title	Funding allocated	Total
Environment Project Grants	Noosa Integrated Catchment Assoc Inc	A Line in the Sand (ALITS)	\$11,670.00	\$92,047.00
	Noosa Integrated Catchment Assoc Inc	Enter the Flyosphere	\$14,977.00	
	Permaculture Noosa Inc	Permaculture Noosa Climate Change Garden	\$1,730.00	
	Zero Emissions Noosa Inc.	Growing the Uptake of Solar on Noosa Strata Properties	\$20,500.00	
	Tourism Noosa	Carbon Free Noosa Holiday Travel Calculator	\$6,820.00	
	Noosa District Landcare	Regenerative Land Management Workshop Series	\$11,330.00	
	Hinterland Bush Links	Engaging local communities in restoring bush	\$23,620.00	
	Wild life Noosa	Noosa Indian Myna Bird Reduction Project	\$1,400.00	
Multi-year Environment Collaborative (MEC) Grant	Noosa District Landcare	Keeping It In Kin Kin Project (KIIKK)	\$80,739.12	\$259,959.12
	MRCCC	Protecting Noosa's Biodiversity through community programs	\$7,200.00	
	Tourism Noosa	Plastic Free Noosa	\$61,800.00	
	Noosa Integrated Catchment Assoc Inc	Coastal Connect 2	\$75,220.00	
	MRCCC	Hinterland Rural Extension Program	\$35,000.00	

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Grant program	Organisation	Project title	Funding allocated	Total
Environment Organisation Alliance Grants	Wildlife Noosa Ltd	Operational Support	\$1,015.00	\$66,600.00
	Noosa Environmental Education Hub	Operational Support	\$16,000.00	
	Noosa & District Landcare Group Inc.	Operational Support	\$10,150.00	
	Flying-fox Rescue Release Noosa Inc	Operational Support	\$11,165.00	
	Zero Emissions Noosa Inc.	Operational Support	\$18,270.00	
	Noosa Integrated Catchment Assoc Inc	Operational Support	\$10,000.00	