Healthy land & water

Solutions Protecting Your World

2017 annual report

hlw.org.au

our region

Noosa
Maroochy
Mooloolah
Pumicestone
Upper Brisbane
Stanley
Caboolture
Moreton Bay and islands
Pine
Mid Brisbane
Lockyer
Lower Brisbane
Redland
Bremer
Pimpama-Coomera
Albert
Logan
Nerang
Tallebudgera-Currumbin

content

our vision, our mission
4

our story
5

chairman report
6

ceo report
7

case study 1 - Mulgowie Riverbank Restoration Program
8 - 11

case study 2 - Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation
12 - 15

board
16

executive
17

case study 3 - Environmental Health Monitoring Program
18 - 21

our members & partners
22 - 23

case study 4 - Innovation
24 - 29

highlights
30

financials
31

events
32 - 35

case study 5 - Riparian Weed Control Program
36 - 39

our vision

Healthy land and water supporting resilient regions.

our mission

We inspire and connect people with evidence-based tools and on-ground action that will protect our natural environment and support our economy for future generations.

QYAC Ranger Shara Beard

our story

Healthy Land and Water is an independent organisation that works with government, industry, indigenous leaders and community members on projects that protect and improve South East Queensland's precious land and waterways.

Healthy Land and Water came to life after two of the region's most experienced natural resource management groups – Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments – merged to form one entity in June 2016. While Healthy Land and Water is a new organisation, our commitment to protecting and improving South East Queensland's natural assets remains stronger than ever. We are now better placed to act as an enabler and facilitator of change, to provide solutions and connect others, and to drive and influence decisions, policy and actions.

Our organisation is made up of passionate staff who work to ensure we have strong and resilient catchments and waterways through:

- gully repair and rehabilitation projects that result in more robust waterway channels that are less likely to erode during extreme weather events
- an environment monitoring program that helps us understand the condition and benefits of our waterways and guides the implementation of best practice catchment management
- clean-up programs that remove tonnes of plastic litter from rivers, creeks and bays each year
- state-of-the-art geographical information system (GIS) mapping technology that visualises, analyses and interprets data to guide on-ground actions
- harnessing the power of our extensive networks to deliver tangible solutions to our most pressing land and catchment management challenges

We believe that maintaining healthy landscapes and waterways is not just important for wildlife and ecosystems but also supports a vibrant economy, strong livelihoods, great lifestyles and the happiness and well-being of the community.

Fundamentally, we help people understand the values and condition of South East Queensland's land and waterways to encourage behaviour change and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of the people and places we love.

chairman report

It is with a mixture of both great pride and great anticipation that I introduce the inaugural Healthy Land and Water Annual Report for 2016/2017.

Our first formal record of business since the merger to form Healthy Land and Water tables our recent work and achievements and provides insight to the future of our organisation as the pre-eminent natural resource management organisation in South East Queensland.

The Healthy Land and Water strategic plan 2017 – 2022 outlines the blueprint for how Healthy Land and Water will contribute to improving the natural assets of our region. Our unique ability to connect and collaborate with stakeholders has and will see us grow into the future by inspiring others throughout our community to protect the liveability, economy and health of our region for future generations to come.

As exciting as the future looks according to this vision, the devastating events of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017 on the back of a prolonged dry spell demonstrated the ferocious effects on many areas of our region and how suddenly and dramatically the tide can turn.

In conjunction with our supporters and partners, this event put to the test some of the programs driven by Healthy Land and Water, in strengthening the resilience of river systems at risk due to severe weather events and I'm extremely pleased to report the success of those projects in averting and minimising the damage.

The Mulgowie Riverbank Restoration Project commenced in 2016/17, representing a $2.4 million investment in tackling sediment and nutrient pollution in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay, through pioneering a new approach to improving regional water quality.

The project involves rehabilitating more than 3km of degraded banks along Laidley Creek in the Lockyer Valley by planting more than 20,000 native trees and grasses and installing six structures to stabilise the waterway.

This project is forecast to prevent 16,000 tonnes of sediment, 11 tonnes of nitrogen and 22 tonnes of phosphorous from entering the catchment every year due to natural erosion and in the face of ex-TC Debbie this system and others in the catchment also helped to offer resistance against the severe pressures unleashed.

The delivery of these programs whilst driven by Healthy Land and Water can only occur with the co-operation and support of our funding partners, in this case the Port of Brisbane and Queensland Urban Utilities and of course would not be possible without the collaboration of the Mulgowie Farming Company and surrounding landowners.

My thanks also goes to federal, state and local governments for their support of our programs, in particular the Hon. Barnaby Joyce, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon. Steven Miles, MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and the Hon. Anthony Lynham, MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Thanks also to our major shareholders, the South East Queensland Council of Mayors and the South East Queensland Catchment Members Association, their members and to the South East Queensland water utilities, Queensland Urban Utilities, Seqwater and Unitywater, for their co-operation and support.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Directors for their support and governance over the last 12 months and thank you to the national and state natural resource management bodies and community groups who work so tirelessly to further our cause.

Finally, I would like to thank our Chief Executive Officer Julie McLellan and her staff for implementing the vision of our organisation on the ground and throughout the catchments of South East Queensland.

Stephen Robertson
Chairman

ceo report

The 2017 financial year was a momentous 12 months for our organisation. It was the beginning of something new, exciting and remarkable. It was the culmination of almost two decades of hard work by sister organisations Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments who, in June 2016, officially become one, and ultimately launched as Healthy Land and Water in February 2017.

The rebrand was the end result of a push to become something greater and more impactful than before. By joining forces and becoming a single entity, Healthy Land and Water positions itself as a leading force in natural resource management in South East Queensland. With years of experience and expertise in our ranks and a deep network of contacts in the community, Healthy Land and Water is wonderfully placed to be an enabler and facilitator of change. In the 2017 financial year, we took major steps towards fulfilling that potential.

In the following pages you will gain an insight into the outstanding projects and events the Healthy Land and Water team worked on. As the stories attest, the 2017 financial year was one of change, achievement and success. In July 2016, more than 400 people came together to celebrate South East Queensland's environmental warriors at the annual Awards night. In October 2016, we launched our innovative go2zone initiative aimed at reducing plastic water bottle use and soon after, in November 2016, the 2016 Report Card was released, providing a comprehensive insight into the health and condition of South East Queensland's waterways. In March 2017, our years of work in the Lockyer Valley and Beaudesert were rewarded when rehabilitated sections of Laidley Creek and the Logan River withstood the onslaught of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, showcasing the effectiveness of Healthy Land and Water's restoration strategy.

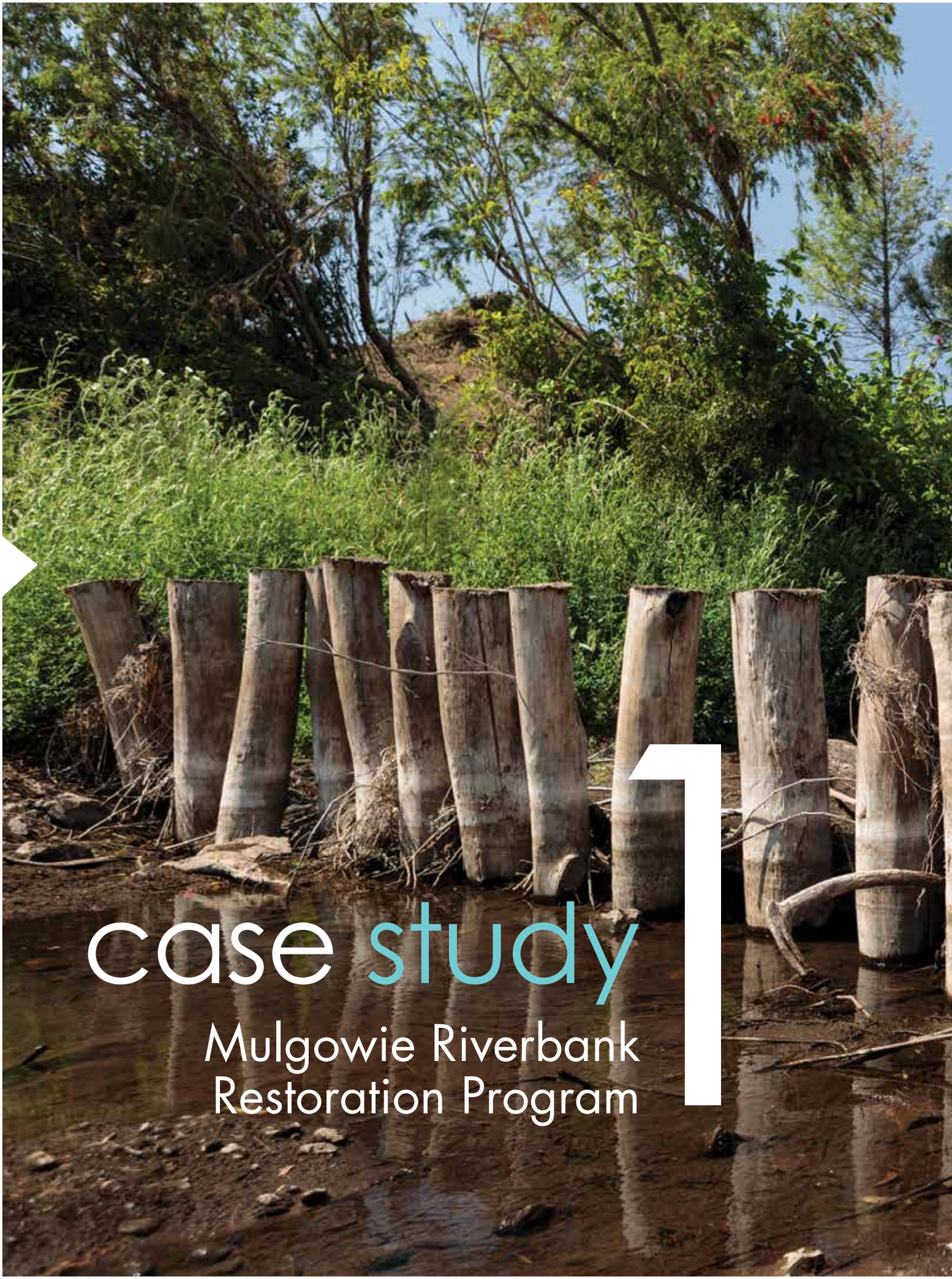
These successes, particularly in a year of upheaval, would not have been possible without the support of the wonderful Healthy Land and Water team. Our team consists of people with remarkable talents and unbridled passion for improving and protecting the wonderful natural assets that make up South East Queensland. It is a pleasure to work alongside you and as an organisation we are committed to harnessing your passion and expertise and utilising it effectively at a time when our region needs it more than ever.

As we have been consistently reminded throughout the past 12 months, South East Queensland is faced with significant challenges. Our region is in the midst of a development boom that is placing pressure on some of our most vulnerable waterways and landscapes. A warming climate is causing temperatures to rise with weather records set to be broken, and we are experiencing more frequent extreme weather events. These pressures highlight the importance of the work Healthy Land and Water is doing to repair, improve and protect our environment, but it is a mission that cannot be achieved alone.

In the 2017 financial year, Healthy Land and Water was supported by many partners and sponsors in government, industry and community. That support was invaluable and I look forward to continuing our work together as we strive to achieve a healthier and more prosperous South East Queensland. As we look towards the future, I am cognisant of our challenges but excited about the opportunities before us. Healthy Land and Water is determined to become the preeminent natural resource management organisation in South East Queensland. There is so much potential in our organisation and we aspire to become a centre of excellence for improving and protecting our stunning landscapes and waterways. That is, after all, Healthy Land and Water's mission and purpose.

With your support, I am confident these ambitions will become realities in the years ahead. Thank you for all your support in the 2017 financial year and I look forward to working closely with you into the future.

Julie McLellan
Chief Executive Officer



case study 1

Mulgowie Riverbank Restoration Program

2017 annual report

Mulgowie
Riverbank Restoration Program

Sediment pollution remains a critical challenge in South East Queensland, and a riverbank restoration project managed by Healthy Land and Water in the Lockyer Valley is leading the way in managing the issue.

During the catastrophic South East Queensland floods in 2011 and 2013, large sections of Laidley Creek were torn apart by raging floodwaters. Riverbanks were washed away and valuable top soil flowed into the Brisbane River and ended up in Moreton Bay, where it smothered sea grasses and other important marine habitats. It was a devastating result for the environment. Research conducted following the floods estimated that up to 80 per cent of the mud pollution in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay came from eroded creeks in the Lockyer Valley.

Key Staff

Paul McDonald
General Manager
Services

Paul Daly
Project Manager

Shortly after the 2013 floods, Healthy Land and Water began working in partnership with project funders Queensland Urban Utilities and Port of Brisbane to restore and strengthen Laidley Creek. The Lockyer Valley, well-known as a highly productive food and horticulture area, is also susceptible to high-intensity rainfall. Restoration work was designed to build resilience into Lockyer Valley waterways and ensure riparian zones could withstand future major flooding events.

The project targeted a heavily degraded 3km section of the waterway nearby the Mulgowie Farming Company, a sustainable farming operation which depends on the retention of the rich top soils synonymous with the Lockyer Valley. To stabilise the riverbanks, 20,000 trees and grasses were planted, flow reduction devices were installed, and creek banks were reinforced with rock chutes and other natural infrastructure.

Because much of the degraded riverbanks were situated on private land, Healthy Land and Water and its partners worked closely with landholders along both sides of the creek. Project leaders developed strong relationships with landholders who were prepared to give up portions of their properties to ensure the project was a success.

Healthy Land and Water Project Manager Paul Daly

Bank battering in progress at Laidley Creek

When floodwater caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie inundated the Lockyer Valley in March 2017, revegetated and repaired sections of Laidley Creek performed extremely well and more sediment than planned was stopped from entering the waterway. In comparison, nearby unrepaired sections of the creek suffered major channel erosion and bank collapse.
The contrast between repaired and unrepaired sections of the bank was stark and highlighted the effectiveness of the restoration work.

Analysis conducted as part of the project estimates the restoration works will prevent around 16,000 tonnes of sediment, 11 tonnes of nitrogen and 22 tonnes of phosphorous from entering the catchment every year. That is the equivalent of keeping 1,280 standard-sized dump truckloads of soil out of South East Queensland waterways and Moreton Bay each year.

As work continues to rehabilitate the riverbanks and build resilience into waterways, producers situated nearby Laidley Creek also stand to benefit significantly. The Mulgowie Farming Company spent approximately $1 million to replace soil lost during the 2013 floods, and other farming operations big and small also endured heavy losses of valuable top soil. Stronger and resilient riverbanks help to keep soil from being washed away and prevent farmers being forced to spend large amounts of money to replenish it.

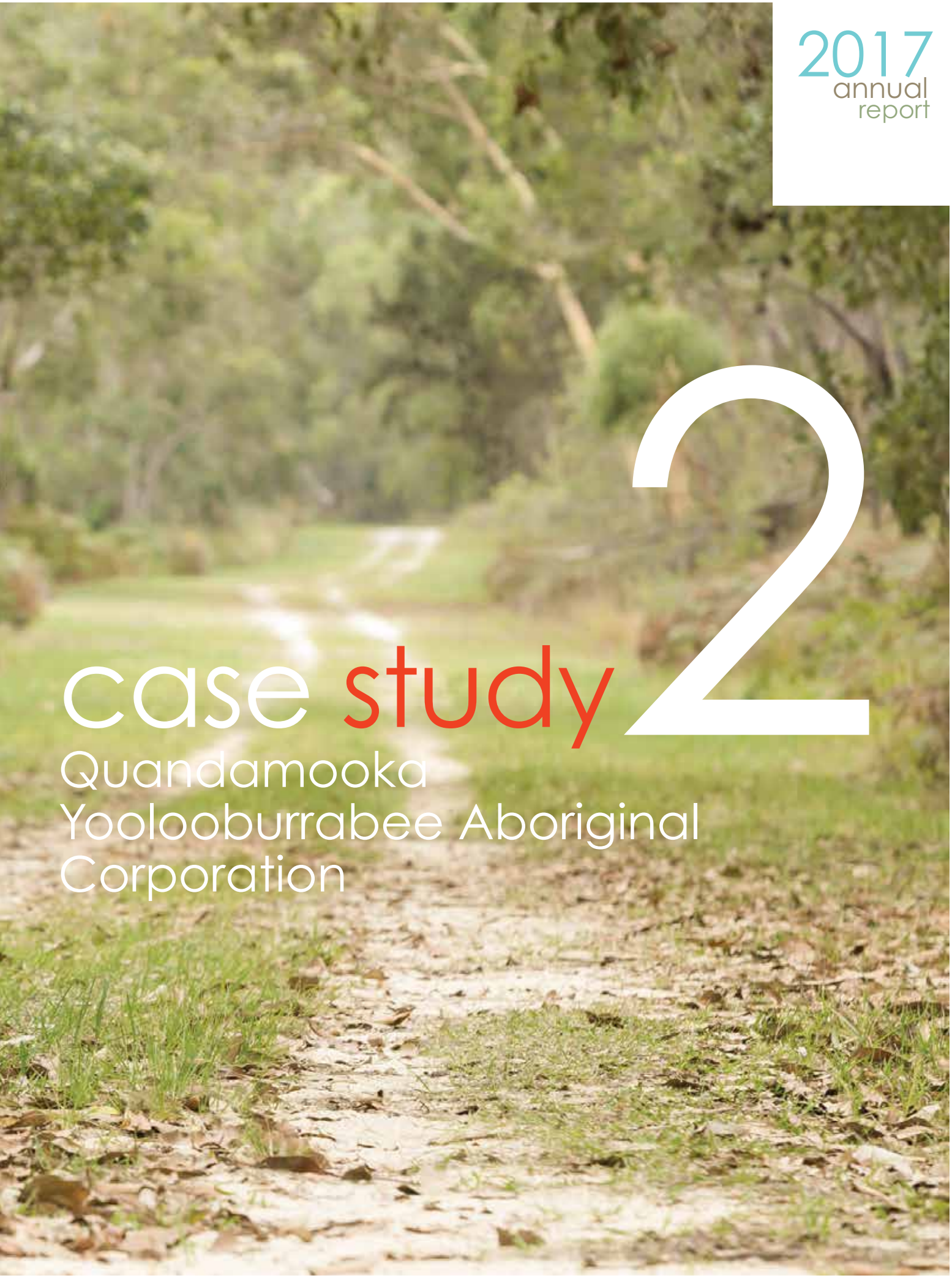
The ongoing project is a testament to what can be achieved when landholders, industry, local government and community groups work together to protect and improve the natural assets of South East Queensland. The restoration work is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Funding Partners

QUEENSLAND UrbanUtilities

PORT of BRISBANE
Here for the future

QYAC Rangers Linda Gross and Shara Beard



case study 2

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

Signs emblazoned with Indigenous imagery are a common sight throughout Minjerribah.

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation

As an organisation dedicated to the preservation of environment, Healthy Land and Water has no more important partnership than its links to the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC). The Quandamooka people have lived in the Moreton Bay region of South East Queensland for at least 22,000 years, and in that time have developed a rich culture built around caring for country.

In the last 200 years, many Quandamooka people were displaced from their homeland and restrictions were placed on their traditional hunting grounds. Following a 16-year legal battle, the Quandamooka people were granted Native Title in 2011 to a 568 square kilometre portion of land encapsulating most of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), many smaller islands and parts of Moreton Bay. This native title determination was the first granted to Traditional Owners in South East Queensland, and QYAC was formed to represent the interests of the Quandamooka people.

In September 2015, Healthy Land and Water signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with QYAC to deliver projects in partnership with a range of organisations across Quandamooka country. The MoU is the first of its kind between an indigenous organisation and a Natural Resource Management group in Queensland. Under the terms of the partnership, QYAC is able to utilise Healthy Land and Water's project delivery skills and experience to improve its ability to conserve and protect natural resources. In return, Healthy Land and Water draws on the Quandamooka people's thousands of years of experience on the land, and builds its capacity to become a culturally competent organisation. It is a partnership built on mutual respect and a passion for preserving country.

An example of one collaboration in the 2017 financial year focused on the delivery of the Feral Animal Management on North Stradbroke Island project, which aims to eradicate feral foxes and cats and protect native species that call the island home. This project is aimed at eradicating the two invasive species which have devastated native populations of turtles, water mice, shorebirds and frogs.

During 2017, QYAC coordinated with other land managers on the implementation of 150 bait stations across the island, which led to the removal of 700 foxes. Many of the baiting sites are equipped with cameras to monitor the animals as they interact with the baits. The project is ongoing and QYAC is working towards total eradication of both foxes and cats ahead. As part of the project, QYAC has spent time educating community groups on feral animal management tactics and sharing its knowledge and data with land managers to ensure the effectiveness of the eradication efforts and to build community support around the project.

In addition to pest management, Healthy Land and Water also worked with QYAC on the Traditional Knowledge Recording Project. Utilising innovative geographical information system (GIS) technology and the knowledge of Traditional Owners, Healthy Land and Water's GIS mapping team identified over 1,000 points of significance to the Quandamooka people. The findings highlighted how Minjerribah is the lifeblood of the Quandamooka people, providing culture, shelter, food, clothing, ceremony and wellbeing for thousands of years.

These ongoing projects enable the Quandamooka people to build their capacity to improve the environmental condition of Minjerribah, nurture their rich culture and contribute to the island's preservation in a meaningful way.

QYAC rangers Elijah Addley and Mark Jones

board

Stephen Robertson | Chairman

Stephen is a former Queensland State Government Minister who has held portfolio responsibilities for Energy, Water, National Resources, Mines, Trade, Health and Emergency Services during his 13 years of ministerial service. Stephen retains a very strong commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement based on sound scientific principles. A continuing interest in population health issues is an important part of Stephen's vision for a healthier and more sustainable future for Australia and the Asia Pacific region. Since his retirement from politics he has been a non-executive Director of Greening Australia – Queensland and the West Moreton Oxley Medicare Local among other roles.

Victor Attwood

Victor Attwood is the former Deputy Mayor of Ipswich City Council, a position he held for more than 10 years. He has 15 years' experience in local government, and is a Board Member of West Moreton Oxley Medicare Local and the Ipswich Mayor's Community Trust. He has been the President of West Moreton Migrant Resource service for over 20 years and is also a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mr Attwood is a committed environmental advocate to all levels of government and the community at large. Victor passionately believes in actively improving the health of local waterways through increased community knowledge, participation in revegetation and prevention of harmful run-off into waterways.

Dale Smart

Dale is a civil engineer with over 35 years' experience working with listed companies in the private sector on complex projects in water, waste, remediation, power, telecoms, defence, health, toll roads and mining services to Government, private sector and industrial clients alike. Mr Smart has experience in Executive Directorships of companies in the Middle East and the Defence sector and currently works for Unitywater in the role of Manager Regional Solutions. In a voluntary capacity, Dale has been a member of the Australian Water Association for more than 30 years, is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, was a member of the Riversymposium Strategic Planning Committee for over 10 years, a non-Executive Director of the Waste Management Association, Environment Business Australia, International River Foundation, Enviro Conference and a current ambassador for WaterAid Queensland

Mayor Karen Williams

Cr Karen Williams was elected Mayor of Redland City Council in April 2012. She was first elected as Divisional Councillor for Division 9 Capalaba in 2004. Karen is dedicated to making sure Redland City is recognised as the jewel in the crown of South East Queensland and that the City achieves its potential as a place for economic development and job creation. Karen prides herself for her strong, caring and inclusive community focus, for being hard working and getting the job done. She has been the driving force in changing her Council's culture to one where residents and their needs come first. Her back to basics approach has seen more efficiencies and savings achieved and service delivery significantly improved. She is a passionate advocate for her City, its residents and its potential. Karen is proud to have sent a clear message that Redland City is now open for business and investment.

Margie Milgate

Margie was a former Board member of SEQ Catchments, being elected in 2009. She is the current Chair of the SEQ Catchments Member's Association where she has represented leading agricultural consultancy and educator Resource Consulting Services in the Rural Sector, and previously Growcom, the peak state body for the fruit and vegetable industry. Now joining the newly merged body Healthy Land and Water, Margie seeks to highlight and build on the work of aligned groups and industries in working towards a healthy environment for present and future generations. Margie has a strong link to her agricultural roots and continues to work in the sector.

Margie is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Management. Margie is a keen participant and member of a number of community and industry organisations including the Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (N4C) and Brisbane Catchments Network, the Rural Press Club, the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) and the Queensland Bushfood Association. Margie has previously gained recognition for her work in the vegetable industry and as a volunteer with the State Emergency Services.

Anne Jones

Anne has extensive experience in all areas of media and the arts. She is currently chair of ToadShow Pty Ltd, a creative company designing high quality, effective communications. Anne is a member of numerous community groups including Save Our Waterways Now, Birds Queensland and the Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network. Anne is also an ambassador for the Queensland Museum.

executive

Julie McLellan
Chief Executive Officer

Julie has over 25 years of experience in senior positions within the water industry and an extensive and diverse background in water management. She has a passion for continuing to evolve the water industry through productive partnerships and believes ongoing investment and action are crucial to support the environment, economy and essentially our way of life.

Julie's demonstrated leadership and communication skills have seen her re-shape and further strengthen Healthy Land and Water's governance structure and partnerships. Her strategic initiative, stakeholder relations and foresight across the water cycle enhance Healthy Land and Water's unique ability to unite key stakeholders on environmental issues and required actions.

Julie's expertise in strategic planning and partnerships is evident through her involvement in the development and delivery of several local and state government water strategies, National Resource Management Plans, and more currently, leading Healthy Land and Water's involvement in the Council of Mayor's Resilient Rivers Initiative.

Julie's expertise expands across the areas of flood management, waterway health, stormwater management, water and sewerage infrastructure, capacity building and strategic leadership.

Through her experience delivering innovative total water cycle solutions for sustainable water supply, Julie understands the value and intrinsic links between our natural assets and the level of social and economic benefits they provide to local communities. It is this insight that helps drive Healthy Land and Water's holistic, inclusive and whole-of-catchment approach to waterway management.

Paul McDonald
General Manager Services

Paul's role is to create new business opportunities and partnerships, contribute to NRM policy and planning, and promote innovation in the NRM space.

For more than 30 years Paul has worked with people from all walks of life – farmers, environmentalists, scientists, professionals, politicians and bureaucrats – to help care for our natural assets and the communities which rely on them.

Paul was a senior manager in the Queensland Government for 24 years, where he honed his expertise in statutory and NRM planning and policy. He is a Licensed Surveyor, has post graduate qualifications in information systems and business, and has trained with innovative leaders including Malcolm Davies, Meg Wheatley and Myron Kelner-Rogers.

Away from work, Paul is a life member of his local soccer club thanks to his two now grown up boys, a keen wilderness walker and rugby fanatic, and hopes the Brisbane Lions will one day be finals contenders.

Faye Lee
General Manager

Faye has over 20 years of experience in senior financial positions at both not-for-profit and commercial organisations. Previous roles include Financial Controller at C&K, Finance Manager at Queensland Teachers Union Health and Financial Controller at Del Monte Fresh (NZ). She is an innovative and outcomes driven leader with a focus on service and delivery for Healthy Land and Water's members and stakeholders.

Faye is an expert in finance and accounting issues, including financial regulation, accounting, and capital structure. Faye engages heavily in business operations, bringing strong industry and competitive insights that identify opportunities for growth and provide additional value to our members and stakeholders. Her strong finance function knowledge across a broad spectrum of activities ensures effective compliance and standardisation of processes.

Jaimie Robertson
General Manager Marketing and Sponsorship

Jaimie is responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction for the marketing and communication of Healthy Land and Water's brand and service offerings, in addition to developing the fundraising strategy and stakeholder development for the organisation.

Jaimie is passionate about maximising the value of brands and has extensive experience in working with some of the most high profile brands in the country, including Golden Casket Lotteries, Treasury Casino, Suncorp Stadium, The Gabba, Vodafone, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, and Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art.

The focus of Jaimie's role in 2017/2018 will be to ensure the successful roll-out of the Healthy Land and Water brand as well as improve the value provided to sponsors and supporters of the organisation through developing a stakeholder engagement framework and strategy.

Adrian Zammit
Chief Operating Officer

Adrian has a BSc. Agriculture (Honours) and PhD (Agriculture). He also has an MBA and is a Certified Project Manager. Adrian is well versed in best-practice workplace health and safety procedures in high-risk environments. His well-honed business skills and project management expertise has made him responsible for winning major projects and building business.

Adrian recently worked as a General Manager at Pacific Environment where he led and managed an environmental consultancy and technology company, employing approximately 100 multi-disciplinary scientists and engineers across Australia. Before this, Adrian was the Surface Water Team Leader and Principal Surface Water Scientist at URS in Brisbane. Adrian has led field teams in remote areas, assessing catchment and waterway health and undertaking water monitoring programs.
He has also been an expert witness in the Environment and Land Court.

case study 3

Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program

Ecosystem
Health Monitoring Program

South East Queensland has grown steadily in recent years and as more people make the region their home, pressures on our catchments, estuaries and bays have intensified. Since 2000, Healthy Land and Water has committed to understanding these pressures through its Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP), which has grown to become one of Australia's most comprehensive freshwater, estuarine and marine program.

The EHMP provides a regional assessment of the health of the South East Queensland catchments, river estuaries and bays based on factors including water quality, habitat condition and social and economic benefits. A range of waterway elements are monitored including freshwater and estuarine water quality (the program surveys 182 sites in the estuaries and bays and 135 sites in freshwater streams across South East Queensland throughout the year), the abundance of seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh, the extent of riverside vegetation and freshwater wetland extent.

In recent years, the program has expanded to assess the benefits the community receives from their waterways. The Waterway Benefits Rating measures the personal benefits and satisfaction the community receives from their local waterways, as well as the ease of accessing and using waterways. The program also assesses the financial benefits generated through recreational activities and the contribution the catchment makes to providing clean drinking water.

In 2015 - 2016, the Monitoring Program recorded an overall improvement in water quality throughout South East Queensland due to lower-than-average rainfall, which curbed the amount of pollutants flowing into waterways. Sediment pollution was again identified as the number one pressure impacting South East Queensland waterways, and the study found sediment was particularly problematic in Southern and Western catchments that are prone to flooding.

A view of Brown Lake, North Stradbroke Island

John Ferris from the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation measures water condition in an SEQ waterway.

The results and findings were compiled to produce the 2016 Healthy Land and Water Report Card, a handy eight-page guide to the overall environmental condition and social and economic benefits of each catchment. The Report Card contained a simple A – F environmental condition grade of each catchment and a star rating system indicating the overall social and economic benefit of each catchment. The Report Card also profiled four field projects being undertaken by Healthy Land and Water and its partners to help reduce sediment loads in various catchments.

The 2016 edition had a print run of 5000 copies which were handed out to attendees at each of the four Report Card launch events located throughout South East Queensland. A total of 320 people attended the launch events.

The release of the 2016 Report Card received widespread media attention and the results were featured heavily on television and radio and in online and printed publications. The Report Card was mentioned 187 times in the media in the month after the launch, and approximately 4,500 people visited the Report Card website to delve deeper into the findings.

Healthy Land and Water's Monitoring Program continues to be a benchmark for understanding the condition and benefits of South East Queensland's waterways. It remains the organisation's prime tool for guiding decision-making and motivating community action in the fight to protect and improve our catchments.

Key Staff

Dr Paul Maxwell
Principal Scientist

Dr Emily Saeck
Senior Scientist

Naomi Soustal
Senior Scientist

Siva Senthilkumar
Data Scientist

Liz Gould
Science & Innovation Coordinator

our members & partners

Healthy Land and Water's mission to restore and improve South East Queensland's natural assets was supported by a number of major members and partners in the 2017 financial year. These partners are crucial to our success and our ability to successfully implement our mission and strategies and reach our targets.

SEQCMA

The South East Queensland Catchments Members Association (SEQCMA) is an alliance between community, government and industry focused on finding solutions to issues affecting the natural assets of South East Queensland. SEQCMA is a owner/member of Healthy Land and Water and works closely with our project teams to identify and develop solutions that build resilience into our region's natural environments. The association's purpose is to bring many elements of the community together as one loud voice in the fight to protect, restore and aid our lands, forests, bushland, waterways, wetlands and coastal regions.

With over 200 members, SEQCMA is uniquely placed to effect meaningful change. Members include catchment and landcare groups, agriculture, tourism and local government bodies, Traditional Owners and individuals who are active in mobilising action and support for on-ground projects. Members of SEQCMA have a say on management planning, prioritisation of activity and funding of projects to meet the long-term targets detailed in the SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan 2009-2031

Mulgowie Farming Company

Brown Lake, North Stradbroke Island

SEQ UTILITIES

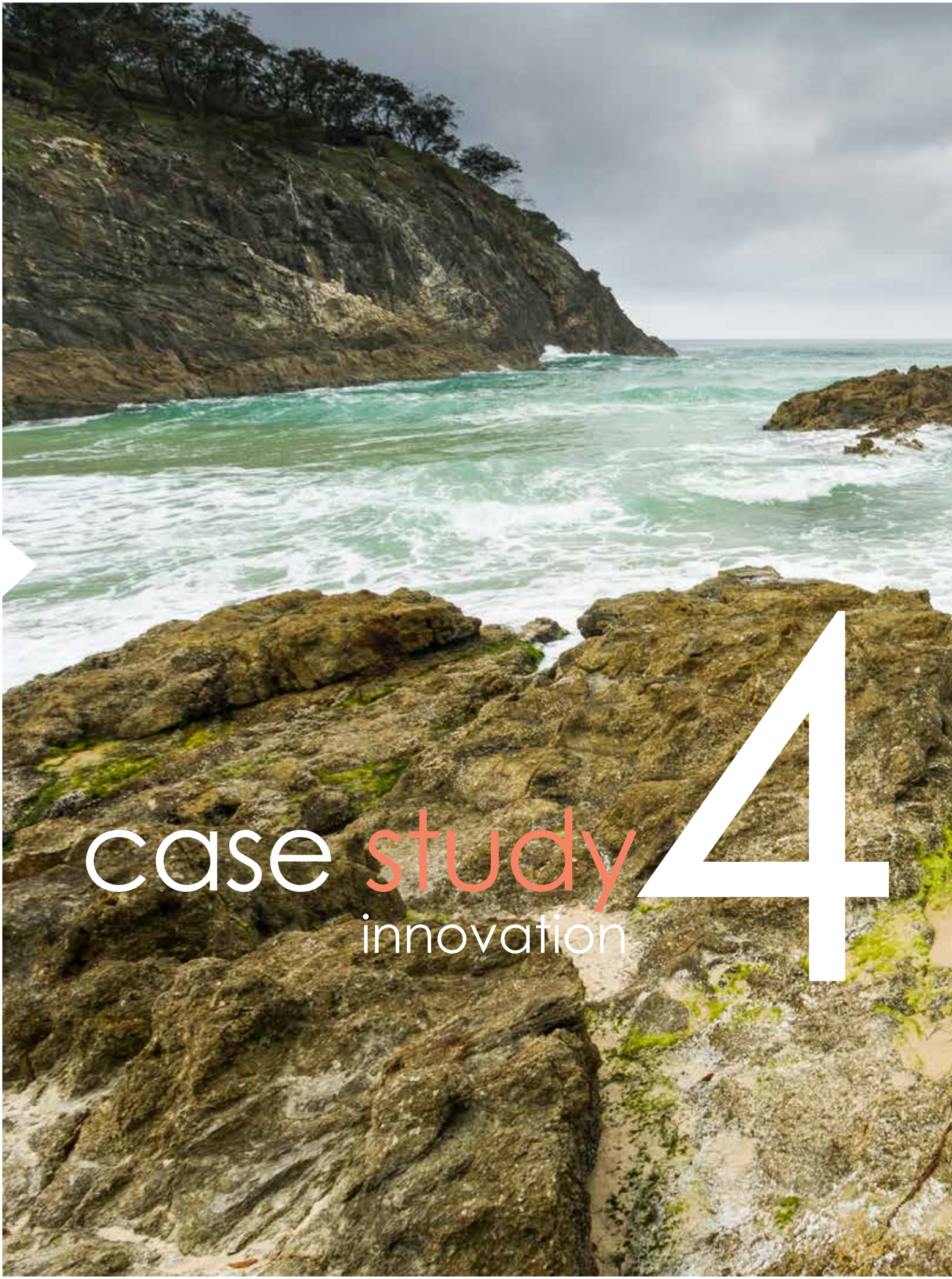
Healthy Land and Water gains vital support from South East Queensland's major water utilities as part of a shared mission to improve waterways and catchments. Queensland Urban Utilities, Seqwater and Unitywater oversee the management and supply of water in South East Queensland and possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise on methods of improving water quality and catchment conditions throughout the region.

In the 2017 financial year, Queensland Urban Utilities, Seqwater and Unitywater played integral roles in the delivery of the Resilient Rivers Initiative and were major sponsors of the 2016 Healthy Waterways Awards. The three water utilities support Healthy Land and Water in the delivery of multiple on-ground projects and are crucial partners in our push to make South East Queensland a healthier place to live.

COUNCIL OF MAYORS (SEQ)

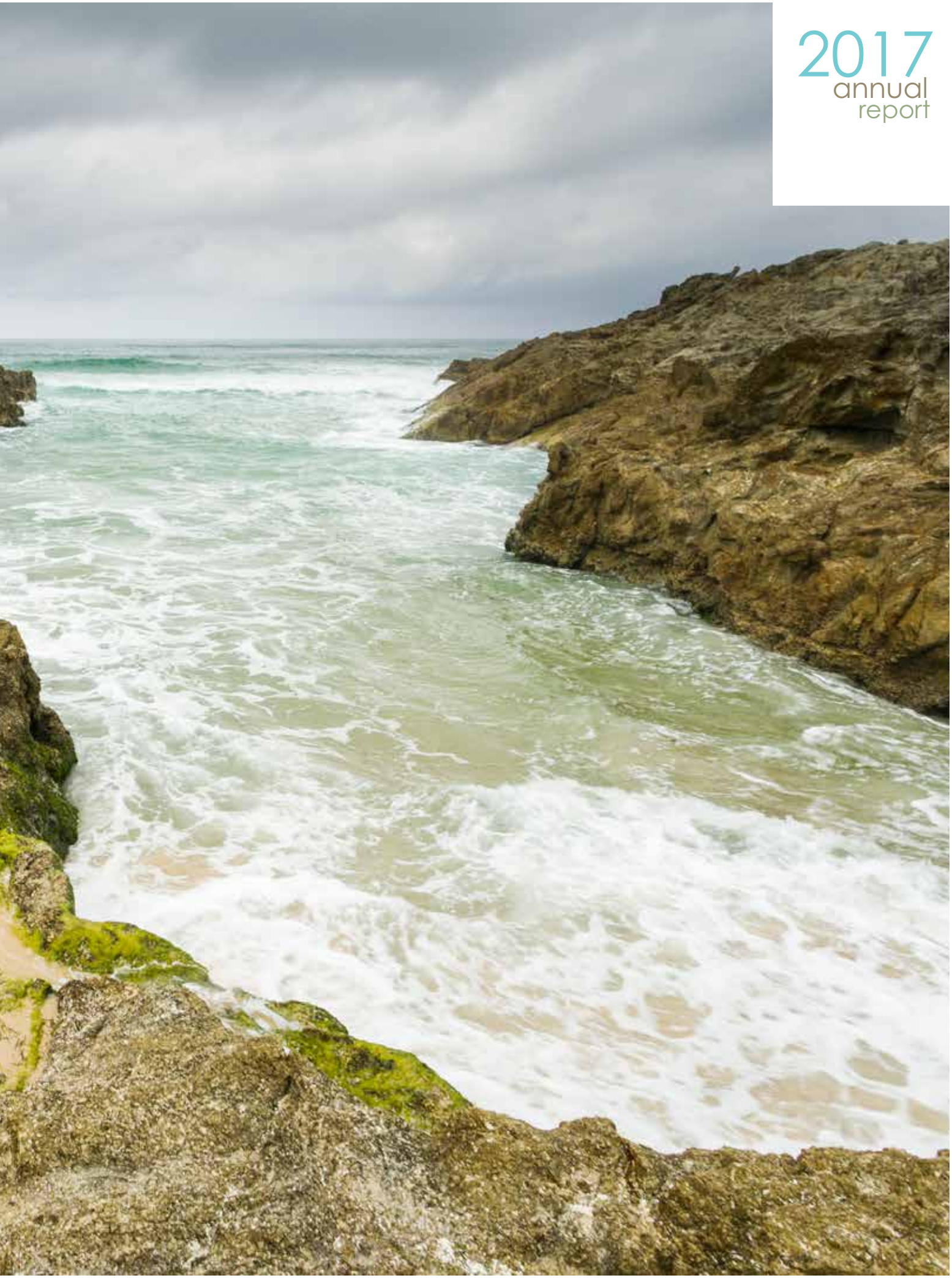
The Council of Mayors (SEQ) was established in September 2005 as an independent political advocacy organisation to represent the interests of one of the nation's fastest growing regions – South East Queensland. Council of Mayors (SEQ) consists of eleven mayors representing the eleven councils that make up the South East Queensland local government region. The organisation uses its united voice and leverage to advocate for a better resourced SEQ region with world-standard infrastructure and healthy and sustainable environments.

Council of Mayors (SEQ) works closely with Healthy Land and Water on a number of projects including the Resilient Rivers Initiative, which aims to improve the health of SEQ's waterways by delivering a coordinated approach to catchment management. In addition to the collective relationship with Council of Mayors (SEQ), Healthy Land and Water enjoys a close and productive association with each of the individual councils on our shared mission to improve the natural assets of South East Queensland.



case study 4

innovation



GIS Mapping

Healthy Land and Water's efforts to protect our waterways took to the skies during the 2017 financial year in search of the best way to identify and manage erosion. The Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project utilised laser technology and the airborne LiDAR sensing method to examine the surface of the land and how it changes over time. The mapping technique creates precise elevation and canopy height models that can be compared to previous surveys to determine an accurate measure of how much soil loss has occurred from a land area.

At Kin Kin Creek catchment near Noosa, the technique was used for a project named 'Keeping it in Kin Kin'. GIS mapping was used to identify areas that were most susceptible to soil loss so that targeted rehabilitation work could begin. The catchment - a rich landscape that supports a diverse mix of rainforests, wetlands, tree orchards, small crops and grazing lands - has experienced high rates of erosion causing sediment to flow directly into Lake Cootharaba and the Noosa River. When a change analysis was created by comparing soil loss data from 2008 to 2015, it was found that 2.3 million tonnes of sediment had mobilised in the seven years between surveys. Based on average soil replacement costs of $30 per tonne, the cost of soil productivity decline was calculated at more than $6 million.

The change analysis identified 258 erosion hotspots in the Kin Kin Creek catchment including old and current landslips, numerous tracks, eroding gullies and streambank erosion. Utilising the data, the GIS mapping technique will guide the development of on-ground restoration work in targeted areas at Kin Kin Creek to minimise the impact of sediment on water quality. Erosion control requires a catchment-wide approach and change analysis provides a strategic decision support to tackling the most serious threats to South East Queensland's waterways.

This project was delivered in partnership with Noosa and District Landcare Group, Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation, The Thomas Foundation, Noosa Parks Association, Noosa Integrated Catchment Association and Noosa Council.

Key Staff

Shannon Mooney
Knowledge
Systems Manager

Mel Walker
Knowledge
Innovations Officer

LiDAR change and slope mapping helps us to better understand the landscape. This image shows the detail GIS mapping can identify from the skies.

Water By Design

As South East Queensland's urban footprint continues to expand, Healthy Land and Water has been working to ensure our natural waterways can co-exist with urban development. In the past, many urban developments were built with concrete-lined channels and stormwater runoff drainage systems that destroyed natural waterway systems and offered very few environmental benefits.

The Water By Design (WbD) initiative has worked alongside councils and developers on a design framework that incorporates natural water systems into development and protects aquatic habitats. By creating places that people can connect with because they are liveable, beautiful, educational and inspiring, this holistic approach will deliver health and well-being benefits to the community and the environment.

An example of water sensitive urban design incorporated in to a new masterplanned residential development.

In 2017, the WbD message gained new exposure through the rollout of Living Waterways training workshops held in New South Wales. Healthy Land and Water Principal Scientist Dr Andrew O'Neill and Senior Engineer Glenn Browning led the workshops, which engaged local government and industry staff to encourage the development of urban spaces that protect environmental values and provide quality recreation and social opportunities.

The Living Waterways workshops were a success and received positive feedback from attendees, who intend to implement the Living Waterways framework when designing and delivering multi-functional stormwater projects. More Living Waterways workshops are scheduled for South East Queensland in late 2017.

Key Staff

Dr Andrew O'Neill
Principal Scientist and
Coastal Team Manager

Glenn Browning
Senior Engineer

Adrian Crocetti
Senior Engineer

Healthy Land and Water's commitment to reducing environmental risks expanded in 2017 through the roll-out of the go2zone water refill stations. The colourful refill stations are installed in public locations which provide free chilled water and reusable water bottles at a small cost. The initiative is aimed at reducing the use of disposable plastic bottles which are the most common rubbish item picked out of South East Queensland waterways. One dollar from every bottle sold is donated to Healthy Land and Water's Clean Up Program, a project that removes tonnes of rubbish from South East Queensland's waterways each year.

After a successful trial, go2zone stations were gradually rolled-out in locations including parks, universities and beaches throughout South East Queensland. The refill stations are Wi-Fi enabled and feature LCD screens that can display advertising and other corporate material. Healthy Land and Water showcased the machines at the Local Government Association of Queensland conference in November 2016 and eventually secured partnerships with several councils and Queensland Government departments to place refill stations in recreation areas and hospitals. In early 2017, go2zone forged a partnership with Hong Kong-based company Urban Spring which invested in several go2zone refill machines for South East Queensland.

As an innovative product in the green marketplace, go2zone is embarking on new opportunities with investors and advertisers to increase go2zone's brand awareness and the number of refill stations locations throughout Australia and internationally. As people become more aware of their environmental footprint and consumer behaviours change, the go2zone initiative provides enormous potential for investment and expansion into new markets. A second-phase roll-out of machines is scheduled to begin in late 2017.

Key Staff

Faye Lee
General Manager

Nick Politylo
Advertising and Business Development Manager

Annette Curry
Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Elvio Dizane
Sales Manager

Sia Poteri
Contracts and Locations Relations Manager

highlights

68km
of riparian works

13.17km
of revegetated riverbanks

1.51km
of rivers restored & flood resilience works

80
projects initiated

150
projects managed

70
projects continuing from previous year

1.51km
of rivers restored & flood resilience works

364
awareness raising events

106
knowledge and skill sessions

3338
wildlife registered properties

2,7046ha
of pest management from feral animals

6894ha
area under restoration

1,167.2ha
of vegetation management

19.27ha
of revegetation

60,012ha
area retained

11820
attendees to awareness raising events

1809
participants trained in natural resource management

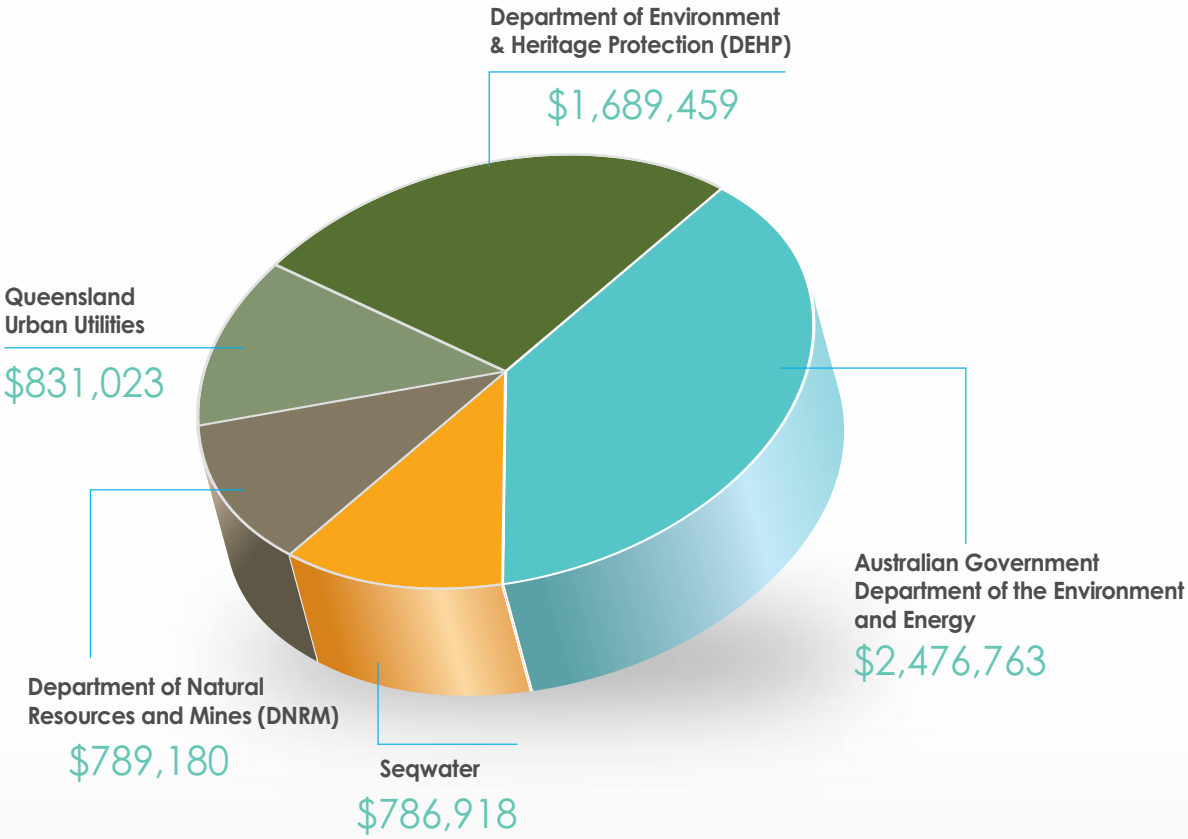
904
properties working towards registration

financials

	Consolidated Group		Parent Entity	
	2017 $	2016 $	2017 $	2016 $
Revenue	11,412,768	13,162,999	6,912,630	7,558,135
Employee expenses	(4,303,831)	(5,608,148)	(3,504,557)	(3,687,519)
Operating costs	(2,035,761)	(2,058,219)	(1,403,111)	(1,108,522)
Other expenses	(15,099)	-	(15,099)	-
Administration costs	(144,193)	(199,558)	(109,283)	(195,252)
Depreciation & Amortisation expense	(116,247)	(138,828)	(27,634)	(9,431)
Impairment of assets	-	(152,000)	-	(152,000)
Project expenses	(4,704,324)	(5,002,423)	(2,111,715)	(2,803,255)
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax	**93,313**	**3,823**	**(258,769)**	**(397,844)**
Income tax (expense)/benefit	(28,238)	(5,724)	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to members of the Company	**65,075**	**(1,901)**	**(258,769)**	**(397,844)**

Top 5 Funding Partners

$6,573,344 (58% of total funding)



events

Bushfire 2016: Connecting Science, People and Practice

Healthy Land and Water's commitment to leading the conversation on ecosystem and land management was showcased during the year at the Bushfire 2016: Connecting Science, People and Practice national conference. With bushfire playing such an integral role in the management of earth's natural ecosystems, experts from across Australia converged at the University of Queensland for three days in September 2016 to network and share their knowledge on fire research and improving fire management on the land.

The event, organised by Healthy Land and Water's SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC) team, attracted over 330 people including some of Australia's premier experts on fire research and management including scientists, students, ecologists, landowners, on-ground fire operators and environmental professionals.

Bushfire 2016 featured three keynote speakers, a panel discussion and 74 presentations across ten themed symposia, over two days of concurrent information sessions, with a poster session on Wednesday evening, a dinner on Thursday night and two field trips on the Friday. Keynote speakers included University of Wollongong Professor Ross Bradstock, who spoke about present and future bushfire risks, and Western Australia Department of Parks and Wildlife Dr Neil Burrows, who discussed the fire-related impact of climate change and the challenges facing land managers. University of Melbourne Associate Professor Alan York also spoke about how fire can influence landscape diversity.

The conference had a strong indigenous focus and offered delegates a day-long session on cultural fire management titled Cultural Burning and Traditional Custodian Fire Projects. The session was chaired by Firesticks Initiative co-founder and Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning visiting fellow Oliver Costello. Case studies presented during the session demonstrated the importance of cultural fire management in protecting and enhancing natural and cultural values, and the crucial function fire stories play in enabling healthy people and healthy country.

Bushfire 2016 was a major success for the SEQFBC team and feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with a post conference survey finding that 75 per cent of the 121 respondents described their experience as 'extremely positive'. A total of 95 per cent of respondents were also supportive of ensuring the conference becomes a regular event. The SEQFBC team is currently working towards holding a similar conference in future years.

Key People

Dr Samantha Lloyd
SEQFBC Manager

Craig Welden
SEQFBC Coordinator

Sunshine Coast Fire Management Officer Michael Rief explaning the use of appropriate fire in the Maroochy Botanic gardens to Bushfire 2016 delegates.

2016 Awards

Since 2000, Healthy Land and Water and its predecessor organisations have recognised and rewarded individuals and groups for their tireless efforts to protect and improve South East Queensland's land and waterways. In 2016, there were 11 awards on offer recognising exemplary on-ground action in fields such as research, sustainable education, waterway management and waterway clean-up. A record total of 75 entries were received including eight for the newly-introduced Junior Waterway Champion Award.

The finalists, winners and sponsors garnered a high level of media interest including a total of 135 media clippings, an appearance on the Sunrise breakfast television program and 404 mentions across social media. The 2016 Awards also received significant engagement online, with a total of 4,000 votes cast in the People's Choice Award and 13,500 page views on the Awards website.

The winners of the 2016 Awards were revealed in front of 402 people at a gala dinner event at the Hilton Hotel in Brisbane on July 8. The 2016 Awards gala dinner was the organisation's biggest event of the year and the most successful to date. Special guests included Queensland Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles, who presented the $10,000 Minister's Grand Prize to the Port of Brisbane Corporation for its Offsite Stormwater Management Pilot Project.

Feedback from guests who attended the gala dinner was overwhelmingly positive, with 93 per cent of people surveyed indicating they were very likely to attend future Awards gala dinners. Crucially, 97 per cent of surveyed attendees indicated they were likely or very likely to encourage others to enter the Awards in future years.

The Awards not only provide invaluable exposure for the organisations and people working to protect our natural assets, but also help build Healthy Land and Water's profile as the peak body in recognising environmental excellence in South East Queensland.

Key Staff

Jaimie Robertson
General Manager, Marketing and Sponsorship

Lucinda Hunter
Events Assistant

events

Rainforest of Subtropical Australia Symposium

South East Queensland is blessed with some of the world's most extraordinary and ancient rainforests. These critical ecosystems are home to thousands of unique species of flora and fauna, and have become a prized recreation spot for millions of people each year. Yet climate change, pests and weeds, fire and other threats are exerting pressure on these fragile and often fragmented ecosystems. To raise awareness of the pressures facing the region's rainforests, Healthy Land and Water hosted the Rainforests of Subtropical Australia (ROSA) Symposium in March 2017.

The symposium was designed to promote understanding of the current condition of rainforests in subtropical Australia and discuss best-practice methods of protecting these endangered ecosystems into the future. Over two days at the Robina Community Centre, the conference addressed four themes key to the survival of rainforests: climate change, threatened species, rainforest restoration and understanding and measuring values.

Ecologist and biologist Tim Lowe launched ROSA with a provocative keynote speech about climate impacts on rainforests, one of more than 30 presentations, discussions and forums featured throughout the symposium. Other speakers included researchers, managers and practitioners from a range of organisations dedicated to rainforest conservation. The symposium dinner was preceded by roundtable informal conversations, Drinks with Rainforest Legends, which included and acknowledged contemporary regional heroes of rainforest conservation. The formal dinner featured Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe who entertained attendees with his presentation Rainforests, Rationality and Ratbags. The symposium concluded with a Fire Q&A, providing a forum for discussion on the complex relationship between fire and rainforest.

ROSA was an opportunity for attendees to share leading research, be inspired by case studies, and network with others across the bioregion who have a deep interest and knowledge of Australia's subtropical rainforest ecosystems. ROSA examined the effectiveness of recent conservation efforts, with a review of the successes and failures in the decade since the 2007 Rainforest Recovery Conference, and explored how current science could improve these efforts in the future.

The symposium was a major success for Healthy Land and Water and garnered a glowing response from attendees, with post-event surveys indicating most attendees enjoyed and felt very positively about the symposium. ROSA attracted 342 people from across New South Wales and Queensland, representing a range of sectors including not-for-profit organisations, government, universities, industry, landholders and volunteers. The event was delivered with support from the Australian Government National Landcare Program and Griffith University.

ROSA will be remembered as a landmark symposium that drew together the latest experts in rainforest management and restoration. The symposium helped broker discussions and partnerships between different groups in the shared mission to protect Australia's rainforests, and showcased Healthy Land and Water as an organisation leading the conversation on rainforest conservation.

Key Staff

Susie Chapman
Coastal Catchments
Northern Area Manager

Paul Donatiu
Coastal Catchments
Southern Area
Manager

Liz Gould
Science & Innovation
Coordinator

case study 5

Riparian Weed Control Program

2017
annual
report

Riparian Weed Control Program

Each spring, South East Queensland's bushlands and forests burst with colour from flowers and trees off all different shapes and sizes. Yet increasingly, some forests are being blanketed in yellow and lots of it. The yellow is from the flower belonging to an exotic and aggressive vine known as Cat's Claw Creeper, and it is wreaking havoc in catchments throughout South East Queensland.

The name Cat's Claw Creeper derives from the three-clawed tendrils which grow from weeds' stems, each resembling a cat's claw which the vine uses to climb up host trees. Once present, the vine can spread very quickly, climbing up and smothering trees and covering the forest floor in a thick carpet of weed. An infestation can kill a fully-grown tree in less than five years, threatening creek bank stability, native wildlife habitat and local water quality. Dense infestations of Cat's Claw Creeper are very difficult to manage and can become overwhelming for landholders.

For several years, landcare and catchment groups in South East Queensland have been partnering to tackle Cat's Claw Creeper in strategic locations. Federal government support has been utilised to buffer areas nearby precious ecosystems including the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and to protect riparian areas in the headwaters of Moreton Bay. Additionally, state government support has helped to reduce the threat to creekbank areas adjoining valuable agriculture land, where less vegetated areas are susceptible to erosion.

To complement these investments, Healthy Land and Water entered into an agreement in early 2017 with Seqwater - with input from Moreton Bay Regional Council - to manage the delivery of a two-year targeted weed management program. A collaborative effort targeting key across South East Queensland was deemed the most effective approach of reducing the impact of the canopy-killing weed.

Six priority sites were selected at Stanley, Buaraba, Mid Brisbane, Lower Lockyer, Northbrook and Upper Brisbane for targeted control work as part of stage one of the control program. Healthy Land and Water was able to secure permission from landholders for its contractor teams to enter private property and clear vines from riverbanks. Chemical spot-spraying was also conducted to prevent reinfestation from buried seeds that survived initial treatment or from seeds blown in from nearby infestations.

Project Partners

seqwater WATER FOR LIFE

Moreton Bay Regional Council

A typical Cat's Claw Creeper infestation .

Across the six target sites, a total of 18 kilometres of riverbank covering an area of 95 hectares was treated for Cat's Claw Creeper and other weed infestations between April and June 2017. Despite a short timeframe, a visual assessment made at all sites showed a significant decrease and extent of Cat's Claw Creeper within controlled areas. The most noticeable change was the dieback of infestations within trees along the riverbank. The project was deemed a major success and long-term water quality in key catchment areas is expected to improve in the years ahead as ongoing treatment and maintenance continues.

To protect Seqwater's substantial investment into the program, all sites managed in stage one will require ongoing management to prevent reinfestation. A second stage of the program will commence in 2018 and will focus on monitoring treated sites for signs of regrowth and treating nearby areas to reduce the chance of the vine surviving and spreading.

The Riparian Weed Control Program is a crucial step in the fight against Cat's Claw Creeper and Healthy Land and Water's mission to improve the condition of riparian zones and reduce the threat to water quality in South East Queensland's catchments.

Key Staff

Ross Bigwood
Rural Team Manager

Dennis Ganaway
Rural Catchments Manager
(Southern Area)

Bruce Lord
Rural Catchments Manager
(Northern Area)

Mark Waud
Rural Catchments Manager
(Western Area)

Vanessa Durand
Rural Catchments Officer

L19. 160 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000
PO Box 13204, George Street,
Brisbane Qld 4003
Ph: (07) 3177 9100

hlw.org.au

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Caption: Healthy Land and Water Project Manager Paul Daly and Laidley Creek landholder Rod Davis