

# Environmental Levy Annual Report

2018/2019



## Acknowledgement of Country

Logan City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# Logan City Council 2018/19 Environmental Levy Annual Report

Logan City Council is committed to delivering a green and renewable city of the future, and Council's *Corporate Plan 2017-2022* recognises the pivotal role we play in supporting our community's liveability and quality of life.

With a drive to be an Innovative, Dynamic City of the Future, Logan City Council uses responsible urban planning in the City of Logan to protect rural living, our natural environment and green spaces. Council is committed to delivering a green and renewable city of the future and our natural environment plays a pivotal role in supporting our community's liveability and quality of life.

Logan City Council seeks to be a sustainable organisation which promotes quality of life and well-being for residents. Council sees this as key to nurturing cohesive communities, ecological health, economic vitality, intergenerational equity, access to resources and the fair distribution of wealth.

Environmental sustainability recognises the important relationship the environment has with the long-term sustainability of all communities. The interconnectivity between the health of the environment and the economic and social health of communities is profound. It is in this context that Council delivers and promotes a range of environmental initiatives.

Logan City Council's Environmental Levy funds a range of these environmental initiatives which support this goal by embracing new ways of creating better communities.

*The Environmental Levy Annual Report (2018/19)* showcases the environmental initiatives, projects, programs and services which were delivered across the city for the 2018/19 financial year.

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# Environmental Levy Financial Snapshot

## 2018/19 Income:

- \$8,847,810 from Environmental Levy rates charge less discounts and remissions.

## 2018/19 Expenditure:

### Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

\$4,513,313 included:

- \$3,278,663 on bushland maintenance and BushCare;
- \$384,650 on aquatic and environmental weed control; and
- \$850,000 on environmental park enhancement.

During 2018/19 there were no new acquisitions of land utilising the Environmental Levy funds.

### Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education Services

\$1,064,724 included the Conservation Incentives Program, environmental programs, events and activities including LEAF, EnviroGrants, World Environment Day Poster competition and rural land holder engagement.

### Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change Services

\$2,753,248 included the Logan River Vision 2017-2067, the Albert River Vision 2017-2067, Logan River and wetlands recovery actions, koala conservation actions, Slacks Creek recovery project works, flying-fox management actions, waterbody asset management works and carbon and energy management actions.

### Other Charges/Expenditure

\$546,534

### Total Reserve Balance as at 30 June 2019

\$6,169,111



## 2018/19 Income:



**\$8,847,810**

from Environmental Levy  
rates charge

## 2018/19 Expenditure:



**\$4,513,313**

Acquisition and Management of  
Ecologically Significant Land



**\$1,064,724**

Conservation Incentives Program,  
Environmental Programs,  
Events and Activities



**\$2,753,248**

Logan River Vision 2017-2067,  
Albert River Vision 2017-2067,  
Logan River and  
Wetlands Recovery Actions,  
Koala Conservation Actions,  
Slacks Creek Recovery Project Works,  
Flying-fox Management Actions,  
Waterbody Asset Management  
Works, Carbon and Energy  
Management Actions



**\$546,534**

Other Charges/Expenditure



**\$6,169,111**

Total Reserve Balance as at  
30 June 2019

# City of Logan – Naturally Green

Logan City Council's Environmental Levy funds are generated and managed in accordance with Council's adopted Environmental Levy policy and support the delivery of Council's corporate environmental priorities and services:

## Priority: Green and Renewable (GR)

We use responsible urban planning in the City of Logan to protect rural living, our natural environment and green spaces. Our hectares of parkland are surrounded by waterbodies and waterways that meander through the city. We enable investment and delivery of renewable technologies and prepare our city transition to a carbon conscious community. We value our environment, safeguarding our biodiversity, local wildlife, threatened species and green corridors. Our priorities:

- A carbon neutral and green city
- Our waterways and waterbodies are healthy
- We employ sustainable waste management and recycling practices

Environmental Levy funds are allocated to acquire land, fund capital investment and operational costs (including employee costs) to deliver services, projects and initiatives across three key themes.



*Underwood Park, Priestdale*

# 1

## Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

*Logan River*

# Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

- Operational maintenance of Council's 415 environmentally significant parks and natural areas (5,278 ha) which included priority maintenance of the top 150 reserves.
- Operational maintenance included weed control, rubbish removal and pathways/trails maintenance across the estate of environmentally significant parks and natural areas.
- Delivery of the City of Logan BushCare program with 15 registered Bushcare groups and 1 TrailCare group across the city, with a total of 156 active registered volunteers across both programs. During 2018/19, approximately 54 new volunteers joined these programs.
- In total 7,862 plants were established in Parks/Reserves through the BushCare and TrailCare Parks Communities program during 2018/19.
- An additional 25 Hollow Log Homes nest-boxes were installed at Big River Country Park, Logan Village, and Lavelle Park, Greenbank.
- An audit of the 237 Council managed nest boxes was conducted, with 76% of nest boxes being occupied by native species at the time of the audit and some parks having 100% occupancy (Chambers Flat Cemetery, Logan West Bushland Reserve, Middle Road Park and Regents Park).
- Tree hollow creation works took place at sites in Kurrajong Park, New Beith and Gillan Street, Cornubia.
- Wildlife fodder plantations were maintained and improved at Battle St Park, Bayes Park and Eagleby Wetlands to provide wildlife carers across the City of Logan with high quality fodder for raising sick and injured wildlife.
- Monthly inspections were undertaken to control aquatic and environmental weeds at 18 key waterbodies listed in the Water Body Asset Management Framework 2014, including utilisation of a weed harvester at Freshwater Lagoon to reduce the mass of Mexicana Water Lilly and water hyacinth.
- Weed treatment took place at over 1,430 properties throughout the city.



## Create an interconnected network of green infrastructure across the city

- Revegetation and bank stabilisation projects were undertaken including works at Spearwood Park, Tygum Park, Springwood Park, Kimberley Forest Park, Quinzeh Creek Reserve and Neville Lawrie Park.
- Delivery of environmental parks infrastructure upgrades were completed including Stockleigh Environmental Park, Tremayne Reserve, Boyne Reserve, Lyndale Reserve, Pineview Park, Rosia Park, Nealdon Park, Spring Mountain Forest Park, Baker Reserve, Kimberly Forest Park and Cornubia Forest Park.



Logan River





Operational maintenance of Council's

**415**

environmentally significant parks and areas



Delivery of the City of Logan BushCare program with

**15 & 1**

Bushcare groups TrailCare group

across the city, with a total **156** active registered volunteers across both programs



**7,862**

plants were established in Parks/Reserves through the BushCare and TrailCare Parks Communities program



**237**

Council managed nest boxes were audited

**76%** of nest boxes being occupied by native species at the time of the audit and some parks having **100%** occupancy



**25**

Hollow Log Homes nest-boxes were installed at Big River Country Park, Logan Village, and Lavelle Park, Greenbank



Monthly inspections were undertaken to control aquatic and environmental weeds at

**18**

water bodies listed in the Water Body Asset Management Framework 2014



Weed treatment took place at over

**1,430**

properties throughout the city

# 2

## Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education



*National Tree Planting Day*

# Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education

- Delivery of a range of environmental events and activities including:
  - The Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) 2019 was held at Griffith University Logan campus on Sunday 26 May 2019;
  - A range of National Tree Day celebrations;
  - The Conservation Incentives Program Celebration Day;
  - Hosting of the South-East Queensland Land for Wildlife 20th Anniversary event to celebrate the success of the program;
  - Over 30 environmental workshops and activities were delivered to the community including Nature Play days, all abilities bush walks, the Carp Cup Fishing competition, fire management workshops, nature journaling and community planting days.



## Facilitate and support planning, education and capacity building to protect and enhance the natural environment across the city (e.g. corridors, biodiversity, ecosystems, wildlife)

- EnviroGrants 2019 - over \$216,000 of community grants distributed to the community for:
  - Environmental projects, research, partnerships and to wildlife carers.
- Conservation Incentives Program - 310 properties are registered on the City of Logan Land for Wildlife (LfW) program:
  - 37 new properties joined LfW in 2018/19 which equates to 179 hectares of additional habitat (total property area 237ha).
  - 6,830 plants and a range of land management supplies were distributed to private land holders.
  - \$20,800 of grants were distributed to land holders through Voluntary Conservation Agreements which cover 380ha of vegetation across the City.
  - The Habitat Connections Program was launched with over 30 properties now registered in the new program.



Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) 2019



National Tree Planting Day

# Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education

- The Logan River Trees Program had 16 participants and 5,130 free trees were provided to landholders, which sees approximately 4 hectares of waterway habitat under restoration through the program.
- World Environment Day Primary School Poster Competition saw over 2,000 students from 14 schools participating.
- Logan Eco Awards 2019 were announced at LEAF, with each of the 4 category winners receiving an award and cash prize.
- The Crewes Creek Restoration Project entered phase 2, with a further 10 landowner partnerships being sought to deliver on-ground weed management works, and replant trees along the Creek to support landholders to restore, maintain and conserve the natural values of this area.
- Logan Animal Ambulance -
  - 3,067 wildlife rescues in the City of Logan;
  - 26% of rescues resulted in wildlife being rehabilitated and released back into the environment; and
  - the top three types of wildlife rescued were birds (2185), possums (462) and macropods (i.e. wallabies and kangaroos) (178). Other wildlife rescued included koalas (57), lizards (42), snakes (36), gliders (31), flying foxes (27), turtles (23), echidnas (10), bats (10) and frogs (6).



*World Environment Day Poster Competition winner:  
Sienna Petersen – Greenbank State School, Grade 6*



*Eastern Water Dragon*

*Koala*

*Glossy black cockatoo*



# Logan Animal Ambulance



**3,067**

wildlife rescues in the  
City of Logan



**26%**

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resulted in the wildlife  
being rehabilitated and  
released back into  
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**Top 3  
types of wildlife  
rescued  
were**

birds (2185)  
possums (462)  
macropods (i.e. wallabies  
and kangaroos) (178)



**Other  
wildlife  
rescued  
included**

koalas (57)  
lizards (42)  
snakes (36)  
gliders (31)  
flying foxes (27)  
turtles (23)  
echidnas (10)  
bats (10)  
frogs (6)

# 3

## Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

*Skidders Park, Carbrook*

# Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

- Recreational Health Water Quality Monitoring Program saw monitoring of eight river sites and six water body and creek sites.



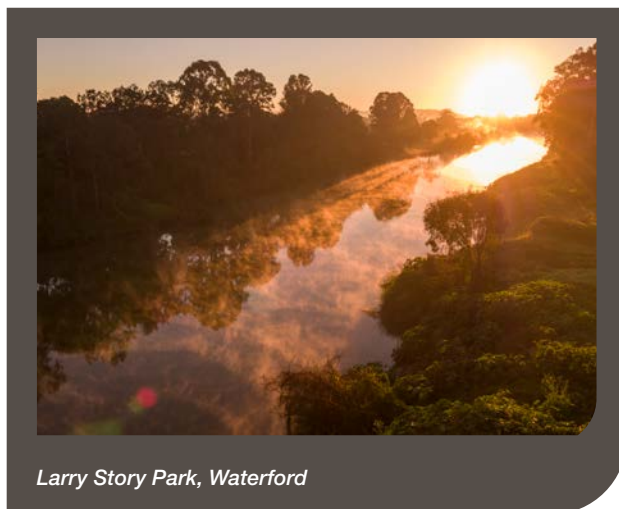
## Implement the Logan City River and Wetlands Recovery Plan 2014-2024 to improve the accessibility, ecological health, recreational value and economic benefit of the asset

- Development of the Logan River Trail was finalised with the following interpretive signage and furniture art installed:
  - 5 signs at Skinners Park, Logan River Parklands, Alexander Clark Park, Riverdale Park and Larry Story Park; and
  - a concrete art seat at Larry Story Park.
- Delivery of riparian rehabilitation planting of over 8,000 plants at three Logan Riverside parks:
  - Malling Park
  - Cochrane's Bridge Park
  - Newstead Park



## Implement the Logan River and Albert River Visions

- Completion of litter collection and litter audits, with recommendations for improved litter management outcomes in parks within Slacks Creek catchment and along the Albert River.
- Promotion of sustainable fishing throughout Logan, including the installation of three fishing line tackle bins at Tygum Lagoon, Larry Storey Park and Skinners Park.
- Delivery of view enhancement works and waterbody connectivity at JJ Smith Park for community activation of Scrubby Creek.



Larry Story Park, Waterford

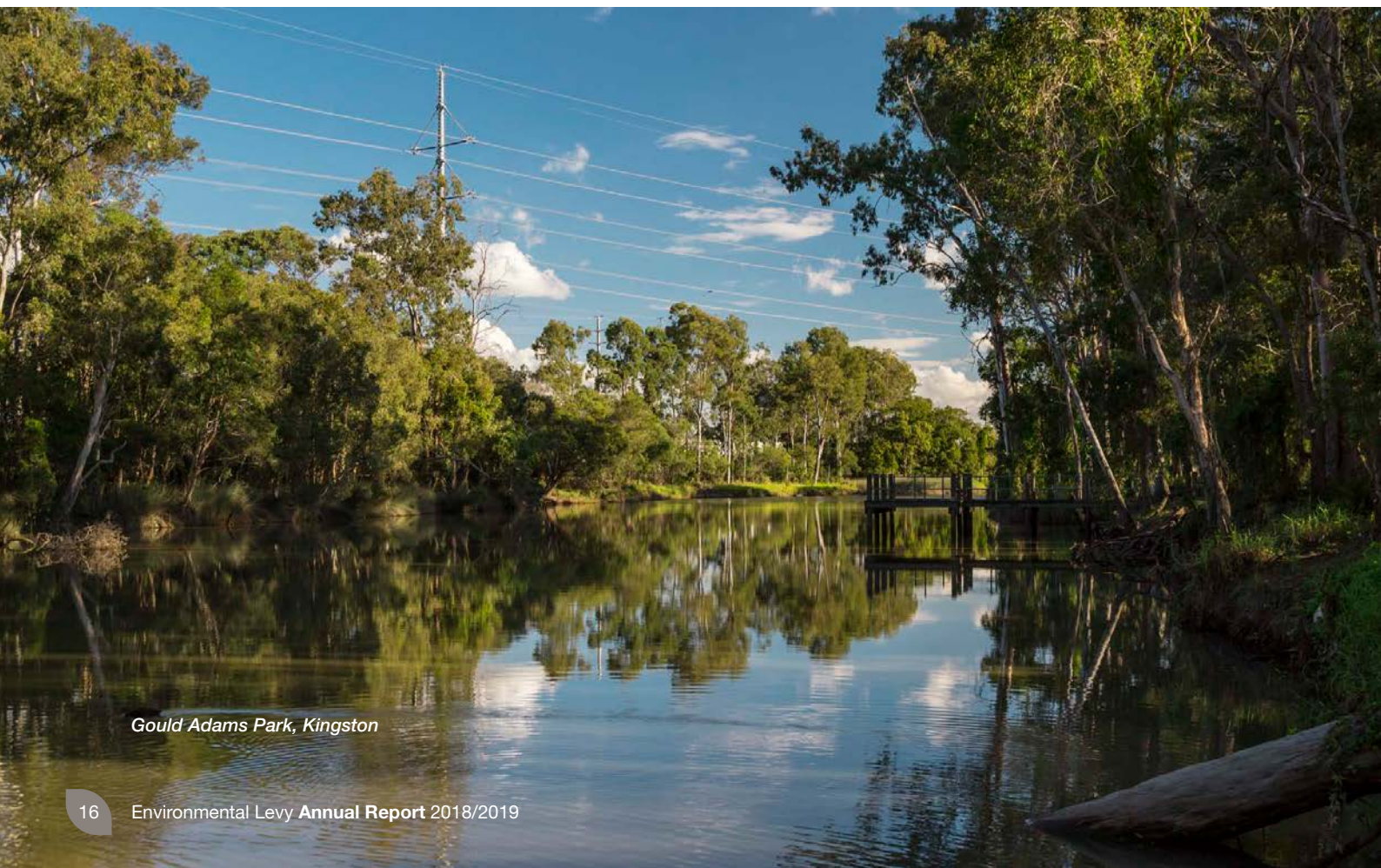
- Mapping of approximately 86km of the Albert and Logan River river-bed to identify ways to improve fish habitat.
- The Belivah Creek Restoration Project saw restoration of over 4 hectares of degraded creek side habitat to support a healthy and connected Albert River.
- Windaroo Creek Rehabilitation Project resulted in planting of over a 1,000 plants along Windaroo Creek, which is a key tributary to the Albert River.
- Delivery of revegetation and bank stabilisation works along Slacks Creek to enhance riparian vegetation and water quality of the waterway.
- Development of a waterbody management plan and implementation of a range of waterbody and riparian actions.
- Installation of wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation measures, including the installation of a virtual fence along Park Ridge Road, Greenbank.



## Develop and implement a carbon reduction strategy for the City of Logan to reduce and offset carbon emissions

# Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

- A range of Richmond Birdwing Butterfly recovery actions were undertaken including:
  - the planting of over 80 Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines at:
    - Belivah Creek - Alexander Watt Park, Bannockburn
    - Windaroo Creek – Noyer Park, Bahrs Scrub
  - Maintenance of 235 Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines at:
    - Parkview Park, Cornubia
    - Koolan Park, Shailer Park
    - Kununurra Park, Shailer Park
    - Noyer Park, Mount Warren Park
    - Passerine Park, Rochedale South
    - Gillian Street, Carbrook
  - Platypus eDNA surveys were undertaken at 15 sites along the Albert River which confirmed the presence of platypus in the Albert River.
- Review and development of a new Flying Fox Management Strategy for 2019 – 2029 was undertaken, which supports best practice management of flying-foxes.
- Collection of leaf samples from 48 endangered *Gossia gonaclada* plants for genetic studies was completed and 52 seedlings have been propagated with the aim of creating myrtle resistant stock to assist in the conservation of this species.
- Delivery of a carbon emissions profile of Council's operations was undertaken.
- 100 kilowatt solar PV systems were installed at Logan Metro Sports Centre, Marsden Depot, and Beenleigh Library. These systems are estimated to save Council almost \$60,000 in electricity costs a year and 332 tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- Council participated in the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils Program and QCoast2100 Program to identify measures that can be taken to adapt to changes in climate.



*Gould Adams Park, Kingston*





**Development of the Logan River Trail**



**5 signs at**

Skidders Park, Logan River Parklands, Alexander Clark Park, Riverdale Park Larry Story Park



**Richmond Birdwing Butterfly recovery actions including over**

**80** Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines planted

**Maintenance of**

**235** Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vines planted



**Delivery of riparian rehabilitation planting of over**

**8,000** plants at three Logan Riverside parks



**Platypus eDNA surveys were undertaken at**

**15**

sites along the Albert River which **confirmed the presence of platypus in the Albert River**



**100 kilowatt solar PV systems were installed at Logan Metro Sports Centre, Marsden Depot, and Beenleigh Library.**

**These systems are estimated to save Council almost \$60,000**

in electricity costs a year and 332 tonnes of CO2 emissions



*Tygum Lagoon, Waterford West*



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