



Land for Wildlife  
South East Queensland

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-2022



## OUR VISION

Landholders are supported as stewards of the land to achieve nature conservation across the Local Government network in South East Queensland.



LfWSEQ Steering Committee with representatives of 14 Local Governments

## HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022



**381**

**New LfWSEQ properties**

(274 Registered, 107 Working Towards Registration)



**6219 ha**  
of Retained Habitat

**678 ha**

of Habitat Under  
Restoration



**197 social media posts**

(180 unique content)



**6550 observations**  
on LfWSEQ iNaturalist project



**1372 revisits**

by Local Government Officers  
to LfWSEQ properties



**68 audits** of properties  
with voluntary conservation  
covenants



**87,448** native  
plants provided



**58** change of ownerships  
(properties sold with new  
owner joining LfW)



**300** nest boxes provided

**181** de-registrations  
(properties sold - no  
continuation with LfW)



**114** website comments



**4 newsletters** produced  
(print run of 4275 copies)

As of  
**30 June 2022**

**5322**

**LfWSEQ properties**  
(4251 Registered,  
1071 Working Towards  
Registration)

**72,111 ha**

of Retained Habitat

**8343 ha**

of Habitat Under Restoration

**9744** Facebook Followers

**19,161** observations on  
iNaturalist LfWSEQ project from  
163 Observers in total

**OTHER INCENTIVES PROVIDED BY  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO LfWSEQ  
PROPERTIES:**

- Herbicide, weed control tools (e.g. spraypacks)
- Bushland restoration tools (e.g. gloves, secateurs & tool belts)
- Fauna monitoring cameras
- Field guides
- Access to grants for contractor assistance with fencing, weed control and revegetation

LAND FOR WILDLIFE SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND PROUDLY DELIVERED BY:



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

**CITY OF  
GOLDCOAST**

**Fraser Coast  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**GYMPIE  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**City of  
Ipswich**

**Lockyer  
Valley  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**CITY OF  
LOGAN**

**Moreton Bay  
Regional Council**

**NOOSA**

**Redland  
CITY COUNCIL**

**SCENIC RIM  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Somerset  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Sunshine Coast  
COUNCIL**

**TOOWOOMBA  
REGION**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**2021-22 delivered another high growth year for Land for Wildlife South East Queensland (LfwSEQ) with 381 new properties joining - the second highest annual growth period in the program's 23 year history.**

## OUR VALUES

**We are dedicated to service delivery**

This year saw a maturing of the collaborative partnerships between the 14 Local Governments that deliver LfwSEQ firmly aligning program outcomes with Local Government business requirements. The commencement of two major projects that are analysing the ecological, social and economic values of LfwSEQ will provide valuable data for Local Governments to strengthen the program's strategic direction and further deliver on Local Government objectives.

A diligent, transparent and cooperative process was undertaken by the LfwSEQ Steering Committee this year to select Brisbane City Council as the new Host Council for a three-year period starting 1 July 2023. The nominated Host Council is responsible for holding LfwSEQ Contributions from the 14 Local Governments and managing external contracts for LfwSEQ services such as regional coordination and database hosting. Sunshine Coast Council has been the Host Council since January 2019. The Steering Committee is overseeing the Host Council transition and is taking this opportunity to review LfwSEQ governance arrangements to build further resilience into the program.

This year offered a good news story with Toowoomba Regional Council re-instating the delivery of Land for Wildlife and joined LfwSEQ as an Affiliate Council in early 2022. Toowoomba Regional Council maintains strategic oversight of the program while the operational services have been outsourced to a local ecologist. Already there has been an encouraging response from the Toowoomba community as the program regains connections with existing members and builds new landholder networks.

The floods and severe storms of early 2022 affected many LfwSEQ members and rebuilding efforts will continue for months and years to come. Combined with the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20, SEQ has seen back-to-back extreme weather events driven by climate change. Research shows that degraded and heavily modified ecosystems are harder hit than healthy, intact ecosystems, which is why programs like Land for Wildlife are so important. The practical support and

advice offered through Land for Wildlife goes directly towards making ecosystems healthier and more resilient.

The Local Governments of SEQ were at the forefront of flood recovery efforts and are delivering on-going support to landholders through various grant and incentive schemes. Significant resources are provided by Local Governments to help landholders, including LfwSEQ members, to remove weeds, plant native trees, protect waterways from erosion and conserve threatened plants and animals. In turn, these efforts reduce sediment flows out to Moreton Bay, reduce wildlife fatalities and reduce clean-up costs.

Following the completion of the *LfwSEQ Reporting Framework* early this financial year, the LfwSEQ Steering Committee endorsed the engagement of two universities to undertake two major projects. James Cook University was engaged to conduct a survey of the LfwSEQ membership while University of Sunshine Coast was engaged to conduct spatial (GIS) analysis of LfwSEQ properties. Both projects are underway and will be finalised next financial year.

In addition to these university partnerships, Local Governments work with Traditional Owners, conservation organisations, the Queensland Government, regional NRM bodies and landcare groups to deliver a suite of diverse services to LfwSEQ members. Such partnership offer new opportunities for landholders and help deliver on the community and ecological goals of Local Governments.

Overall, LfwSEQ sits in a healthy position with good governance, high levels of participation by 14 Local Governments, a pathway ahead to a new Host Council, two major projects underway and a forecast operational budget surplus.

We acknowledge and pay respects to the Traditional Owners of SEQ - the Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi, Jagera/Yaggera/Yugara, Turrbal, Jinibara, Mulinjarlie, Ugarapul, Kitabul, Quandamooka, Yugambeh, Ngarang-Wal/Kombumeri, western Waka Waka, Gitabal/Kitabal People, their Elders and their families. We recognise that all LfwSEQ properties were once under Indigenous tenure and that Indigenous People did not cede their land and that their connections to Country and its People continue today.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022

## Toowoomba Regional Council joins LfWSEQ



L-R: Fiona Gray and Mark Ready, Toowoomba Regional Council; Peter Hayes and Margie Young Toowoomba Land for Wildlife members; Cr Tim McMahon; Sandy Robertson, Toowoomba Land for Wildlife Officer. Photo by Brendan Cahill ABC Southern Queensland.

## LfWSEQ Reporting Framework finalised and implemented

- Annual Reports
- Membership Survey underway
- GIS Analysis underway

## Major review and upgrade to LfWSEQ website

## LfWSEQ Officer training

- Pollinators and plant conservation
- Microbats: their identification, ecology and conservation

## Collaboration between 14 Local Governments

- 6 Steering Committee meetings - Aug, Oct, Dec, Mar, Apr, Jun
- 5 Strategic Subcommittee meetings - Jul, Sep, Nov, Feb, May
- Review and maintenance of key governance arrangements
- New Host Council for 2023-2026 decided

## Presentations and Media

- Private Land Conservation Conference
- Bumper orchid season at Redlands



## Partnerships with:

Department of Environment and Science, Protected Areas (Nature Refuge) Team

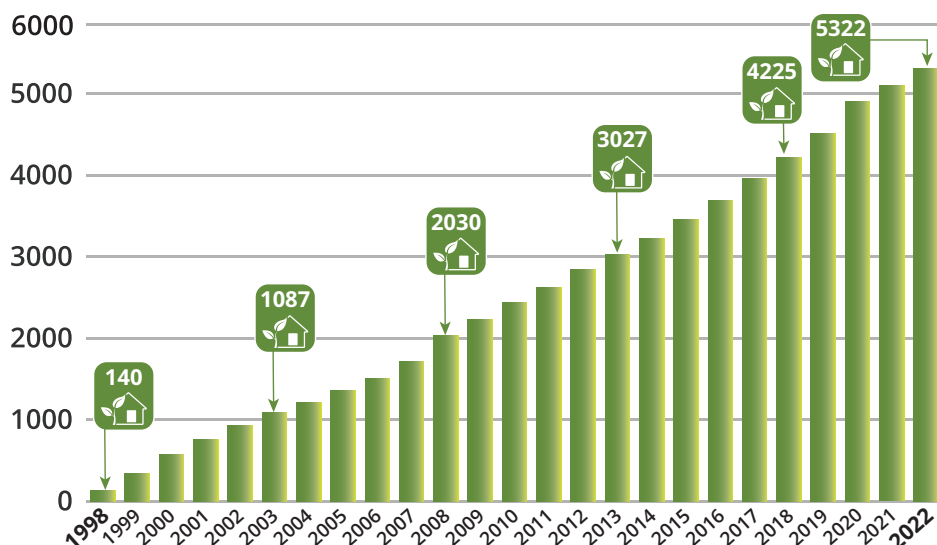
Wildlife Queensland - various threatened species projects

Watergum - two major BioBlitz events in the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim

Brisbane Catchments Network - Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count

James Cook University - membership survey

University of the Sunshine Coast - GIS analysis



# PARTNERSHIPS WITH LANDHOLDERS AND RESEARCHERS



Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby



## OUR VALUES

We are collaborative and transparent

This year, Scenic Rim Regional Council partnered with the team at Wildlife Queensland to survey Land for Wildlife properties for some of the region's most threatened and cryptic wildlife.

Fauna monitoring cameras and acoustic recording devices were installed on numerous Land for Wildlife properties throughout the Scenic Rim with the aim of detecting Spotted-tailed Quolls, Yellow-bellied Gliders and Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies.

Sadly, no evidence of quolls has been found, but plenty of gliders, rock-wallabies, Koalas and Powerful Owls have been detected, which is great news.

Audiomoth acoustic monitoring devices were set up at Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk – an iconic tourist destination and Land for Wildlife property at Tamborine Mountain. Yellow-bellied Gliders make a unique call at night time and if this call is captured on a recording device, it is evidence that gliders are in the vicinity. Yellow-bellied Gliders also leave behind distinctive feeding scars. They feed primarily on the sap of certain eucalypt trees and they make these V-shaped cuts in the tree causing the sap to run.

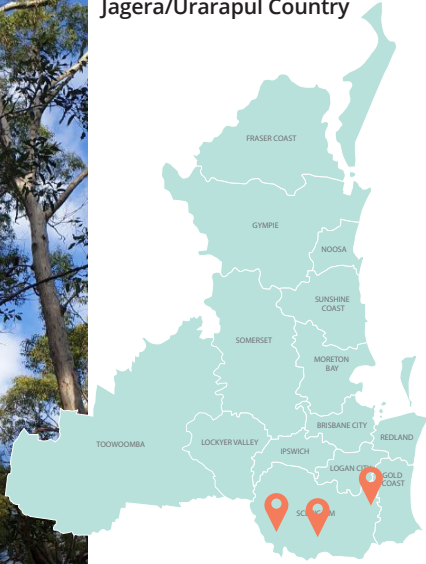
This partnership between council and Wildlife Queensland will be on-going and is a great way to engage Land for Wildlife members with researchers who are studying the cryptic wildlife of the Scenic Rim.

Photos by Paul Revie and Jessica Wattle



Yellow-bellied Glider feeding scars

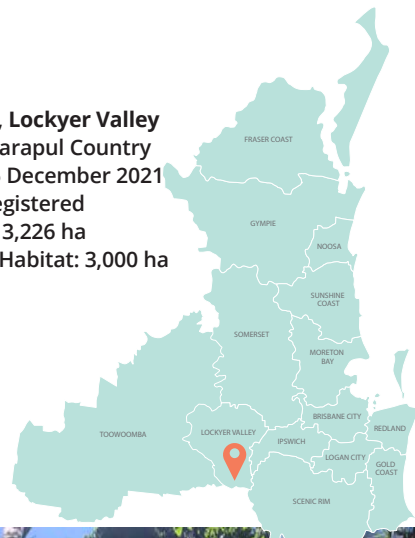
Various Land for Wildlife properties at Carneys Creek, Mount Barney and Tambourine Mountain, Scenic Rim. Jagera/Urarapul Country



# NEW MEMBERS

This year saw the registration of one of the SEQ's largest land for Wildlife properties. The Crosby's property spans 3200 hectares across the southern edge of the Lockyer Valley extending from the valleys of Laidley Creek up to rhyolite capped mountains and heath covered rocky outcrops of Mt Castle.

**Townson, Lockyer Valley**  
Jagera/Ururapul Country  
Joined: 15 December 2021  
Status: Registered  
Property: 3,226 ha  
Retained Habitat: 3,000 ha



## OUR VALUES

We are committed to habitat conservation and restoration

Seven distinct ecosystems are found on the Crosby's place including large patches of dry rainforest through to ironbark covered ridges and Blue Gum lined creeks.

This property has been in the Crosby family for seven generations and is managed primarily for conservation, with some cattle grazing and plans for future eco-tourism. School students and university researchers have been visiting the property for decades to learn about nature and to conduct native plant and wildlife surveys.

A large portion of the Crosby's property was burnt in the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20 and is slowly recovering with ongoing fire management. The native plants up on Mt Castle and in the dry

rainforest areas are of particular ecological significance and include the threatened Stinking Cryptocarya (*Cryptocarya foetida*), Mountain Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia monticola*) and Binna Burra Daisy (*Brachyscome ascendens*).

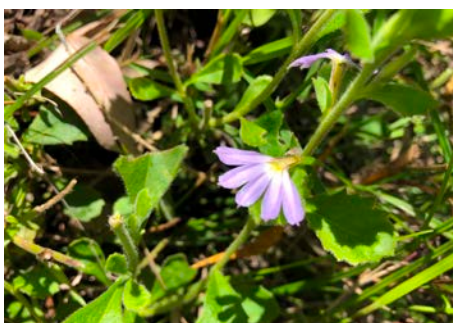
This property is one of the few places in the Lockyer Valley that still has Piccabeen Palms – a reminder of wet, lush gullies that were in the area a few hundred years ago before broadscale land clearing. In addition to the incredible plant diversity, this property is a haven for threatened wildlife including Koalas, Long-nosed Potoroos and Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies. Thanks to the Crosby's custodianship, this property is in good hands and Lockyer Valley Regional Council is delighted to have them in the Land for Wildlife program.



Long-nosed Potoroos



Koala



# OFFICER TRAINING & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

This full-day workshop for Local Government Conservation Partnerships Officers discussed pollination systems and how pollinators must be considered in any conservation measures for native plants or ecosystems.

This workshop was led by Land for Wildlife member and retired CSIRO insect ecologist and taxonomist, Dr Don Sands, who spearheaded the recovery of local threatened butterflies and moths including the Richmond Birdwing and Southern Pink Underwing Moth. Don discussed pollination systems for rainforest plants and demonstrated his research into the pollination systems of native Boronias.

Several other speakers presented about their research including Professor Doug Hilton who spoke about the interactions and taxonomy of Heliozelidae moths – a primitive family of moths that pollinates and probably co-evolved with Boronias.

Alan Wynn, Conservation Partnerships Officer with Sunshine Coast Council, discussed the incredible pollination systems of the native figs of south-east Queensland.

Matt Head, Senior Environmental Scientist with Redleaf Environmental discussed bird and insect interactions and their conservation.

Together, all presenters and attendees explored the under-researched field of pollination and discussed how the Land for Wildlife program can introduce this topic to landholders so that pollinators can be better understood and protected.



Alan Wynn, Sunshine Coast Council



**Brookfield, Brisbane**  
**Toorbul/Jagera Country**  
**8 September 2021**  
**Officer Training Workshop**



## OUR VALUES

**We are translating science into practice**

*“Understanding how delicate and intricately connected some parts of nature are, really astounds me. Thank goodness there are humans out there with the time, energy, interest and brain space to delve into understanding some of these more overlooked interactions or we would just never know they existed.”*

Susan Nolan,  
Conservation Partnerships Officer,  
Brisbane City Council.



Brisbane City Council Officers and workshop presenters (L-R): Amanda Maggs, Matt Head, Paul Grimshaw, Cody Hochen, Dr Don Sands, Tony Mlynarik, Fflur Collier

# SUPPORTING ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

This year, Ipswich City Council offered a range of workshops as part of their Great Restoration Events to Land for Wildlife members showcasing various ecological restoration projects.

Chris Wiley generously opened his Land for Wildlife property at Pine Mountain to other landholders over two days to talk about the extensive weed control and revegetation that he is undertaking.

Chris has a vision for his property, and he is working tirelessly to achieve it. As an ecologist, he has a detailed understanding of the native plants, wildlife and weeds that are on his property and he is aiming to bring highly degraded ecosystems back to good health.

Supported by Ipswich City Council, Chris is controlling large infestations of the invasive Cat's Claw Creeper weed that had taken over the dry rainforest scrubs. Slowly, native plants are sprouting up where once it was just a carpet of weeds. He has also planted thousands of native plants, many of which he has propagated himself from seeds collected on his property.

Workshops like these are opportunities for Land for Wildlife members to connect with other landholders who are also doing conservation on their properties. It is a place to share knowledge and skills about weed control, managing wildlife habitats and to see different land management techniques.

Workshop attendees were also treated to seeing 'platelets' – the circular scrapings of the rare Black-breasted Button-quail that lives in the dry vine scrubs on Chris' property. This is a nationally threatened bird that is only found in south-east Queensland. These button-quails have been found scratching around in areas that were once dense weeds, but are now filled with native plants and leaf litter, perfect for these shy birds. Thank you Chris for restoring these precious ecosystems.

## OUR VALUES

We are building ecological resilience

**Pine Mountain, Ipswich**  
**Jagera Country**  
**Property Joined: 8 June 1998**  
**Current Owner Joined: 18 Nov 2016**  
**Status: Registered**  
**Property: 28.8 ha**  
**Retained Habitat: 15.8 ha**  
**Habitat Under Restoration: 13 ha**

**button-quail**  
**platelet**



## Indigenous Engagement

This year, Scenic Rim Regional Council worked in partnership with Boonah and District Landcare to deliver a series of Indigenous fire management workshops on Land for Wildlife properties at Carney's Creek on Yugara/Ugarapul country. The workshops were delivered by Wirrinyah Conservation Services, Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation and Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation. They explored the processes of reading country, Indigenous cultural fire practices and using fire in the "right way" to improve the health of country. Several Land for Wildlife property owners participated over a number of days learning about the management of fuel loads, the protection of habitat and wildlife and witnessing an Indigenous-led burn.

These workshops coincided with the release of compelling research\* that showed that the cessation of Indigenous burning practices since colonisation has resulted in an accumulation of fuel and more shrubs in the forests of southeast Australia. Combined with climate change driven changes to fire weather and drought events, the removal of regular, low-intensity Indigenous burning has made Australian forests more prone to catastrophic wildfires. The LfWSEQ program welcomes partnerships with Traditional Owners, Indigenous corporations and businesses to re-introduce Indigenous fire management back onto Land for Wildlife properties.

\*Mariani M. et.al. (2022)  
Disruption of cultural burning promotes shrub encroachment and unprecedented wildfires. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 20(5), 292-300.

## OUR VALUES

**We are engaging with Traditional Owners**



## LfWSEQ Ten Year Plan 2020-2030 Objectives

Focus Area	Objective	Actions in 2021-22
<b>1. Policy and Planning Context</b>	1.1. Evaluate and align reporting mechanisms with LGA, state and federal strategies, policies and legislation	ongoing
<b>2. Collaborative Governance</b>	2.1. Maintain an active and engaged Steering Committee	✓ 6 meetings
	2.2. Maintain an active and engaged Strategic Subcommittee	✓ 6 meetings
	2.3. Review and renewal of Host Council arrangements and regional coordination delivery model	✓ done
	2.4. Maintain currency of key LfWSEQ documents	✓ done
<b>3. Regional Coordination</b>	3.1. Maintain commitment to LfWSEQ and appropriate levels of investment for regional coordination	ongoing
	3.2. Develop a three-year operational work plan	✓ done
	3.3 Review and renewal of regional coordination contract	✓ done
<b>4. Local Government Delivery</b>	4.1. Maintain delivery of LfWSEQ services in line with best practice science, program values and key LfWSEQ documents	ongoing
	4.2. Maintain relevant regional nature conservation partnerships that complement LfWSEQ program values	ongoing
	4.3. Analyse the LfWSEQ membership and program services to identify opportunities to further tailor LfWSEQ products and services	✓ in progress
	4.4. Maintain delivery of higher-level conservation agreements	ongoing
<b>5. Continuous Improvement</b>	5.1. Develop a Reporting Framework for LfWSEQ	✓ done
	5.2. Establish and implement an agreed collective suite of minimum reporting standards across LGAs for LfWSEQ	✓ done
	5.3. Identify and analyse the ecological assets within the LfWSEQ estate	✓ in progress
	5.4. Identify and analyse the social assets within the LfWSEQ network	✓ in progress
	5.5. Identify and analyse the economics of LfWSEQ	✓ in progress
	5.6. Develop a Communications Framework for LfWSEQ	✓ done
<b>6. Future Opportunities</b>	6.1. Create and adopt new regional nature conservation partnerships	ongoing
	6.2. Adopt relevant new technologies and emerging ecological restoration science into LfWSEQ resources	ongoing
	6.3. Create regional events for LfWSEQ members to network and improve conservation skills and knowledge	to be considered
	6.4. Seek funding for future opportunities to support conservation outcomes	to be considered

## OUR VALUES

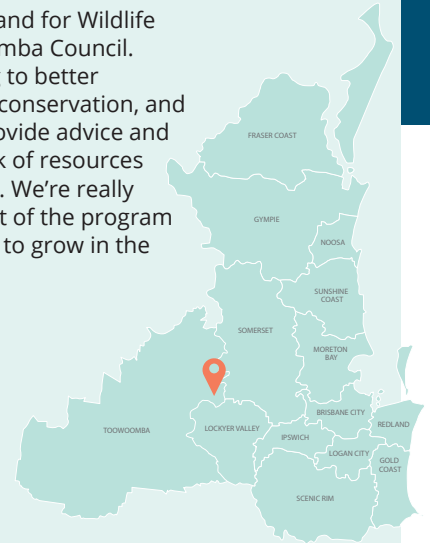
We are passionate about landholder stewardship



"We are super excited that Land for Wildlife has started again in Toowoomba Council. There's lots of locals wanting to better manage their properties for conservation, and Land for Wildlife will help provide advice and connect them with a network of resources and like-minded landowners. We're really looking forward to being part of the program as it develops and continues to grow in the future."

*Peter Hayes*

**Perserverence, Toowoomba**  
Jagera/Gitabal Country  
Joined: June 2022  
Status: Registered  
Retained Habitat: 12 ha



"I bought this property off Noel and have now formed a good friendship with him. It's a joy to have him come around to share with me the history and knowledge he has of the property, rather than have it cease with the handover of real estate ownership. It only seems right to continue to let him visit the forest he and nature created together. It's now legally mine but I'll always call it his."

*Jacob Broomhill*

**West Cooroy, Noosa**  
Gubbi Gubbi Country  
Property Joined: March 2000  
Current Owner Joined: November 2019  
Status: Registered  
Retained Habitat: 2.8 ha



Joan and John Dillon with Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jameison (centre)

"It has been a fascinating journey, not quite over, and we've learned so much along the way – natural regeneration is now taking over. Those 20-plus years could not have been better spent. My advice to new owners is to join immediately. Land for Wildlife is a fascinating journey and you'll learn so much and enjoy your successes along the way."

*Joan Dillon*

**Hunchy, Sunshine Coast**  
Gubbi Gubbi Country  
Joined: November 1998  
Status: Registered  
Retained Habitat: 14.5 ha

