

Community Assistance Program

Environment and Sustainability Scheme

FY2018-19 Grants Report

Rockhampton Regional Council's Environment and Sustainability Scheme supports community-led environment and sustainability initiatives that further the objectives of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Grants provided in FY2018-19:

As at July 2020

Number of grants awarded	3
Number of grants acquitted	3
Total grant funding awarded	\$8,690

Fitzroy Basin Association:

Drain Buddies – Stormwater Source Reduction Trial

This project aims to protect our local environment by trialling source reduction and behaviour change initiatives that prevent litter from entering our drains, waterways, the Fitzroy River and Great Barrier Reef. The 12 month trial will be delivered as part of a larger regional project involving the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Local Marine Advisory Committee and local community. This funding addresses a shortfall in available grant funding and enables delivery of the full trial within our Region.

Key expected outcomes:

- Install and trial use of 'Drain Buddies' (litter traps) in a local litter hotspot.
- Collect and analyse data on the type and volume of litter intercepted by the Drain Buddies.
- Identify a key litter item to be targeted as part of a community behaviour change and source reduction project.
- Assess the benefits and cost effectiveness of potential larger-scale source reduction activities.

This trial was funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and also received funding assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in June 2019.

This project was completed in June 2020. Project highlights:

- Drain Buddies are essentially a heavy duty basket designed to catch rubbish, organic debris and sediment.
- The project installed a total of 27 Drain Buddies across Rockhampton, Livingstone and Gladstone. A total of 9 Drain Buddies were installed in litter hotspot locations within the Rockhampton CBD.
- The four quarterly servicing cycles removed a total of 6,727 litter items, weighing 240kg from these 9 Drain Buddies in Rockhampton.
- Cigarette butts and filters accounted for around 50% of the litter, followed by cigarette packaging, foil wrappers, plastic film remnants and other hard/soft plastic pieces.
- The project partners are seeking long-term funding to extend the project.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: June 2019 to June 2020

Project partners: Capricorn Coast Local Marine Areas Committee, Fitzroy Basing Association, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Capricornia Catchments, Rockhampton Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Gladstone Regional Council

Project status: Continuing



Figure 1. Positive impact of the Drain Buddies pollution prevention project across the Rockhampton, Livingstone and Gladstone Council areas.



Figure 2. A total of 9 Drain Buddies litter traps were installed across the Rockhampton CBD for the duration of the project. This photo shows an example of the litter collected in the Drain Buddies after just a few weeks.

Birdlife Australia:

Capricorn yellow chat - habitat restoration works

Birdlife Capricornia embarked on their project with assistance from Council and the Environment and Sustainability Unit with the main goal in mind being to support the critically endangered Capricorn yellow chat within the Rockhampton Region. There are only around 250 Capricorn yellow chats left in the wild and without adequate breeding habitat their numbers will continue to decline. Birdlife Capricornia continues to educate, advocate and act for species conservation and habitat protection across the Region. This project will fund the removal of rubber vine from the Twelve Mile Creek Area. This is a natural habitat of the Capricorn Yellow Chat bird where the rubber vine is presenting a serious threat to the species of this endangered bird. Rubber Vine is considered a nuisance plant species and is in fact listed as a Weed of National Significance. The weed itself is one that grows and spreads at a rapid rate, this then leads to infestations by other feral animals which in turn means that the habitat loses its natural flora and fauna. The removal process was a lengthy one with the main removal process being herbicide control through the use of basal bark spray, rubber vine is particularly hard to control and remove when it is lodged in waterways, partly because it is not easily accessible. This was one of the challenges experienced along with the sun and heat exposure, this became manageable by wearing the correct PPE equipment (Personal Protective Equipment). There will be close monitoring of the habited area to determinate how many Yellow Chats return after the rubber vine has been removed. The project outcomes were met successfully and hopefully we will see an increase in the Capricorn Yellow Chat species in the Twelve Mile Creek area.

Achieved Outcomes:

- Successfully raising awareness about endangered species within our local region.
- The removal of the rubber vine was a success and will invite the natural flora and fauna back into the habitat.
- This project created awareness about the impact invasive species can have on our local environment; flora and fauna alike.

This project received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme in May 2020.



Figure 3. Capricorn yellow chat (photo credit: Allan Briggs)

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$3000

Delivery: June 2019 to June 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council and Birdlife Capricornia

Project status: Completed



Figure 4. Birdlife Capricornia work site at 12 Mile Creek, showing rubbervine infestation before works



Figure 5. Birdlife Capricornia work site at 12 Mile Creek, showing some of the rubbervine stockpiled for removal from site

Multicultural Australia:

Tucker Time - Food Rescue Program

The Tucker Time Food Rescue program works with local suppliers to collect edible food that would otherwise go to waste. The program supports disadvantaged job seekers as part of a Certificate I Hospitality program and the food is distributed to not-for-profit organisations and to disadvantaged people within our local community. This project raises the profile of food waste alternatives and draws attention to the good work that can be done with food that would have historically gone to waste.

This project received funding from the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and in June 2019 also received assistance from Rockhampton Regional Council's Community Assistance Program – Environment and Sustainability Scheme.

This project was completed in May 2020. As part of the Tucker Time program, Multicultural Australia have:

- Educated three groups of trainees (39 people) on food waste, food insecurity and the importance of the use and redistribution of end of life food.
- Facilitated three workshops at Council events which enabled participants to create awareness around food waste and share their recipes.
- Strengthened community relationships and worked with community organisations to create awareness and opportunity to share food that would normally go to waste.
- Shared food saving recipes with over 150 people in the local community.
- Donated over 1000 meals to local community organisations.
- Rescued over 13,000 kg of food that would have otherwise gone to landfill.
- Further developed the food rescue program to rescue more food, delivering even more training opportunities with greater community and environmental benefits.
- Worked to secure further Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding until 2021.



Figure 6. Tucker Time participants presenting as part of Council's Living Sustainably workshop at the Rockhampton Regional Library in January 2020.

Key project facts

Grant awarded: \$2690

Delivery: June 2019 to May 2020

Project partners: Rockhampton Regional Council and Multicultural Australia, Second Bite and local businesses who have donated unwanted food

Project status: Continuing