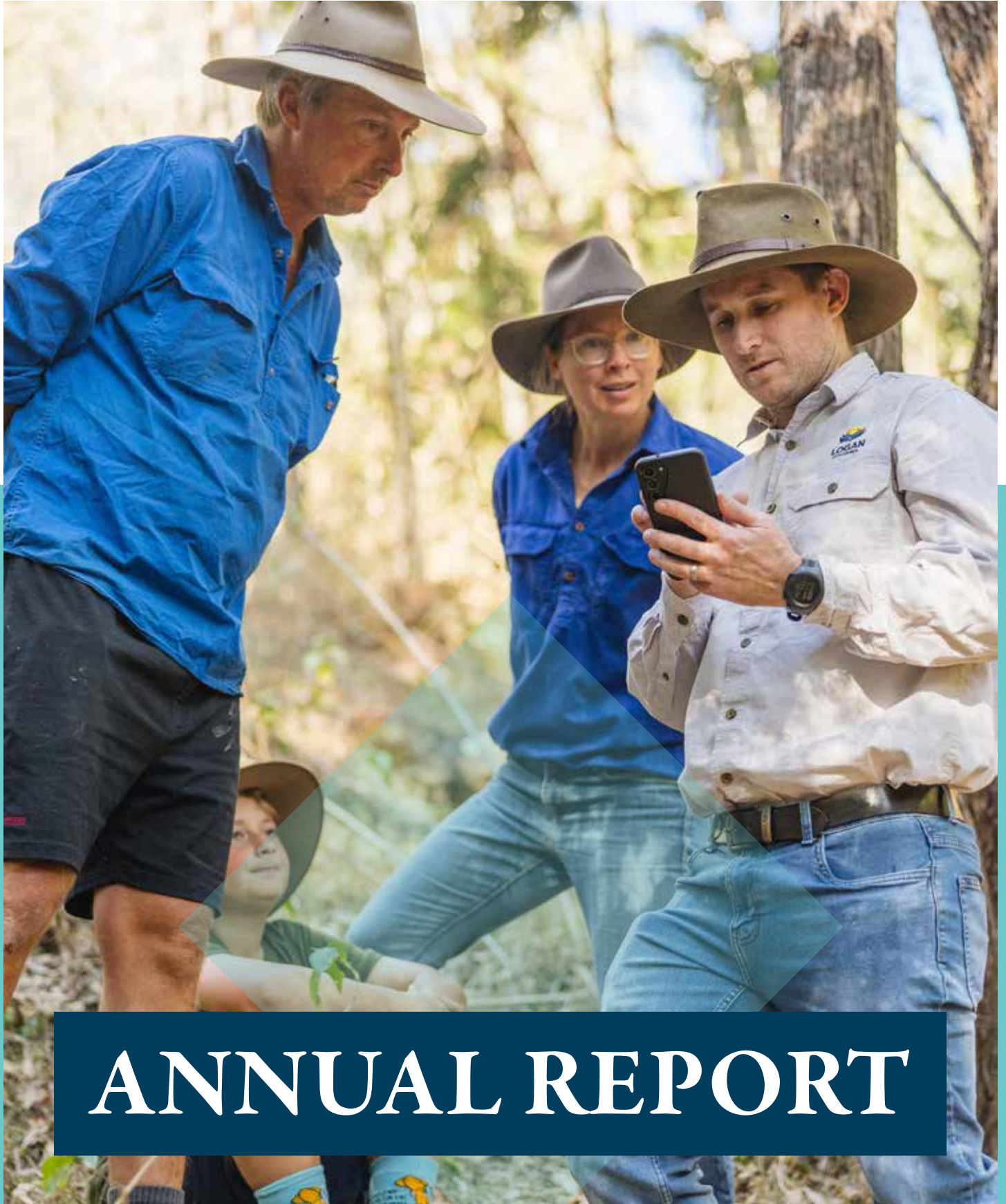




# Land for Wildlife South East Queensland

2022-2023



## ANNUAL REPORT





# OUR VISION

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

*Land for Wildlife South East Queensland acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow. May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.*



# HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023



370

NEW LFWSEQ PROPERTIES (267  
REGISTERED AND 103 WORKING  
TOWARDS REGISTRATION)

67



CHANGE OF OWNERSHIPS (PROPERTIES  
SOLD WITH NEW OWNERS JOINING LFW)



7,633ha

OF RETAINED HABITAT

11,601

OBSERVATIONS ON LFWSEQ  
IN NATURALIST PROJECT



842ha

OF HABITAT UNDER  
RESTORATION



177

SOCIAL MEDIA  
POSTS



1533

REVISITS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
OFFICERS TO LFWSEQ PROPERTIES

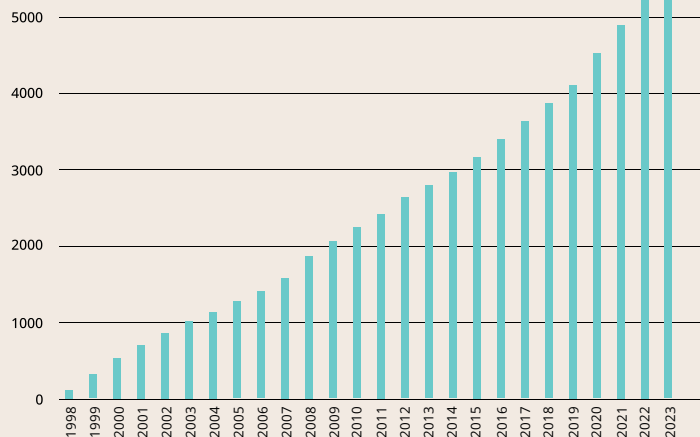


177

DE-REGISTRATIONS (PROPERTIES SOLD -  
NO CONTINUATION WITH LFW)

## CUMULATIVE GROWTH CHART

ACTIVE (REGISTERED AND WORKING  
TOWARDS REGISTRATION) PROPERTIES  
IN LFWSEQ 1998-2023



LAND FOR WILDLIFE  
SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND  
PROUDLY DELIVERED BY:



  
Dedicated to a better Brisbane™



  
SCENIC RIM  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

  
Moreton Bay  
Regional Council



  
Somerset  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

  
City of  
Ipswich



  
Sunshine Coast  
COUNCIL

  
CITY OF  
GOLD COAST™



  
TOOWOOMBA  
REGION



WWW.LFWSEQ.COM.AU



FACEBOOK.COM/LFWSEQ

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2022-23 delivered the third consecutive high growth year for the LfWSEQ program reflecting continued investment and strategic alignment of the program to Local Government objectives. It also reflects the ongoing community demand for good environmental stewardship.

The strong collaborative partnerships between the 14 Local Governments created a steady framework for a smooth transition for Brisbane City Council as the new LfWSEQ Host Council. The Host Council holds contributions from the other Local Governments and manages external contracts for LfWSEQ services such as regional coordination and database provisions. All contracts were awarded prior to end of financial year.

Completion of a major program review via a survey of the LfWSEQ membership provided Local Governments with the opportunity to further improve and tailor services to deliver nature conservation and community engagement. This review conducted by James Cook University adds to the growing body of research that shows the interconnectedness of human and environmental health. LfWSEQ is improving the wellbeing of members and the ecological health of the region.

LfWSEQ delivers on critical actions identified in a national threat abatement framework developed in 2023 to conserve Australia's threatened species. Specifically, LfWSEQ members, supported by Local Governments, are retaining and restoring habitats and managing invasive species. Local Governments strategically invest in restoring habitat and managing invasive species on private and council-owned lands.

The extensive environmental, community and wellbeing outcomes from LfWSEQ are delivered

cost-effectively with Local Governments receiving a minimum 5:1 return on investment. Just under \$23 million was invested by respondents to the LfWSEQ survey (29% of the total LfWSEQ membership) during the 2021-22 financial year. Conservative estimates show that LfWSEQ generates an increased economic activity for the SEQ region of \$20-70 million annually.

While the LfWSEQ program grew significantly in membership and investment from most Local Governments, this year saw the cessation of the LfW program by Fraser Coast Regional Council due to changing council priorities.

Partnerships between Local Governments and other agencies, NGOs and First Nation groups add value to core LfWSEQ services. One example was the significant increase in Nature Refuge agreements entered into by LfWSEQ members, supported by Local Government officers this year. Read more on page 6.

LfWSEQ is in a strong position with good governance, high levels of participation by Local Governments and demonstrated efficiencies for regional program service delivery. Going forward, Local Governments now have in-depth research to draw upon to diversify and improve program services, in line with Local Government business needs and strategic goals.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

## COLLABORATION OF 14 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- 6 Steering Committee meetings
- 6 Strategic Subcommittee meetings
- Review and maintenance of LfWSEQ governance arrangements
- Transition of LfWSEQ Host Council from Sunshine Coast Council to Brisbane City Council
- 4 training workshops for LfWSEQ Officers

## EVALUATION

- Finalisation of LfWSEQ membership survey

## PROMOTION

- Videos and imagery produced from 5 LfW properties in Logan and Ipswich
- Presentations at 2 national conservation conferences

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Government (DES Protected Areas and Threatened Species, DAF Biosecurity, State of Victoria)
- Research (James Cook University, University of Sunshine Coast, University of Queensland)
- Traditional Owners (Wirrinya, Bunya Peoples, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee and many more)
- Community (Wildlife Queensland, Lockyer Uplands, Watergum, Brisbane Catchments Network and many more)
- Various governments and NGOs delivering the Land for Wildlife program nationally

## AS OF 30 JUNE 2023



**5,455**  
LfWSEQ properties

**4,356** Registered properties

**1,099** Properties Working  
Towards Registration



**78,780ha**  
of Retained Habitat

**9,132ha**  
of Habitat Under Restoration



**41,456** observations and  
**4,841** species recorded on  
LfWSEQ iNaturalist project



**11,614** Facebook  
Followers



## OUR VALUES

We are collaborative and transparent

# SUPPORTING LONG-TERM CONSERVATION

This year, nine Local Governments in SEQ collaborated with the Department of Environment and Science Private Protected Areas Program to successfully negotiate Nature Refuge agreements with Land for Wildlife members.

A Nature Refuge is a voluntary agreement between a landholder and the Queensland Government to conserve the natural and cultural values of a property. It is a class of protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Nature Refuge agreements were commenced this year in Somerset, Noosa, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Moreton Bay, Redland, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast council regions. Each agreement is individually negotiated and tailored to the property, and can take up to two years to finalise and be gazetted.

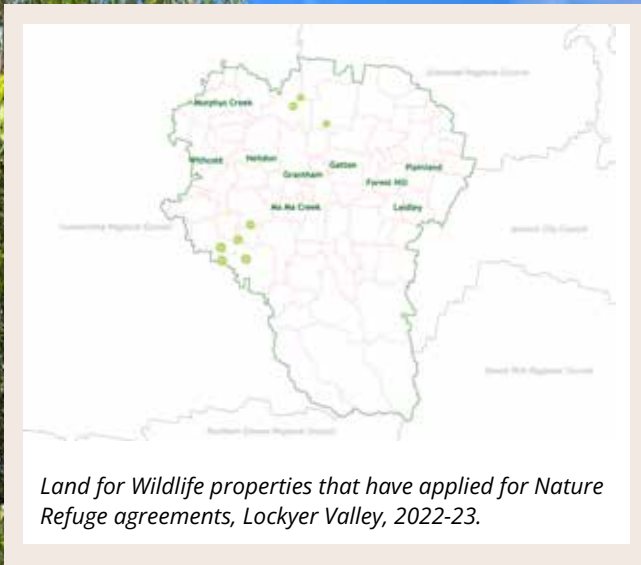
Acting as a stepping-stone, participation in Land for Wildlife builds trust between landholders and Local Governments, which can extend into more permanent conservation mechanisms, such as Nature Refuges and conservation covenants.

Of note are the eight Nature Refuge agreements that were progressed this year in the Lockyer Valley. The Lockyer Valley Regional Council's Land for Wildlife Officer has been instrumental in building partnerships between Lockyer Land for Wildlife members and the Private Protected Areas team. These properties are part of nationally-recognised Great Eastern Ranges and the Main Range to Bunya Mountains Bioregional Corridor, and help form strategic tracts of connected native vegetation.

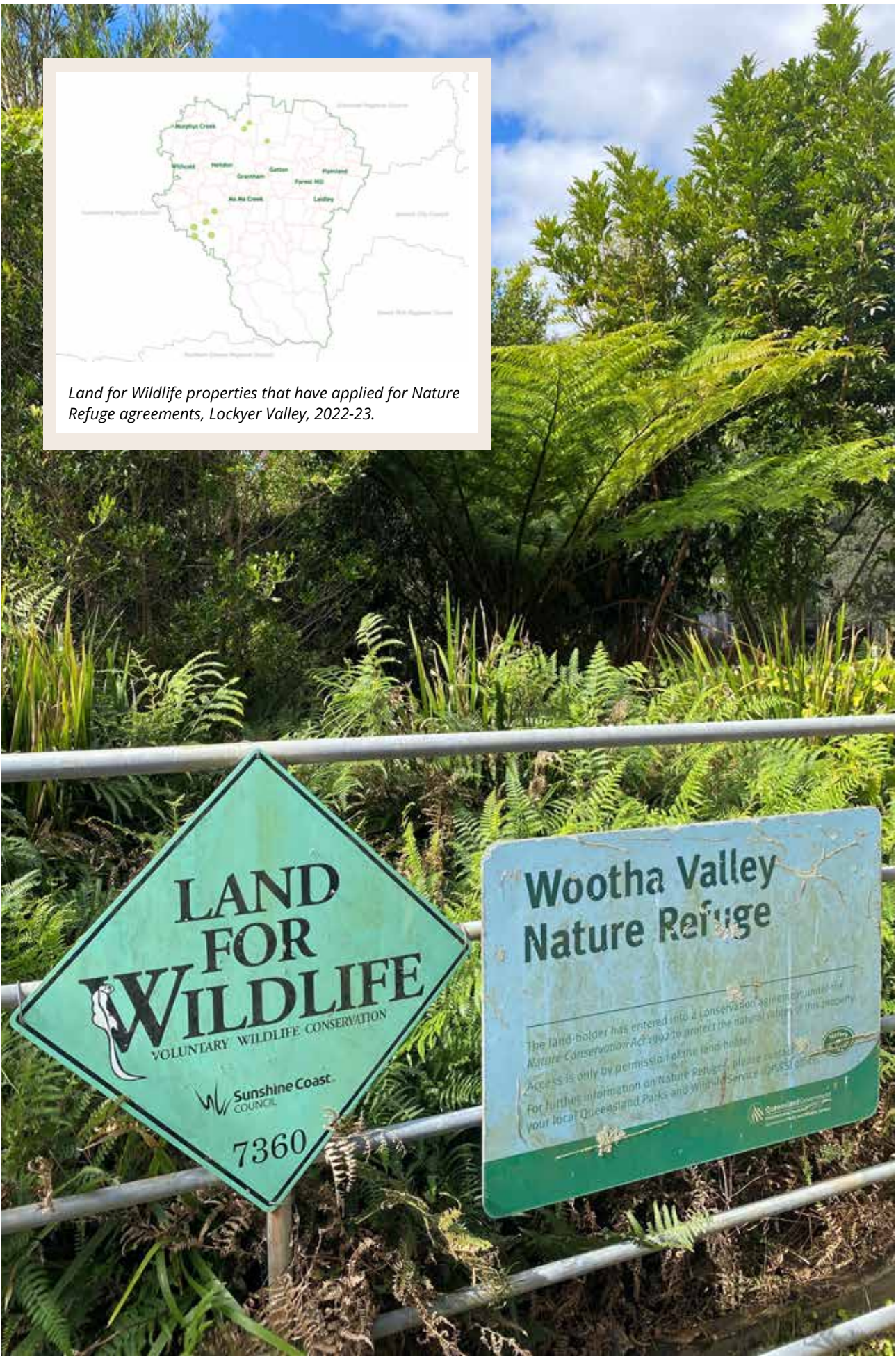


*One of eight new Nature Refuges in the Lockyer Valley this year - all of them started their conservation journey by joining Land for Wildlife.*





*Land for Wildlife properties that have applied for Nature Refuge agreements, Lockyer Valley, 2022-23.*





# OUR VALUES

We are dedicated  
to service delivery





# LISTENING TO OUR MEMBERS

This year, results of the LfWSEQ membership survey were finalised and will help inform the program's ten-year planning cycle and prioritisation of program resources by Local Governments.

Over 1500 members completed the survey representing 29% of the total LfWSEQ membership. Overwhelmingly, LfWSEQ members were satisfied with current services, especially those that help achieve on-ground conservation outcomes such as grants, incentives and training.

Impressively, survey respondents invested \$22.9 million into conservation management of their properties in 2021/22. This includes both cash and time and represents a minimum 5:1 return on investment for Local Governments. Extrapolated to the full membership, LfWSEQ generates economic activity of \$20-70m per annum for SEQ.

LfWSEQ members have seen improvements in the environmental health of their properties due to their involvement with LfWSEQ. The longer their membership with LfWSEQ, the greater the environmental improvements.

Over 1.8 million native plants have been planted by survey respondents, which when extrapolated to the full LfWSEQ membership, equates to the planting of up to 6.8 million native plants.

Members reported that their knowledge and skills in conservation land management has improved because of their involvement in LfWSEQ. They also attribute a sense of purpose, improved mental health and personal well-being to their involvement with LfWSEQ.

Going forward, there was a clear message that LfWSEQ needs to expand and diversify content online to make it easier for more people to access services and to learn about conservation principles and techniques. The program could also improve communication on voluntary conservation covenants and methods for monitoring program outcomes.





# PLANNING FOR EL NINO

Land for Wildlife members, Ann Joubert and Kent Roxborough, are planning ahead for the forecasted dry weather conditions. This year, they implemented an ecological burn on their property at Thagoona, Ipswich while there was still sufficient soil moisture. The cool burn reduced the fuel load and weed biomass. It will also promote the germination of native plants and improve the quality of habitat overall.

Ann and Kent have worked with Ipswich City Council Land for Wildlife Officers to plant more than 600 plants and to conduct this ecological burn. This is especially commendable considering that they only joined Land for Wildlife this financial year.

In preparation for the burn, Ann mowed access tracks throughout her property, which acted as fire breaks allowing the burn to be undertaken in a mosaic-style pattern.

The cool burn helped reduce the biomass of Lantana and Asparagus Fern weeds, creating the conditions for Ann to do follow-up weed control with herbicide.

## THAGOONA, IPSWICH JAGERA/YUGARA COUNTRY

LfW Status: Registered

Joined: 22 Aug 2022

Retained Habitat: 4 ha

Habitat Under  
Restoration: 5.3 ha





# OUR VALUES

We are building  
ecological resilience





# FRONTIERS OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

This year, the LfWSEQ program delivered four training workshops for LfWSEQ Officers to build their skills and capacity in a range of conservation issues, which will in turn, build the capacity of LfWSEQ members. Two of the workshops focused on sharing knowledge and skills on practical conservation and ecological restoration techniques within the officer network. Here are some quotes from workshop participants.

W

The Land for Wildlife Officer workshop at the Queensland Herbarium was a fantastic way to learn of new weed incursions in SEQ. I also enjoyed our discussions on management controls with the other Land for Wildlife Officers who are already dealing with some of these invasive weeds. Working together across council boundaries is extremely important when it comes to weed control. Weeds know no boundaries."

***Maree Manby, Senior Extension Officer, Redland City Council***

W

"The weed spotters workshop was excellent and introduced me to some important species to be aware of, their potential impact and possible dispersal methods. It was also great to have a collaborative platform to discuss weed management issues and techniques that other Councils had experienced success with."

***Jennie Bacon, Environmental Services Officer, Logan City Council***

W

It was good to see a great example of what can be achieved with the sensitive and considered use of herbicides. I think one or two field walks like this per year would be great opportunities for knowledge sharing and mentoring. I overheard a few remarks about the benefits of field-based learning."

***Alan Wynn, Conservation Partnerships Officer, Sunshine Coast Council***

W

I think this workshop on Brigalow and Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket ecosystems was a great opportunity to learn from fellow Land for Wildlife Officers and see different approaches to restoration in a variety of different ecosystems. I would love to do at least one of these types of workshops per year.

***De-Anne Attard, Conservation Partnerships Officer, Sunshine Coast Council***



# OUR VALUES

We are translating  
science into practice







# BIOBLITZING IN THE SCENIC RIM

This year, four Bioblitzs were held on Land for Wildlife properties across the Scenic Rim to build a better understanding of the region's flora and fauna. Over 250 people attending the events with the majority being Land for Wildlife members. Many local landholders also participated, with several joining the Land for Wildlife program as a result.

BioBlitz is a catchy term that describes a multi-staged survey event conducted by experts, accompanied by community members. All kinds of lifeforms are surveyed including plants, fungi, birds, frogs, arachnids, insects and mammals. Attendees learnt how to conduct surveys and how to record sightings in citizen science apps like iNaturalist.

Many BioBlitz participants continue to use iNaturalist to record the flora and fauna on their own properties. Some have also worked with Scenic Rim Regional Council to install nest boxes on their properties to provide breeding sites for significant species such as Greater Gliders, Brush-tailed Phascogales and Glossy Black Cockatoos.

The BioBlitzs were successful in engaging hundreds of local landholders and also unearthed previously unreported populations of plants, gliders, dragonflies and owls.

The Land for Wildlife program, through Scenic Rim Regional Council, provides ongoing support to Land for Wildlife members through regular communication, site visits and targeted botanical and fauna surveys for larger properties.

**BLACK ROCK, CARNEY'S CREEK,  
DUCK CREEK, BEECHMONT**  
Various LfW properties









## MOUNT COTTON, REDLAND QUANDAMOOKA COUNTRY

Various LfW properties



There are many established long-term partnerships between Local Governments and non-government organisations that work with the community to deliver nature conservation in SEQ. One such partnership is between councils and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ).

Councils partner with WPSQ on multiple projects to protect and restore habitats for Greater Gliders, Spotted-tailed Quolls, Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies and the Richmond Birdwing butterfly.

This year, Redland City Council and WPSQ worked together to build a shade structure in the council nursery to support the propagation of Richmond Birdwing Vines. These vines are the host plants for the larvae of the threatened Richmond Birdwing butterfly. The vines and butterflies historically occurred in the Redlands, but due to habitat loss, wild populations of the butterfly and vine are now limited. This long-term project aims to create a viable population of this iconic butterfly in the Redlands.

Over 300 vines have been planted on Land for Wildlife property across the Redlands, mostly in the Mount Cotton area.

In addition to the vines being planted, Redland City Council offers support to remove the weed, Dutchman's Pipe, from properties at Mount Cotton. Dutchman's Pipe tricks the female Richmond Birdwing butterfly into laying eggs on its leaves, and unfortunately will kill the birdwing larvae once they emerge and start feeding on the leaves. Hence, it is vital to control Dutchman's Pipe alongside the planting of Richmond Birdwing Vines.



# OUR VALUES

We are passionate  
about landholder  
stewardship



*Land for Wildlife member, John Hilton, standing next to his healthy  
Richmond Birdwing Vines.*





# ANNUAL INCENTIVES ADD UP TO LANDSCAPE-SCALE CHANGE OVER TIME

All Local Governments in SEQ deliver incentives to their Land for Wildlife members to encourage and facilitate conservation outcomes. Sunshine Coast Council has been providing native plant seedlings for many years. Over time, this has resulted in major links forming between previously disjunct tracts of native vegetation. The value of connected corridors is well researched and enables the movement of wildlife as well as dispersal of plants and fungi.

Over 34,000 native seedlings were planted on 121 Land for Wildlife properties on the Sunshine Coast this year.

One of these properties is managed by Norm Morwood at Palmwoods. Norm has gratefully received seedlings through the Sunshine Coast Council's Incentive Program for 11 years. Over this time, he has restored degraded pastures that were completely denuded of native vegetation, having been previously farmed for pineapples and ginger. Norm had to start from scratch as there was no natural regeneration

given that there was no longer any native seeds in the soil. Revegetation was Norm's only option. His goal is to re-create a forest.

In addition to seedlings, Sunshine Coast Council also installed 87 nest boxes on 29 Land for Wildlife properties and facilitated 138 hours of formal weed control training between skilled weed contractors and landholders from 23 Land for Wildlife properties this year. Nest boxes installed by council on Norm's property are already providing homes for gliders and melomys.

The combination of native plant seedlings, weed contractor training and nest boxes deliver practical actions that strategically target the connection of high priority areas and the protection and restoration of biodiversity assets on the Sunshine Coast.





**PALMWOODS, SUNSHINE COAST  
GUBBI GUBBI COUNTRY**

**LfW Status:** Registered  
**Joined:** 9 February 2017  
**Retained Habitat:** 1 ha  
**Habitat Under  
Restoration:** 0.5 ha







# CONSERVATION COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS

Most Local Governments in SEQ deliver a suite of conservation programs. In the City of Moreton Bay, there are two main conservation programs: Bushcare (volunteers on public land) and Land for Wildlife (conservation on private land). It is rare that the two intersect, as is the case for Holcim Quarry, a Land for Wildlife property in Whiteside which has volunteers helping the company to restore over 40 hectares of bushland.

Holcim Quarry registered with Land for Wildlife in 2015, after a healthy relationship with local Bushcare volunteers was formed. City of Moreton Bay Officers have supported both the Bushcare volunteers and Holcim Quarry staff with advice, resources and promotion.

In early 2023, the City of Moreton Bay organised a workshop to highlight the dedication that both volunteers and the company had made to conserving habitat and restoring degraded lands. Staff and volunteers have worked diligently to control weeds, record wildlife sightings and prevent erosion of the waterways, turning the extensive site into a native bushland oasis. Numerous habitat trees have been protected and native species have been planted to lure back specific butterflies. The majority of work has focused on natural regeneration through clearing weeds for natural regrowth from native seed stock in the soil.

City of Moreton Bay is proud to support Holcim Quarry and its local volunteers for a successful three-way partnership to restore and conserve bushland. This shows that positive environmental and social outcomes can be achieved over time with dedication, trust and a vision for what we all can do together.

## WHITESIDE, MORETON BAY JINIBARA AND KABI KABI COUNTRY

**LfW Status:** Registered  
**Joined:** 7 October 2015  
**Retained Habitat:** 30 ha  
**Habitat Under Restoration:** 38 ha





## OUR VALUES

We are committed to habitat conservation and restoration



## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Every year, Local Governments recognise their long-term LfWSEQ members and community champions. This year, an event in Gatton acknowledged the collective efforts of Lockyer Valley Land for Wildlife members.





# NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In August 2022, Wal Mayr, received the prestigious honour of being the winner of the 2022 Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award.

Wal and his wife Heather have been carrying out restoration on their Austinville property in the Gold Coast hinterland for 40 years. They joined Land for Wildlife in 1999 and have worked diligently to restore their property back to its original rainforest habitat. They were awarded Nature Refuge status for their property in 2008 and have worked closely with the City of Gold Coast on restoring not only their property, but also neighbouring private properties and reserves.

Wal is also instrumental in Austinville Landcare and Watergum, an umbrella group for Landcare groups in the Gold Coast region.

Thank you, Wal, for your lifetime commitment to the principles of Land for Wildlife and Landcare. You are an inspiration across the LfWSEQ network and are a highly valued leader and mentor for your knowledge and dedication to ecological restoration and conservation. Congratulations.



## AUSTINVILLE, GOLD COAST YUGAMBEH COUNTRY

**LfW Status:** Registered  
**Joined:** 29 May 1999  
**Retained Habitat:** 23 ha





*Lance Scott and Helen Dolden's Land for Wildlife  
property at Sheldon, Redland*



*Lance and Helen.  
Twenty years and counting  
with Land for Wildlife.*





*"I am finally happy to pay my local Council rates,  
knowing that a proportion of that is being reinvested  
back into improving our environment."*

*"I think the most valuable element of Land for Wildlife  
is the advice given by the Council staff."*

*"I would like the property to be a destination for my children  
and grandchildren to improve their appreciation of nature  
and all that goes with that."*

QUOTES FROM LAND FOR WILDLIFE MEMBERS VIA THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY (2023)