

Environmental Levy Annual Report

2019/2020



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.

Carter Park, Bannockburn

This report is produced by Logan City Council. None of the material in this publication may be reproduced without the permission of the Chief Executive Officer, Logan City Council.

This report is printed on ecoStar 100% Recycled paper. It's an environmentally-responsible carbon-neutral paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper in a chlorine-free process under the ISO 14001 environmental management system.



Logan City Council 2019/2020 Environmental Levy Annual Report

Message from the Mayor

Logan City Council is focused on delivering a green and renewable city, and the Council's Corporate Plan 2017–2022 recognises the pivotal role our natural environment plays in supporting our community's needs and quality of life.

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

Environmental sustainability recognises the importance of responsible interactions with nature to ensure that the community's needs today are met without jeopardising the needs of future generations.

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 environmental initiatives that support Council's commitment to delivering a green and renewable city of the future that supports the community's needs and quality of life.

I am pleased to present the City of Logan Environmental Levy Annual Report (2019/2020) which showcases the environmental initiatives, projects, programs, and services delivered across the city for the 2019/2020 financial year.



Mayor Darren Power
City of Logan



Logan City Council 2019/2020 Environmental Levy Annual Report

Message from our Planning, Economic Development and Environment Committee Chair

We are lucky to live in a diverse part of the world. From our mangroves and wetlands, rivers and creeks to forests and bushlands, Logan City Council is dedicated to understanding, protecting, and enhancing our natural ecosystems. We take this seriously because the people of Logan have told us that they value the environment and want to live in a cleaner and greener City.

The City of Logan's natural environment boasts a wide range of ecosystems that support native significant species including the Flying-fox, Koala, Platypus, Glossy-Black Cockatoo, *Melaleuca irbyana* and *Gossia gonoclada*. Approximately 70% of the city is rural or semi-rural with 77,428 hectares of ecological corridors across the city. We also have 2,633 hectares of wetlands and 2,177 kilometres of waterways.

The Environmental Levy funds the delivery of diverse and innovative environmental initiatives and services that work to protect and improve our local environment. These include:

- Enhancing waterways with the implementation of the Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Plan,
- Reducing Council carbon emissions with installation of five PV Solar power units,
- Protecting ecosystems with landholders through the Conservation Incentives Program,
- Educating and inspiring the community to connect with nature through the Environmental Events and Activities Program.

Continuing to deliver a diverse range of innovative environmental initiatives and services will ensure a cleaner and greener City of Logan for now and into the future.

Cr Jon Raven
Deputy Mayor
Chair of the Planning, Economic Development and Environment Committee



Underwood Park



Logan North Aquatic Centre, Underwood



Conservation Incentives Celebration Day 2020

Environmental Levy Financial Snapshot

2019/2020 Income:

- \$9,284,481 from Environmental Levy rates charge less discounts and remissions; and
- \$823,444 from Environmental Land Sales and Other Income.

2019/2020 Expenditure:

Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

\$5,320,889 included:

- \$688,698 towards the acquisition of two properties in Bahrs Scrub;
- \$3,418,150 on bushland maintenance and BushCare;
- \$392,341 on aquatic and environmental weed control; and
- \$821,700 on environmental park infrastructure enhancements.

Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education Services

\$1,370,804 included:

- \$1,162,611 on the Conservation Incentives Program, World Environment Day Poster Competition, Logan Animal Ambulance and environmental programs, events and activities; and
- \$208,193 for environmental grants to the community and rural landholder engagement.

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

\$2,718,452 included the actions working towards the Logan River vision, the Albert River vision, Logan River and wetlands recovery, Koala conservation, Slacks and Scrubby Creek recovery, flying-fox management, waterbody asset management and carbon and energy management.

Other Charges/Expenditure

\$546,534

Total Reserve Balance as at 30 June 2020

\$6,320,357



2019/2020 Income:



\$9,284,481

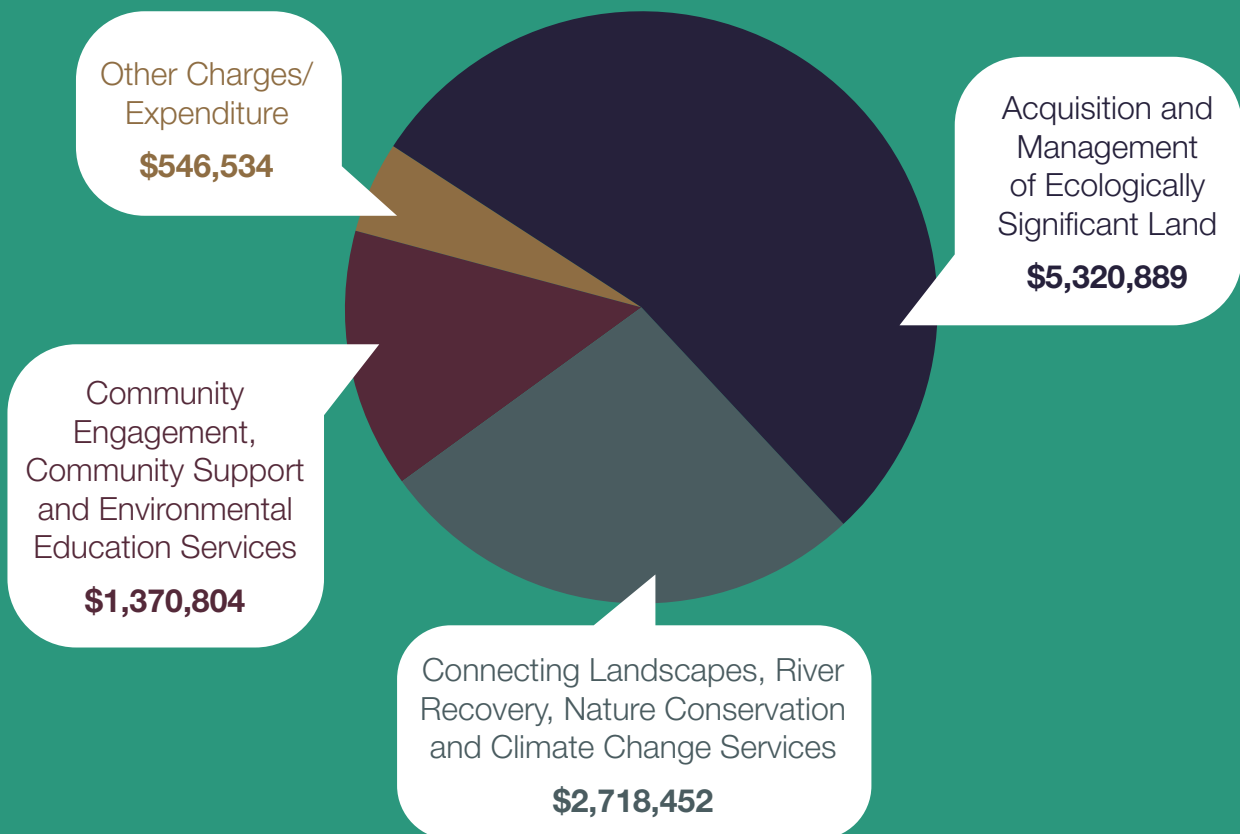
from Environmental Levy
rates charge



\$823,444

from Environmental
Land Sales

Where did your environmental levy go in 2019/2020?



Total Reserve Balance

\$6,320,357

as at 30 June 2020

1

Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

Logan River

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.

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.

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.

1. Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land
2. Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education
3. Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change



Greenwood Lakes

Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

The Environmental Levy provides significant investment towards the acquisition and maintenance of ecologically significant land within the City of Logan to:

- protect, preserve and enhance our natural environment;
- expand and protect Council's ecological corridors;
- provide and enhance habitat for native plants and animals; and
- build the communities capacity and facilitate involvement and understanding of our natural environment.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, we invested \$5,383,889 in the protection, enhancement and management of our natural environment.



- Two ecologically significant properties were purchased at Bahr's Scrub. The properties total 47 hectares and will protect koala habitat as well as several significant plant species including endangered species such as Shiny-leaved Condoe (*Planchenella eerwah*), Bahrs Scrub croton (*Croton mamallatus*) and Bahrs Scrub Devil's Needles (*Solanum mentiens*).
- Operational maintenance of Council's 519 environmentally significant parks and natural areas (5,136 ha) which included priority maintenance of the top 150 reserves, with:
 - operational maintenance including 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 12 registered BushCare groups and

3 TrailCare groups across the city, with a total of 223 active registered volunteers across both programs. During 2019/2020:

- 61 new volunteers joined these programs;
- 10,355 plants were established in Parks/Reserves through the BushCare and TrailCare Parks Communities program;
- key planting events saw 365 community members planting 2,963 trees across three events – BushCare's Big Day Out at Eagleby Wetlands, Khalsa Aid Sikh group at Eagleby Wetlands and Food Forest Community planting day at Forestdale; and
- a new mountain bike trail at Spring Mountain Forest Park was installed by the Pub Lane TrailCare group and contractors to provide safer access for mountain bike riders into the park.

47 Hectares of Land at Bahrs Scrub Purchased for Conservation

The land which is half rainforest also contains koala habitat and significant populations of at least 10 State-listed threatened species including endangered shiny-leaved condoo, Bahrs Scrub croton and Bahrs Scrub devil's needles, native Macadamia trees. It also includes the bush tucker species small-leaved tamarind which is rare for the area and several blue gums which are estimated to be hundreds of years old.

The property will be managed for the protection and conservation of the City of Logan's biodiversity.



Bahrs Scrub Property

Acquisition and Management of Ecologically Significant Land

- An audit of the 216 Council managed nest boxes was conducted, with:
 - 83% of nest boxes being occupied by native species at the time of the audit;
 - some parks displaying habitation of 100% of nest boxes (Chambers Flat Cemetery, Middle Road Park and Regents Park); and
 - 13 different species of native animals being present in nest boxes at the time of audit.
- Infill plantings have been completed to enhance ongoing weed removal programs within various parks, including Neville Laurie Reserve, Spearwood Park, Underwood Park, Passerine Park, Mountain View Park and Springwood Park. Some of these sites included the installation of erosion control measures, such as coir logs.
- Programmed weed control works within planned burn blocks to encourage native regeneration, assist in reducing weed growth within the parks, and to manage fuel loads after a burn has been conducted.
- Monthly inspections were undertaken to control aquatic and environmental weeds at 18 key waterbodies across the city.
- Multiple environmental impacting weeds were targeted across the city throughout the year.
- Delivery of environmental parks infrastructure upgrades were completed including Neville Lawrie Reserve, Cornubia Forest Park, Kimberley Forest Park, Birnam Range Reserve, Park Ridge Reserve, Beenleigh-Redland Bay Environmental Reserve, Homestead Park (Flagstone), Richard Wilson Reserve, Red Ash Reserve, Brown Beech Park, Quinze Creek Park, Paradise Park, Big River Country Park, Nealdon Park, Rosia Park and Spring Mountain Forest Park.
- Track and pathway uplifts for community safety, access and ongoing maintenance within various parks such as Greenwood Lakes, Alexander Clarke Park, Kimberley Forest Park and Springwood Conservation Park.

Nestbox Monitoring

Two hundred and sixteen nest boxes of a variety of shapes and sizes were audited across fourteen sites throughout the City of Logan in March and April 2020. The nest box designs are based on the needs of a variety of species which utilise hollow trees for shelter and/or breeding. Hollow dependent species are species that require a hollowed structure which is usually a dead branch or trunk of a tree with an internal area suitable to build a nest or drey to sleep or reproduce within.

There were thirteen different species of native animals present in the boxes at the time of audit, including five mammal species; common brushtail possum, common ringtail possum, squirrel glider, Goulds wattled bat and eastern broad-nosed bat. There were four bird species; owlet-nightjar, rainbow lorikeet, pale-headed rosella and Australian wood duck. There were two species of reptile; carpet python, lace monitor and there was one insect species; the sugar bag bee.





Operational maintenance
of Council's

519

environmentally significant
parks and areas



Management of waterbodies to control
aquatic and environmental weeds
including treatment at

18

key waterbodies



Delivery of the City of Logan
BushCare and TrailCare program with

15

registered groups across the city



Monitoring of

216

nest boxes in Council parks and
reserves



Purchase of

47

hectares of new environmentally
significant land for conservation



Planting of

10,355

native plants through BushCare

2

Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education



National Tree Planting Day

Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education

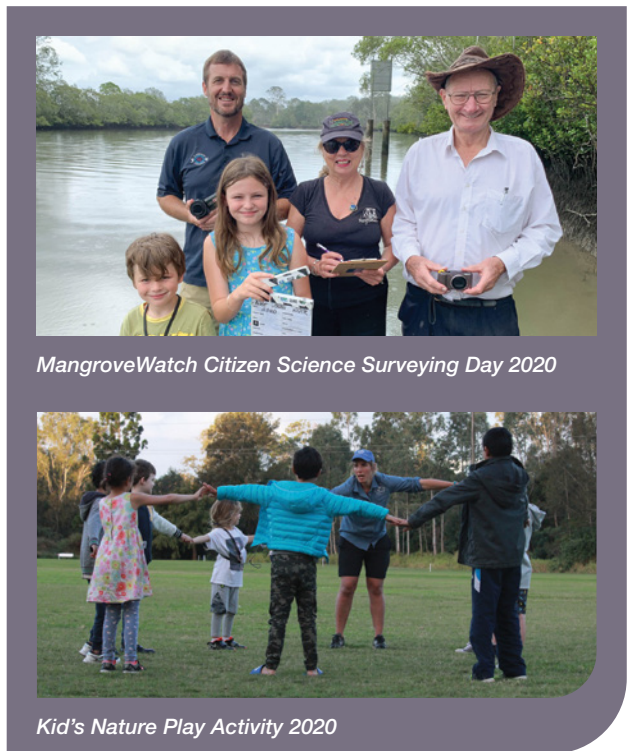
Council is committed to facilitating and supporting planning, education and capacity building to protect and enhance the natural environment across the city (e.g. corridors, biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife).

In the 2019/2020 financial year we invested \$1,370,804 in boosting the local community's engagement with the City of Logan's natural environment through conservation partnerships, environmental education, environmental grants and rescuing injured wildlife.

- Delivery of a range of environmental events and activities including:
 - the Logan Eco Forum at Beenleigh Events Centre;
 - the Conservation Incentives Program Celebration Day at Logan Central;
 - a range of National Tree Day celebrations;
 - over 20 environmental workshops and activities 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; and
 - two online education video clips were created through the COVID-19 pandemic to continue the provision of environmental education to the community.



Walking on Country at Eagleby Wetlands 2019



MangroveWatch Citizen Science Surveying Day 2020



Kid's Nature Play Activity 2020

Inspired Eco Heros

The next generation of the City of Logan's environmental heroes were inspired at the Logan Eco Forum. The event encouraged participants to explore connections to local habitats and ways they can improve the environment. Delving into environmental stewardship, participants shared their ideas, knowledge, and experiences to address the question: How do we create a city of eco heroes? The day of networking and learning included three activities, a Q&A session and ten presentations from researchers, experts, environmental influencers, social entrepreneurs, and community conservation leaders.



Logan Eco Forum 2020. How do we create a city of Eco Heros?

Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education

- Conservation Incentives Program – 434 properties in total are registered in the program resulting in 5,880 hectares of habitat and 172km of waterway being managed for conservation.
 - 347 properties are registered on the City of Logan Land for Wildlife (LfW) program;
 - 44 new properties joined LfW in 2019/2020 which equates to 175 hectares of additional habitat;
 - 23 properties have Voluntary Conservation Agreements to help improve high quality habitat;
 - two properties have Voluntary Restoration Agreements which will help to revegetate stretches of the Logan River;
 - 85 properties are registered in the City of Logan Habitat Connections program;
 - 10,000 plants and a range of land management supplies were distributed to private land holders; and
 - \$46,050 of grants were distributed to land holders through Voluntary Conservation Agreements and Voluntary Restoration Agreements which cover 393ha of vegetation across the city.



- The Logan River Trees Program provided 2,910 plants to landholders, which sees approximately 2 hectares of waterway habitat restoration through the program.

- EnviroGrants 2020 – over \$170,000 of community grants distributed to the community for:
 - environmental projects, research, education, partnerships and to wildlife carers.

EnviroGrants

- World Environment Day Primary School Poster Competition saw over 830 students from 14 primary schools and home schools participating.
- The Crewes Creek Restoration Project delivered phase 2, with a further 10 landowner partnerships delivering on-ground weed management works and tree planting along the creek to support landholders to restore, maintain and conserve the natural values of this area.
- Logan Animal Ambulance conducted 2,957 wildlife rescues during 2019/2020, with:
 - 20% of the wildlife rescues resulting in the wildlife being rehabilitated and released back into the environment;
 - the top three types of wildlife rescued were birds (2078), possums (404) and macropods (i.e. wallabies and kangaroos) (182); and
 - other wildlife rescued included gliders (77), lizards (73), koalas (54), turtles (36), flying-foxes (32), snakes (20), echidnas (12), frogs (6), bats (5), and bandicoots (4).



Community Engagement, Community Support and Environmental Education

- Tree age testing was conducted on 11 significant trees during 2019/2020, including:
 - the oldest tree was a tallowwood at Greenbank estimated to be 320 years old;
 - a blackbutt in Shailer Park is the tallest known tree in Logan, estimated to be 43 meters in height; and
 - a Blue gum at Cedar Grove was the widest with a trunk diameter of 2.08m.



Logan's widest tree, with a trunk diameter of 2.08m at Cedar Grove

Logan's Glorious Old Trees

The City of Logan's famous vintage eucalypt, the 378-year-old 'Gandalf', has some leafy rivals out to shade its renowned longevity.

The venerable senior citizen of the local eco-system has been joined by what looms as an impressive, well, family tree.

Another round of tree-age testing conducted by Logan City Council has identified eight amazing specimens aged in triple figures, including one that sprouted not that long after 'Gandalf' first put down roots.

*A tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) located on a private property in Greenbank is estimated by arborists to be at least 320 years old. It has a diameter of 1.89 metres.*

The portly 'Gandalf', growing near the Logan River at North Maclean, measures 2.38 metres across the middle. The gnarly tree was named by the property owner and the arborist who tested it because "it has a lot of character".

*Amazingly, a 290-year-old blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) was found in Shailer Park, a suburb that is mostly comprised of suburban development.*

Measuring approximately 43 metres high, it is also Logan's tallest tree and has been dubbed by arborists as the 'Grey Ghost'.



Logan's tallest tree, a 290-year-old blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) in Shailer Park, measuring 43 meters high



434

properties registered in the Conservation Incentives Program



5,880

hectares of habitat managed for conservation through the Conservation Incentives Program



Logan RSCPA Wildlife ambulance conducted

2,957

wildlife rescues across the City of Logan



12,910

free native plants provided to the community through various conservation partnerships

3

Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

Skidders Park, Carbrook

Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

The Environmental Levy funds the development and implementation of Council's environmental plans, visions and strategies to provide strategic protection and enhancement of our natural environment.

In the 2019/2020 financial year we invested \$2,718,452 to improve waterways and koala habitat, implement priority species management actions and deliver carbon and energy management actions.

- Development of Logan and Albert Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan in consultation with an expert panel, researchers and community members to guide the improvements of fish habitat and active fisheries in the Logan and Albert Rivers.
- Development of the Scrubby Creek Recovery Plan to help address key environmental issues throughout the catchment and to enhance the parklands along the creek.
- Increased our environmental education signage along Scrubby Creek corridor with an extra 28 signs from Demeio Wetlands to Marsden Library.
- Creek line plantings included:
 - 6,000 trees planted along Belivah Creek, as part of Council's Belivah Creek restoration project;
 - 10,100 trees planted at seven riverside parks this year, working towards our Albert and Logan River Visions;
 - 2,000 trees planted along the creek line at Timothy Park and 9,000 trees at Garoona Park, as part of Council's Slacks Creek restoration project; and
 - 1,244 planted at Homestead Park and 3,000 at Eagleby Wetlands to improve the health of important waterbodies in line with our Waterbody Asset Management Framework.
- Undertook 2 extensive Slacks Creek litter clean ups along a 4km stretch of the creek.
- Promotion of sustainable fishing throughout the City of Logan including the installation of fishing tackle bins at Skinners Park, Carbrook, Tygum Lagoon, Waterford and Albert River Park, Eagleby with:
 - bins being emptied and audited monthly, to date over 4.7 kilometres of fishing line, 65 pieces of tackle, 76 plastic bags and 1 lure has been collected.
- Expanded the stage 1 Logan River Trail to the Albert River and added 5 extra parks, with:
 - signage installed at Federation Drive Reserve, Bethania, Samuel & Agnes Smith Park, Buccan, Tansey Park, Tanah Merah and Albert River Park, Eagleby.
- Five pontoon canoe launch steps at Albert River Park, Skinners Park, Logan River Parklands, Alexander Clark Park and Riverdale Park, were installed.
- Installation of wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation measures, including the installation of virtual fences along Cusack Lane and Henderson Road, Glenlogan and Rosia Road, Park Ridge.
- Expanded in-stream water quality monitoring systems up to four sites with the new site on the Logan River at Woodhill.
- Spotted-tail Quoll surveys were conducted on 8 properties in the City of Logan, with:
 - odour detection dogs trained to sense the Spotted-tail Quoll being used to survey the properties; and
 - positive quoll odour presence indicated by the detection dogs, at three (3) of the eight (8) properties surveyed.



Re-vegetation site at Garoona Park, Slacks Creek

Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

The Search for Spotted-tail Quolls in Logan

Spotted-tail Quoll Surveys find evidence of the endangered species in the City of Logan for the first time in more than a decade. Specially trained detection dogs have led the research funded by the Environmental Levy.

*The native spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*) is a carnivorous marsupial listed as 'vulnerable' under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act and 'endangered' under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.*

The last known sighting in the City of Logan was in 2005 but some rural parts of the city have been historically known as quoll habitat.

Council partnered with Wildlife Preservation Society Queensland (WPSQ), the Quoll Seekers Network, Camarvon Canines to establish the existence of quolls in the City.

The dogs, trained in the detection of specific odours, were used to determine the presence of quoll in likely dens and evidence of their scat (faeces) in nearby bushland.

Eight sites across Logan were selected as having potential habitat critical to quolls' foraging movement and denning preferences.

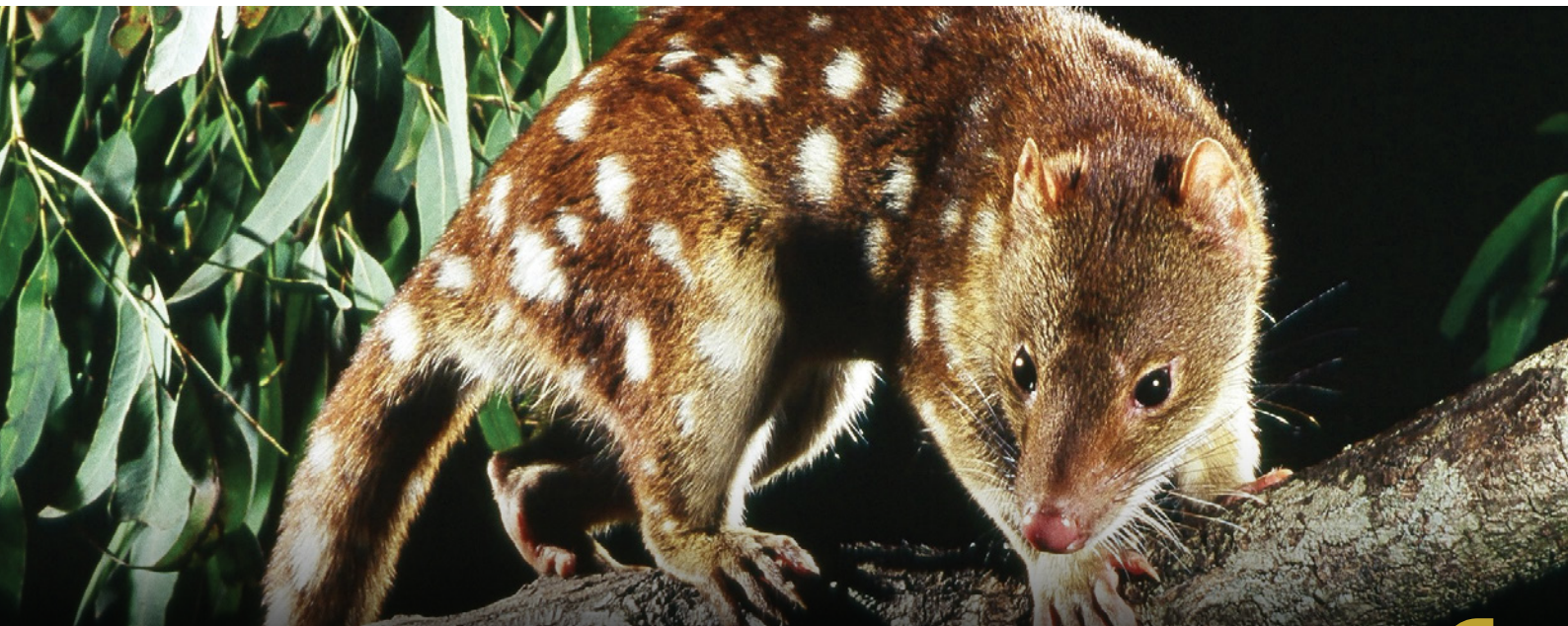


Quoll hide in caves, rock crevices, logs and tree hollows.

They are mostly nocturnal and can roam up to six kilometres from their den looking for food. They use faeces to mark their territory.

Three private properties at Undullah and Lyons were surveyed in 2019 and again this year with three properties returning positive determinations of quoll scat and odour.

Council is working with the owners of these three private properties to help improve and manage spotted-tailed quoll and other significant species habitat through Councils Conservation Incentives Program.



Connecting Landscapes, River Recovery, Nature Conservation and Climate Change

- 5 Solar PV systems were installed at Logan North Aquatic Centre, Logan North Library, Logan West Community Centre, Mt Warren Park Sports Centre and Marsden Library. These systems are estimated to save Council almost \$55,500 in electricity costs a year and 423 tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- Development of Council's annual Organisational Emissions Profile Report - monitoring Council's carbon emissions profile illustrates that Council understands how its carbon footprint is changing over time and provides learnings for how we can achieve Council's 2022 carbon neutrality target. We are providing leadership to the community in taking responsibility for the greenhouse gas emissions that occur as a result of the operation of the organisation, thereby encouraging other organisations and individuals to consider their environmental impact and to think about how they could minimise their impact.
- Development of a Carbon Offsets Purchasing Policy.



Solar PV panels on Logan North Aquatic Centre Roof top

Powering Ahead on Solar Initiatives

Logan City Council has passed a significant renewable energy milestone with more than 1,000 kilowatts (kW) of solar photovoltaic panels now installed on Council-owned buildings.

The combined power generation from the 25 systems is expected to save an estimated \$140,000 a year in electricity costs and reduce CO2 emissions by more than 930 tonnes.

The latest installation is a 100kW system on the roof of the Logan North Aquatic Centre in Underwood. It features 303 solar panels.

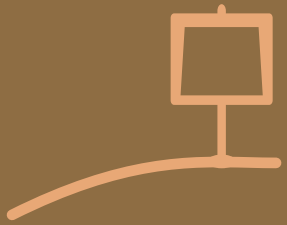
Other new systems include Mt Warren Sports Centre (70kW), Marsden Library (55kW), Logan North Library (83kW) and Logan West Community Centre (18kW).

All five sites use "power optimisers" which not only help to boost performance but also allow remote monitoring of the power generation of every solar panel.

Other significant solar systems on Council buildings include Round Mountain (87kW), Marsden Depot (100kW), Logan Metro (100kW) and Beenleigh Library (100kW).



Solar PV panels on Marsden Library Roof Top



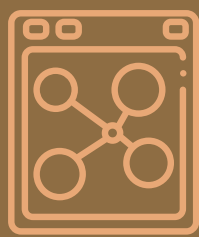
28

**interpretative
environmental signs**
installed in various park locations



4.7 Kilometres

of fishing line collected
through Councils sustainable
fishing initiatives



Installation of

3

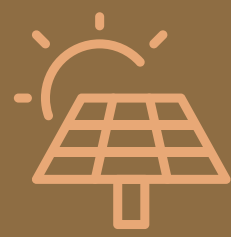
virtual fences at Glenlogan and
Park Ridge to reduce road strike of
wildlife



Installation of

5

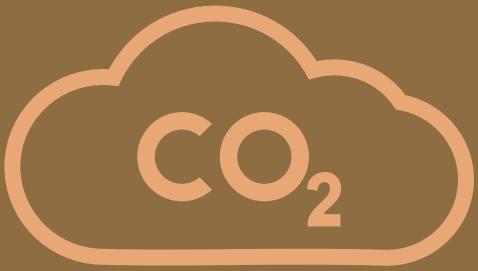
pontoon canoe launch steps at
various waterway parks



Installation of

5

solar PV systems at
Council buildings



Councils carbon emissions reduced
by an additional

423

tonnes of CO2 per year



Tygum Lagoon, Waterford West



This report is printed on recycled paper, manufactured from 100% post consumer waste.

