

DETAILS OF THE 18 SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSIONS:

1. Jetty Dunecare Group – Restore and Enhance the Natural Environment of Boambee Beach North

This project will restore and protect the biodiversity of 35ha of native vegetation on Boambee Beach North. This will be achieved by undertaking primary weeding in areas yet attended to. Repeated follow up and maintenance of areas previously worked will continue. Fox and feral cat monitoring and control will be ongoing as well as community education. The work will be undertaken by bush regeneration contractors and volunteers of the Jetty Dunecare Group who began working to restore this area 9 years ago. This work not only reduces the degrading impacts of invasive species, but also helps to engender community stewardship for the local natural environment.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$25,000

2. Jetty Dunecare Group – Restore and Enhance the Natural Environment of Jetty Foreshores

This project will restore, enhance and protect the biodiversity and visual amenity of the 18 hectares of native vegetation along the Coffs Harbour Jetty foreshores and Coffs Creek entrance south side, an area that contains endangered ecological communities and a threatened plant species. This will be achieved through bush regeneration works (including primary weeding in new areas and maintenance of existing areas) by both contractors and volunteers.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$25,000

3. Jetty Dunecare Group – Pre-empting the Sleeping Invader – Glory Lily @ Boambee Beach

This project's major focus will be to continue the effective management of Glory Lily behind Boambee Beach especially in areas where woody weeds have been and will be removed as this species has the capacity to undermine restoration efforts. The project will capitalise on previous experience and achievements while focusing on areas yet to be managed. Continued restoration efforts will combine a strategic spray regime with manual follow up post woody weed control. This will improve connectivity of north and south Boambee and enhance integrity and resilience of the entire site (from Coffs Harbour to Sawtell).

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$25,000

4. Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Lands Council – Improving Our Coast – Part 2

This project aims to build upon the rehabilitation undertaken by the Darrunda Wajaarr Rangers from the previous grant round of 15 ha of coastal vegetation within Moonee Beach Nature Reserve and Coffs Coast Regional Park. The project will continue to enhance Endangered Ecological Communities' (EEC's) Littoral Rainforest and Themeda headland grasslands and threatened species *Zieria prostrata*, *Pultenaea maritima*, *Thesium austral* and *Sophora tomentosa*, with restoration continuing at 5 high priority work sites: Back Sandy Midden Site, Look-at-Me-Now Headland, Norman Hill, Sapphire SEPP and Charlesworth Bay.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$25,000

5. Nana Glen Landcare Group – Rehabilitating the Coldwater Creek Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR39744) – Phase 2

With previous and existing phases funded by the Environmental Levy Grants Program, work continues on the Coldwater Creek Travelling Stock Reserve which is 5.4 hectares of wet sclerophyll forest at Nana Glen in the iconic Orara Valley. Fire and floods have severely impacted this site, with significant weed growth continuing, and track erosion in the lower portion of the block. This phase of the project seeks to create a better space for community activity (such as workshops), to continue the bush regeneration, and for assistance with the material cost of installing the signage in and around the site.

Requested amount: \$15,000
Panel recommended amount: \$15,000

6. Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare – Growing Our Future 2021/22

This project will fund the employment of a suitably qualified and experienced Nursery Coordinator. Employing the coordinator has meant that strong volunteer support, quality plant production, functional & safe nursery infrastructure, community education and good expert advice has been realised. The benefits of having a supply of good quality local plant species for restoration projects means that stakeholders can be assured that local restoration projects using these plants will enhance and protect the diversity of our natural environment. Regional Landcare has started engaging more with schools with the Community nursery providing a good opportunity to provide support and assist with their sustainability projects.

Requested amount: \$24,695
Panel recommended amount: \$24,695

7. Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare – Improving Land Management Practices in the Coffs LGA

This project will engage small landholders that hold two to twenty hectares in the Coffs Harbour LGA. Small 'lifestyle' property owners and new landholders who have bought property in the area for a 'sea/tree change' often lack the knowledge, resources and understanding of their responsibilities to manage Natural Resource Management issues on their properties. The project will aim to educate landholders on best practice land management including biosecurity, erosion mitigation, nutrient run-off and waterway health, natural area restoration, habitat connectivity and enhancing biodiversity.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$15,000

8. University of New England – Ecohealth Website for Coffs Coastal Catchments

This project will deliver a publically available website hosted by UNE that will provide current reporting of water quality and other Ecohealth monitoring variables in Coffs Harbour coastal catchments. An access-controlled part of the website will give Council access to all Ecohealth data for easy interrogation and export. The community-centred website will allow the community to see how water quality is tracking in their catchments, use digital media and interactive maps to explain key water quality issues in their catchments, and showcase Council's investment to improve water quality. Citizen scientists will be able to establish their own sites and compare their water quality values to national and state guidelines.

Requested amount: \$24,000
Panel recommended amount: \$20,000

9. Envite – Boambee East/Toormina Koala Corridor Improvement

Envite has continued conservation efforts in Council parkland adjacent to Dunlop Drive, Armstrong Drive, Platts Close, Hogbin Drive and Lindsays Road totalling an area of approximately forty-one hectares. The project proposed on this occasion will include the additional site of Linden Lagoon, working closely with a newly formed local Landcare group. The Toormina-Boambee area has been identified as primary Koala Habitat in our LGA and a major link to existing Koala populations in Bongil-Bongil National Park. However, weed species present a major threat to biodiversity within Council managed lands and in some cases act as a barrier for Koala movement. The community engagement aspect of this project will see local residents invited to participate in workshop/field day activities identifying potential threats to Koala habitat.

Requested amount: \$24,966
Panel recommended amount: \$20,000

10. Envite – Upper Bonville Riparian Restoration Action Stage 2

Following the success of Stage 1 of the restoration of Upper Bonville Creek, this proposal seeks to expand the project to additional properties in the estuary catchment system tributaries in rural residential areas in the south of our LGA. Stage 1 landholders have actively participated to improve the riparian condition with assistance from professional bush regenerators, continued assistance will ensure the secondary follow up works are maintained. Revegetation of 600 trees will be undertaken, sourced from landholders as in-kind. Planting will contribute to stable stream banks, erosion reduction, improved water quality and health and connectivity of riparian corridors.

Requested amount: \$24,985
Panel recommended amount: \$20,000

11. Envite – Coffs Harbour Native Seedbank Network

The continuation and expansion of this project will allow for a dedicated service to collect, store and distribute seed to the community. This local seed will be collected in the wild (in situ) and then stored and made available to propagators to germinate for community revegetation projects, including Eucalyptus seed and other orthodox native seeds species. Orthodox seeds can be dried to low moisture content without loss of viability and kept at low temperatures without damage for five to twenty-five years. Native trees targeted for seed collection predominantly for community revegetation projects including core koala food and habitat trees, flying fox habitat rehabilitation project, Orara River Rehabilitation project and fire affected landscapes. All collections will be endemic to the Coffs Harbour LGA.

Requested amount: \$16,012
Panel recommended amount: \$16,012

12. Jaliqirr Biodiversity Alliance – Surveying Platypus Populations in the Orara Valley Using eDNA Technology

This project will utilise innovative science and citizen scientists to investigate and quantify the impacts of bushfires and other threatening processes on platypus populations in the Orara Valley. Using baseline pre-fire data, approximately thirty sites will be selected across both fire-impacts and control areas of similar habitat. Local citizen scientists will be engaged and trained in correct water sampling methodology and provided with sampling kits to collect samples from designated sites and return for lab analysis. The changes in site occupancy in fire-affected compared to control areas will allow the group to quantify impacts and understand the conservation status of populations throughout the region.

AGENDA

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$20,000

13. Jaliqirr Biodiversity Alliance – Canine Scent Detectives Promoting Koala Population Health in Jaliqirr Corridors – Stage 2

The project aims to build on the 2020-21 project, which surveyed koala activity and collected fresh koala scats for future genetic analysis in the Sawtell-Toormina-Boambee area. The project will undertake a detailed survey of koala activity in an area known to support an important but fragmented koala population. This project will undertake genetic processing of collected scat material to determine the number of scats with suitable DNA quality. The individual DNA profiling and population analysis can be used to determine the comparative health and genetic diversity of the peri-urban populations and whether there is genetic flow through these linkages. The information collected will assist Council to better identify and manage this population and the corridors that link them.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$20,000

14. Sandy Beach Action Group – Revegetation of Sandy Beach Reserve Stage 4

This project is a continuation of works to spray and revegetate an 800 square metre section of the Sandy Beach Reserve from the east side of the shared path to the fence. Considerable work has already been undertaken by the Sandy Beach community following receipt of previous Environmental Levy Grants. The project will involve the engagement of the community to revegetate the site with tube stock plants and spread mulch and the engagement of a contractor for the spraying of weeds.

Requested amount: \$7,000
Panel recommended amount: \$7,000

15. Southern Cross University – Catchment Scale Dissolved Metals Export into Coffs Coast Estuaries

In this project, the University will investigate dissolved metal loads in multiple creeks from Pine Creek in the south to Upper Corindi Creek in the north, expanding on previous site specific investigations. The sites chosen will have a range of dominant land uses including forest, urban and horticulture. It is likely that sites with more upstream intensive horticulture will have higher levels of dissolved metals. The objective of this work is to identify and quantify dissolved metals exports into a habitat protected estuary in Coffs Coast Region over varying hydrological regimes. The results of the study will then be used to provide science-based recommendations for the management of multiple dissolved metals sources related to different land-uses.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$25,000

16. Southern Cross University – Further Investigating Trace Metal Pollution in Sandy Beach

Recent studies found significant metals concentrations in groundwater and treated sewage used for irrigation in Sandy Beach. This project will analyse dissolved isotopes and biological tissue for metals concentrations which will add understanding to the fates of metals after introduction to the catchment surface waters. Outcomes of this research may reveal if aquatic organisms in receiving waters downstream are at hazard to human consumers and pathways of metal transport from introduction to downstream export.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$25,000

17. Southern Cross University – Valuation of Water Quality Regulation Services by Shellfish in Woolgoolga Lake

Coastal lakes and estuaries are a major repository for nutrient laden run-off, this can lead to poor water quality and a variety of associated environmental problems. However, shellfish reefs in healthy estuaries can buffer the effect by removing dissolved nutrients, bacteria and reducing algal blooms through their suspension feeding activities. Woolgoolga Lake contains a remnant population of large leaf oysters and Sydney Rock oysters, which have significant filter feeding capacity. This project aims to quantify nutrient reduction by shellfish at a local scale and use this to value the water quality improvement services provided by the current shellfish population, then predict the benefits of shellfish reef restoration for maintaining healthy coastal ecosystems into the future.

Requested amount: \$25,000
Panel recommended amount: \$20,000

18. Woolgoolga Lake Working Group – Caring for Our Waterways – Stage 2

This project will partner with Council laboratories to collect appropriate beach water samples across the local government area to reinvigorate best practice beach and waterway testing and information dissemination and report to the State-wide Beachwatch Program. The process will include the identification of priority areas through a whole of ecosystem approach, with a focus on identifying invertebrates, bi-valves, and fish populations in the Woolgoolga Lake catchment. As a continuation of the current program, this project will increase monthly water testing to six sites and collaborate with Woolgoolga High School teachers and students to consolidate student learning and engagement.

Requested amount: \$24,659
Panel recommended amount: \$18,442