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The official formation of Healthy Waterways and Catchments in June 2016 combines not-for-profit organisations Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments. Together, our community-focused and science-based services and solutions will inform decisions, policy and actions to benefit the environment, economy and community.

## Vision

#### **Healthy Waterways**

With our members, we have one clear vision to achieve healthy waterways for a healthy economy.

#### **SEQ Catchments**

A sustainable future for our community through management of our natural environmental assets.

# **Purpose**

#### **Healthy Waterways**

Works to understand and communicate the condition of the waterways to drive and influence future targets, policy and actions.

## **Mission**

#### **SEQ Catchments**

We take a key role in regional natural resource management planning, secure funding and deliver through collaborative and innovative partnerships with community, industry and all levels of government.

Healthy Waterways and Catchments is working on revitalising a new vision and purpose as a combined entity and this will be released in early 2017.





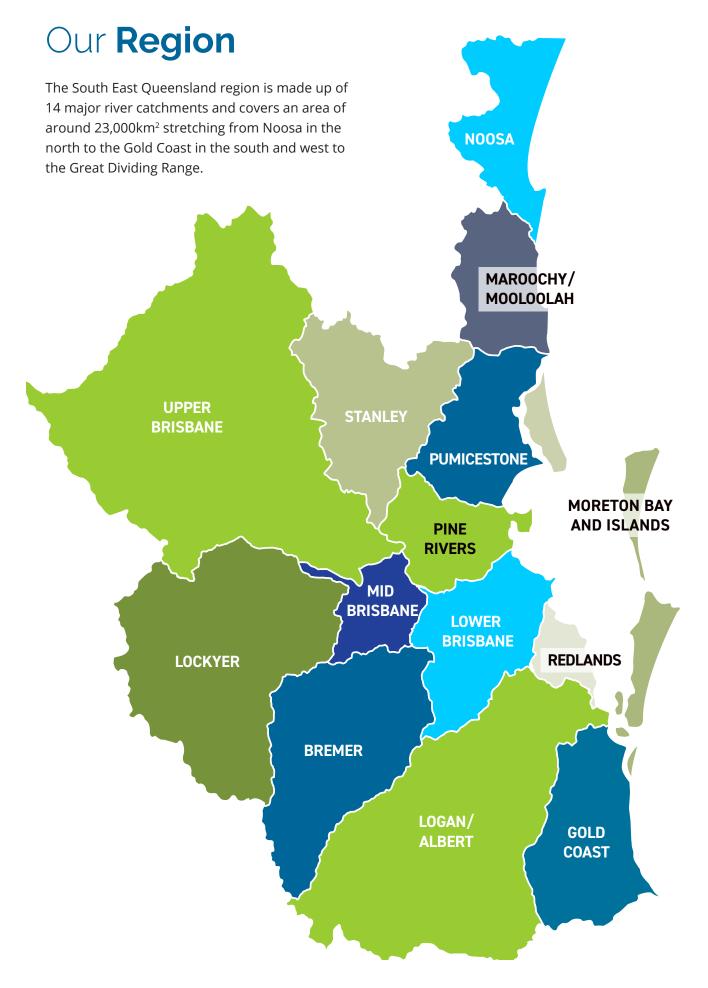
# About Us

A new era for the management of South East Queensland's land and waterways has been formally announced, with the official formation of Healthy Waterways and Catchments. The union of Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments is the next step required to strengthen the coordination and implementation of best practice catchment management.

Combining the science expertise and partnerships of Healthy Waterways together with the on-ground skills of SEQ Catchments will result in a more focused and coordinated approach to tackling pressures to our waterways. With the joining of Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments, it leads Healthy Waterways and Catchments to provide a more holistic approach to both waterway and terrestrial management in our region.

This unique community-focused and science-based waterway and natural asset management organisation will strengthen our ability to influence and inform future regional planning, policy, action and science.





## Our **Services**



## Biodiversity and ecosystem assessment

We work with government, corporate, industry, research, education and community partners to conserve biodiversity and nature conservation values.



#### **Building partnerships**

We encourage and assist the development of partnerships between the community, the corporate sector, other NGOs and regions as well as governments at all levels to deliver NRM outcomes.



#### **Clean Up Program**

The Healthy Waterways and Catchments Clean Up Program enables members to enhance tourism and recreation opportunities for local communities by keeping their waterways clear of litter. This also activates healthy and safe communities through encouraging and supporting volunteerism.



#### **Community engagement**

We mobilise and involve community groups and individual landholders to identify, develop and carry out projects at the grassroots level.



#### Data sets and analysis

Our rigorous analysis of waterway and catchments provide data that is used to underpin policy development, priority setting and performance review of stakeholder investments.



# Geographic information systems (GIS) – mapping

Our Mapping Unit specialises in mapping what's possible in the landscape and applying this information to protect and restore south-east Queensland's natural resources.



#### Landscape management

We work with and support farmers seeking to improve agricultural production and sustainability through the protection and enhancement of their productive natural resources. Good land and flood plain management can reduce risk and improve farm value.



#### **Living Waterways**

As a best practice environmental management approach, Living Waterways provides members with a framework for integrated urban planning and development that combines water management with healthy community living.



#### **Natural landscape solutions**

We offer a cost effective and value for money service to assist government, industry and landholders to plan for and meet mandatory and voluntary requirements for multiple local, state and Australian Government natural resource outcomes.



#### **Planning**

We work with the Australian, Queensland and Local Governments as well as the corporate sector to influence policy and align planning with the SEQ NRM Plan.

## Our **Services** continued



#### **Project delivery**

We support both large and small scale landscape restoration and environmental works, often acting as a Managing Contractor for operational works delivery.



#### **Report Card**

Our globally recognised annual report of current waterway condition, socioeconomic benefits and actions empower and support our members' waterway investment decisions, and motivate community action.



#### **Training courses**

Our award-winning training courses build capacity to cost-effectively implement water sensitive urban design and manage stormwater assets, while delivering social and commercial benefits to the community.



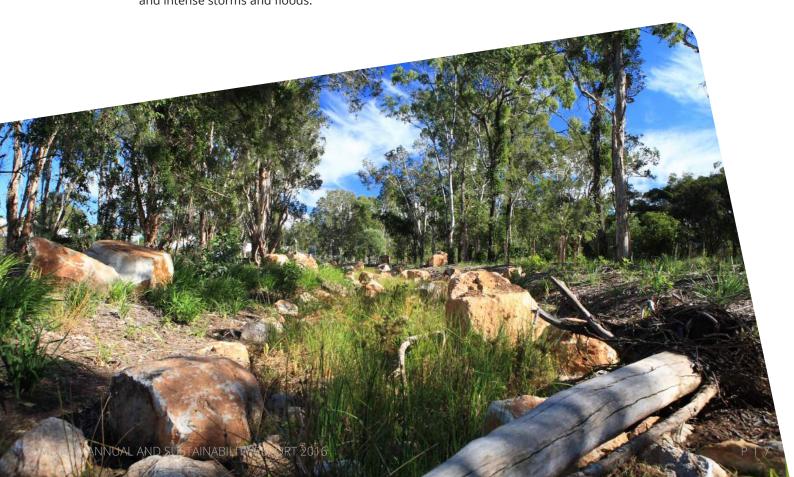
#### **Vegetation management**

We provide assistance to farmers to understand carbon farming opportunities as well as planning, implementing and managing farm forestry. We work to maintain vegetation and the connections between them to protect habitats for plants and animals.



#### Waterway and coastal restoration

Our focus is on the remediation of degraded coastal and aquatic ecosystems (such as streams, rivers, estuaries and mangroves) and protection from risks, such as oil spills and intense storms and floods.



# Chairman's and CEO's Report



**Stephen Robertson**Chairman



**Julie McLellan** Chief Executive Officer



# Creating something new often starts with defining where you want to go. What you want to achieve. It starts with an idea, a purpose you share for something better.

For us, it all starts with heathier waterways and catchments. This is what we want to accomplish. Through realising this vision, we can support happier communities and stronger economies, building resilience into our region.

It also starts with the aspiration to be better ourselves. Healthy Waterways and Catchments came to life on 28 June 2016 at a special general meeting between owner representatives of Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments. But our conception, like the natural systems in which we work, was that the whole of our properties was greater than the sum of our constituent parts.

By joining forces, we can reach further than before. We can be part of something great. Together, we can make a difference and inspire change. We can do more. Be more.

#### Working as one.

One organisation allows us to make the most of our diverse capabilities and to achieve the best outcomes for south-east Queensland's waterways and catchments, as well as for our communities.

The new entity will have the capacity to engage with, and mobilise over 50,000 volunteers in south-east Queensland to inform, support and deliver demonstrable community change and on-ground outcomes.

It will remain focused on reducing the pressures and impacts that activities across our catchments have on our natural assets and the many social and economic benefits they underpin. It will continue to concentrate on the important interdependencies between the health of our terrestrial and coastal ecosystems.

As always, we will use trusted independent science and research to maximise environmental and community benefits as well as influence and inform future regional planning, policy, and action.

Amid lagging economic indicators, we're confident that Healthy Waterways and Catchments will drive new and unique investment opportunities, reduce competition for limited government funding and attract ongoing funding and support. At the same time, cost efficiencies will be achieved by removing overlapping responsibilities and duplications in administrative, corporate services, stakeholder liaison and project delivery functions.

#### A year of achievement.

While the 2016 financial year ended with our restructure, it was marked by a number of significant achievements.

In October 2015, following extensive consultation with our members and scientific experts, Healthy Waterways released an expansion of its world renowned Report Card. This expansion introduced a new Waterway Benefits Rating which provides a benchmark to measure future improvements or increases in the benefits and services that our waterways provide to the community. The expanded Report Card also refocused our independent monitoring to address sediment, the number one pressure on our waterways, and to help inform the protection and restoration of key habitats.

SEQ Catchments' financial year demonstrated the value of collaboration. In October 2015, SEQ Catchments joined with Griffith University's Centre for Coastal Management to co-ordinate initiatives that have a positive impact on the region's natural assets.

Stockland and Conservation Volunteers Australia also collaborated with SEQ Catchments to support, train and manage a team of enthusiastic Green Army participants to restore the ecological health of the Bells Creek Catchment. The program was part of Stockland's environmental stewardship of the 2,360 hectare Aura community at Caloundra South.

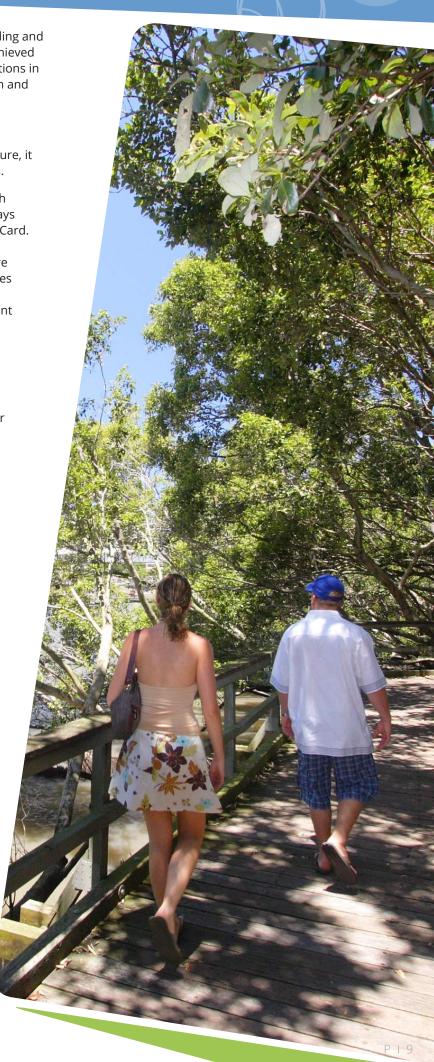
A major milestone was also reached with the 4000th Land for Wildlife property registration in south-east Queensland. This achievement was celebrated on the stunning property of Bev and Laurie Geraghty in Currumbin Valley.

#### A big year ahead.

In 2017, we will get off to an energising start with the launch of a combined brand, vision and strategic plan for Healthy Waterways and Catchments.

We will be expanding our world renowned Report Card in 2017 to incorporate terrestrial biodiversity and land practices. 2017 will also see the growth and evolution of the Healthy Waterways and Catchments Awards to expand beyond just waterways achievements.

In addition to the expansion of our Healthy Waterplay Program providing a consistent approach to recreational waterway risk management, our waterways are set to be positively



impacted by our new four-year partnership with EHP, LGAQ, local governments and other major stakeholders in the Reef Catchments.

In partnership with Seqwater, our new multi-catchment Cats Claw management project will step up the fight against this destructive weed that threatens native vegetation, particularly along rivers. The health of our rivers and streams in south-east Queensland will also continue to be supported by our nutrient sediment offsets program, along with focus areas for action to be identified through a full-scale hazard assessment of our catchments.

Finally, 2017 will see the official launch of Go2zone, an initiative to fight the growing issue of plastic pollution. Following from a successful Healthy Waterways trial in three locations during 2015, Water on Tap has been rebranded to Go2zone which is the first vending machine in Australia to dispense reusable water bottles and free chilled water, illustrating Healthy Waterways and Catchments commitment to better water, biodiversity, community and landscape outcomes. Healthy Waterways and Catchments own the innovation patent for Go2zone.

#### **Building better futures.**

Healthy Waterways and Catchments is now a stronger and more sustainable business. Sure, change is never easy and there are still a few bumps to navigate but the road ahead has never looked brighter. We are preserving the good from the past while capturing the energy and enthusiasm our team has for the future.

The next year will bring many challenges but as a more resilient and capable organisation we believe so are the opportunities to develop new solutions, grow our

business and help create a more sustainable region.

A six member interim board was established to guide Healthy Waterways and Catchments during its first year. At the 2017 Annual General Meeting, Healthy Waterways and Catchments owners - the Council of Mayors (SEQ), a representative of the utilities and the Members' Association – will appoint a new board.

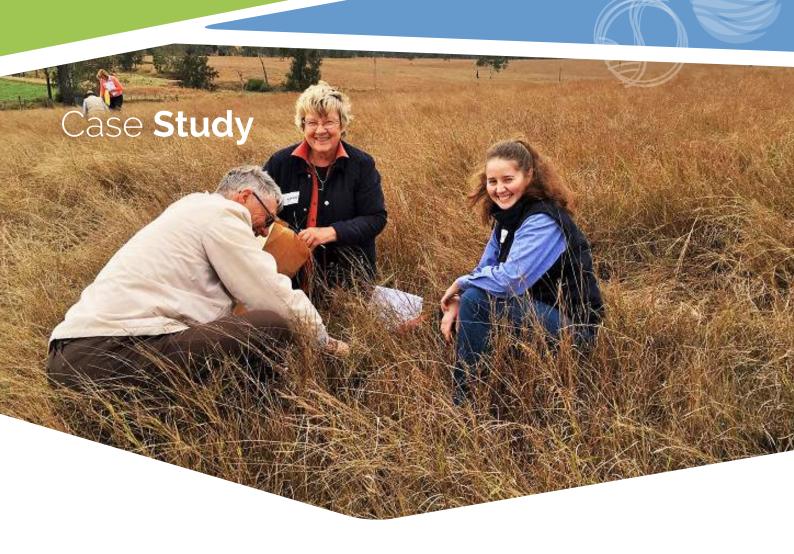
While our leadership may slightly change over the next year, our relentless commitment to delivering healthier waterways and catchments will remain the same. Thanks to the passion and dedication of our staff, members and stakeholders, we have made progress in achieving the targets established in last year's report.

We are both encouraged by that progress and aware that we still have much to do. We know that enabling sustainability is an ongoing journey, and we're focused on being a leader on this front. We have real contributions to make – contributions that over the long term will benefit our communities, our economies and more importantly, our lives. We look forward to working with everyone as we embark on this exciting new era as Healthy Waterways and Catchments.

Julie McLellan
Chief Executive Officer

Stephen Robertson

Chairman



# Grazing best practice in SEQ

Grazing Best Management Practice (BMP) kicked off in South East Queensland in the 2015-2016 financial year with funding support through the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in partnership with Fitzroy Basin Association, the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and AgForce.

The Grazing BMP program is very comprehensive, very well organised, everyone got their questions answered. – Landholder on the BMP program

Grazing BMP program is a voluntary, industry led process that assists graziers identify practices to enhance the long term sustainability and profitability of their business and improve catchment water quality. Through a webbased self-assessment platform, graziers are able to benchmark their management practices against industry standards covering all aspects of a grazing business through five modules: grazing land management, soil health, animal health and welfare, animal production and people and business.

Taking a continuous improvement approach, the program encourages graziers to develop action plans

for improvement, guiding them towards changes in their business and providing relevant training and development to improve practices and enhance and maintain land condition. Over time the program will allow the grazing industry to demonstrate sound environmental and ethical practices to consumers and the community.

The program represented a fantastic opportunity to further develop the grazing networks and the skills of graziers in the region and build upon past extension activities. Seventy grazing enterprises participated in the





Grazing BMP program in this inception year in South East Queensland. Collectively these landholders manage over 55,000 hectares of grazing country.

It's good to know there are people in the industry that understand what's going on and are able to provide help.

 Landholder on Animal Health and Welfare Module

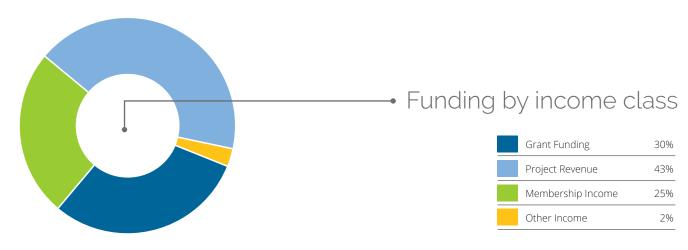


Ten workshops were held across the rural areas of the region from Esk to Beaudesert to provide opportunity and flexibility in attending these facilitated events. In-house expertise from both Healthy Waterways and Catchments and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff provided technical content to accompany module delivery in conjunction with support from professional agribusiness consultants and local Biosecurity officers. Feedback from participating graziers was very positive about the value and benefits of the sessions to their businesses. As a result of strong demand for further information and training, the South East Queensland Grazing BMP team have run an additional seven workshops to meet landholder needs in the areas of assessing land condition and forage budgeting (stocktake), property mapping, assessing different enterprise and management options, and bull selection and fertility management - involving 129 people.

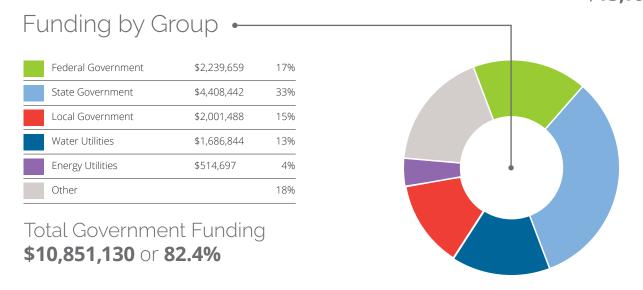
Without Grazing BMP and the direction, guidance and assistance provided over the last several years, I don't know where we would be without the knowledge gained looking after our land and animals. Landholder on support for Audit Certification

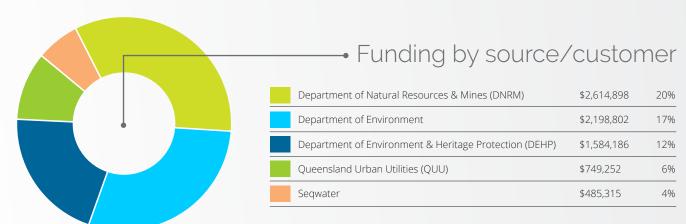
We are looking forward to continued success with the Grazing BMP program with strong interest and support from all stakeholders as we move forward.

# Our Finances



Total Government Funding \$13,162,999

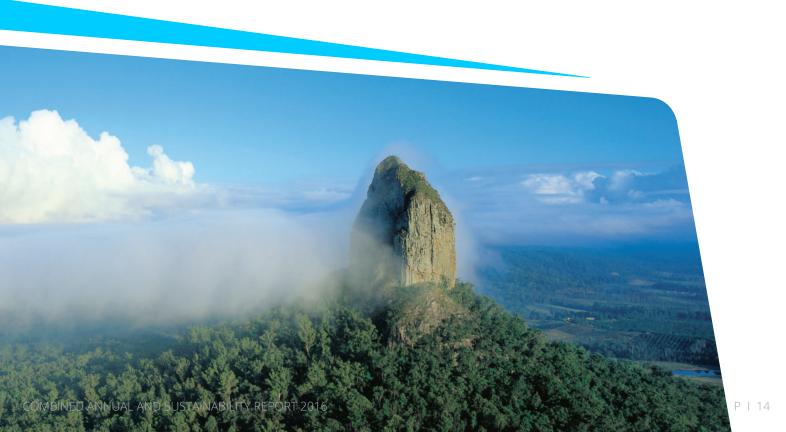




Total top 5 Funding **\$7,632,453** or **58%** 

# Our **Finances**

Ordinary Income/Expense	Total Consolidated
Income	
Revenue Received  Includes Lease, Repairs, Partner Funding, Federal Funding, State Funding, Subsidiaries, Other, Interest, Interest Earned on Interco Fund, Dividend.	6,343,590
Income - Membership Funding	3,323,820
Income - Corporate & Local Govt. Funding	3,476,511
Income - Public Fund	19,078
Total Revenue Received	13,162,999
Total Income	13,162,999
Corporate/Partner Income	
Income - Partner Funding	(429,897)
Income - Corporate & Local Govt. Funding	3,476,511
Income - Other	517,250
Income - Membership Funding	3,323,820
Total Corporate/Partner Income	6,887,684





# Living Waterways

Living Waterways provides a framework for integrated urban planning and development that combines water management with healthy community living. This best practice environmental management approach enables developers, utilities and government to deliver enduring and affordable outdoor spaces. Living Waterways is underpinned by innovative water sensitive urban design and uses nature to cost-effectively provide a green living space while reducing water and sediment run-off into waterways.

In the 2015-2016 financial year, Logan City Council endorsed and activated Living Waterways as an overarching approach through Council's strategic asset management plan. The Framework will be used to support more effective water sensitive urban design outcomes for Council.

Councillor Lisa Bradley, Chairperson of Health, Environment and Sustainability from Logan City Council, said that managing stormwater in an urban environment has always been a challenge for local government authorities, and for Logan City Council it is no different. As elsewhere, in Logan there are plenty of examples of on-ground infrastructure that represent a missed opportunity to create an asset that can be loved and enjoyed by the community, besides just addressing stormwater quality and quantity.

Aesthetically pleasing, harmoniously designed spaces not only enhance social and recreational amenity, but offer environmental benefits such as habitat protection.

When Healthy Waterways and Catchments introduced the Living Waterways framework, it presented a fresh approach to the delivery of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) infrastructure, one that will allow cities to gain multiple benefits from assets that also deliver on their functional outcomes. Logan City Council is keen to explore these opportunities and the adoption of the Living Waterways framework for the delivery of future WSUD infrastructure, will allow the city to benefit from creative, playful and fit-for-purpose spaces.



## Our **Performance**

# **Highlights** 2015-16

# **141 PROJECTS**

were managed.

**49 PROJECTS** 

were initiated.

92 PROJECTS

were continuing from the previous year.

**527** 10,661 276 2,981

**200** 2,386ha 4,075

**Community Engagement and Knowledge Transfer** 

awareness raising events with over

attendees

knowledge and skills transfer sessions with

participants being trained in some aspect of Natural Resources Management

#### **Biodiversity**

new Land for Wildlife voluntary conservation agreements covering

of native habitat.

Land for Wildlife properties (as of June 2016)

#### **River Restoration**

of stream bank flood resilience works

#### **Pest Management**

was managed for feral animals

## **Vegetation Management**

of weed control

#### **Additionally**

revegetated, including

of stream bank revegetated



# **Report Card**

Healthy Waterways and Catchments has been monitoring and reporting on the condition of the region's waterways for 15 years, providing crucial information to identify and track waterway health issues. The internationally recognised annual Healthy Waterways and Catchments Report Card translates data collected and synthesised through our comprehensive Monitoring Program into a user-friendly tool that engages politicians and decision-makers, industry groups, media and the community.

In 2015, Healthy Waterways and Catchments evolved the Monitoring Program and Report Card to increase the focus on addressing sediment, the number one pressure on our waterways. The expansion also included introducing an assessment of the social and economic benefits the waterways provide. This Waterway Benefits Rating provides a deeper understanding of the impact environmental condition has on social and economic benefits such as recreation, fishing, clean drinking water supply and community wellbeing. The Waterway Benefits Rating was informed by data collected through a community survey of over 3,000 people, which was undertaken in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology, as well as an independent economic assessment.

In addition, the expanded Monitoring Program and Report Card explored the actions that are being undertaken across the region to protect and improve waterway health, profiling the willingness, ability and behaviour of community groups and showcasing actions being undertaken across the region on the website.

The data collected through the Monitoring Program underpins policy development, priority setting and performance review of our members' waterway investments. The results were released at the annual Report Card Launch on 22 October 2015, revealing the current waterway condition (A-F grade), socio-economic benefits (1-5 star rating) and actions to empower and support waterway investment decisions, and motivate community action. The Report Card launch is a high profile media event held simultaneously at four events across the region.



Over **2,200** sites were monitored

Over **3,400** people were surveyed

**3,000** people viewed the Report Card online



309 330 81.8% 100%

people attended the launch events

media mentions were achieved (including social media)

of stakeholders surveyed utilised the Report Card

of stakeholders who used the Report Card found it useful

## Our **Awards**

The Healthy Waterways and Catchments Awards Program provides an opportunity to raise awareness of waterway health issues, recognise those making a difference, celebrate achievements and inspire others to take action.

The Awards provide invaluable exposure and support to the colunteers, groups and organisation's working tirelessly to protect the waterways, and the many social and economic benefits they provide to local communities.

## In 2015/16:

- 75 entries were received
- 35 finalists profiled
- · Over 130 media profiles were achieved
- Almost 4,000 votes were received for the People's Choice Award
- A record of almost 400 people attended the Gala Dinner
- 93.15% of attendee survey respondents said they were likely or very likely to attend a
  future event





# Land for Wildlife - celebrating the 4000th property

Land for Wildlife is a national, voluntary nature conservation program which encourages and assists landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their properties. In mid-December 2015 a milestone was reached with the 4000th Land for Wildlife property registration in South East Queensland. This achievement was celebrated on the stunning property of Bev and Laurie Geraghty in Currumbin Valley.

Bev and Laurie's property offers spectacular views along the valley and adjoins the misty rainforest peaks of Lamington Plateau. They are building a home and creating an orchard on previously cleared areas, while the rainforest area and running creek of the property has been allocated as Land for Wildlife.

Since Bev and Laurie are new to the Gold Coast, Land for Wildlife is pivotal in helping them learn about the plants and animals that inhabit their rainforest.

We phoned the Land for Wildlife program. They came out to our property and we were blown away by what they found – Bev Geraghty

Bev and Laurie were delighted to learn that their property is home to several threatened plants, animals and ecosystems including two species that are listed under Commonwealth legislation as Endangered.

One of these listed species is the rarely-seen, Pink Underwing Moth. The caterpillars of this moth were discovered by Land for Wildlife officers from the City

of Gold Coast during a property visit. When disturbed, these bizarre-looking caterpillars display fake teeth to deter potential predators. They feed on only one rainforest vine and eventually pupate into a large moth. "We just didn't expect there to be a caterpillar that looks like this on our property. It's exciting" said Bev and Laurie.





The second listed species is the native Macadamia tree (*Macadamia tetraphylla*). Bev and Laurie are custodians of several wild Macadamia trees – a rare plant outside of macadamia farms. Wild trees like the ones at Bev and Laurie's helped start the entire global macadamia industry and are now important sources of genetic variation for the industry. Bunches of ripening Macadamia nuts hang over Bev and Laurie's driveway, welcoming visitors to their rainforest retreat.

# We love living here and are delighted to call this piece of paradise our home – Laurie Geraghty

Land for Wildlife began in South East Queensland in 1998, since 2004, Healthy Waterways and Catchments have proudly coordinated it in South East Queensland, bringing together 11 local governments to collaborate on regional initiatives. Since 2004, the program has more than doubled in membership and quadrupled in on-ground conservation investment. The 2015-16 year saw a surge in Land for Wildlife membership with over 250 new properties joining the program. After 18 years, Land for Wildlife South East Queensland is stronger than ever. It consistently meets community expectations while improving land, waterways and protecting threatened species.



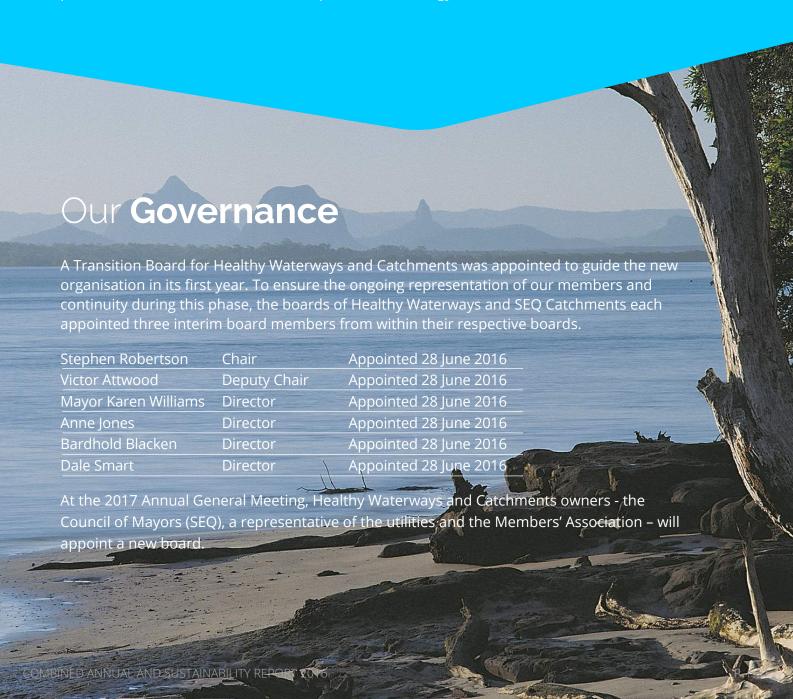


# Our **Strategy**

Healthy Waterways and Catchments pursue a region-wide, multi-stakeholder strategy to integrate and coordinate NRM planning and activities between community, government and industry across South East Queensland.

This strategy is built around the goals and actions of the SEQ NRM Plan, the Queensland State Planning Policy, the SEQ Regional Plan and local government plans.

We are working with the Queensland Government to align the SEQ NRM Plan and draft SEQ Regional Plan: Shaping South East Queensland. We are working on our strategic plan which will provide the framework and actions to pursue our strategy.



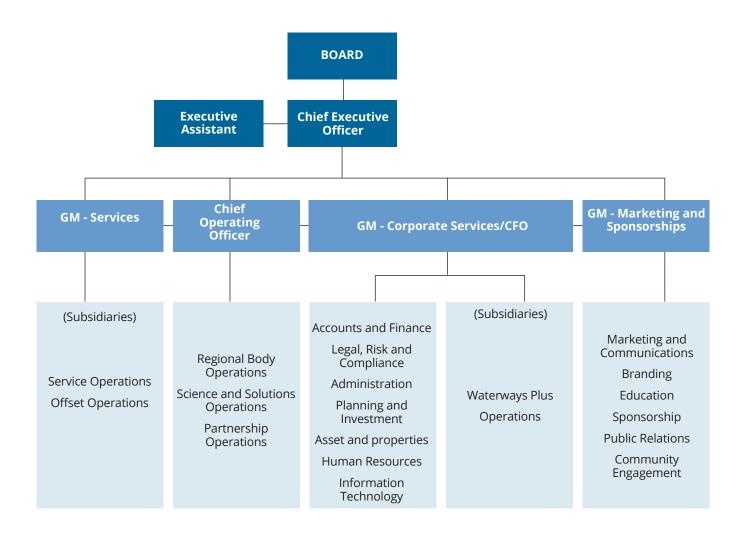
# Organisational Structure

A new era for the management of South East Queensland's land and waterways has begun, with the official formation of Healthy Waterways and Catchments. Our new name contains elements of both existing organisations, and recognises the important role that both have played in preserving our region's natural assets.

Healthy Waterways Limited and SEQ Catchments merged on 28 June 2016 to form the new entity Healthy Waterways and Catchments. This new entity has subsidaries of Healthy Waterways Limited and SEQ Operations Pty Ltd, comprising SEQC Offsets Pty Ltd and SEQC Services Pty Ltd. This organisational structure balances our commitment to realising our vision to support stronger communities and economies while delivering complex contractual obligations.

This also allows us to manage a range of risks. Ultimately, all of these entities are obliged to undertake activities that support Healthy Waterways and Catchments mission and objectives.

A single entity will enhance our focus and delivery on outcomes, and facilitate a coordinated and holistic approach to the many water and natural asset challenges facing the region now and into the future.



# Our **Stakeholders**

#### Our stakeholders are crucial to our success.

We identify our stakeholders as those affected by our activities, products, and services; or those that affect our ability to successfully implement our mission, targets and strategies.

Our stakeholders include governments at all levels, particularly local governments, the corporate sector, landholders, community groups and our employees and contractors.

We continually engage with our stakeholders in many ways as detailed below:

Stakeholder Group	Types of engagement	Frequency
Community	Community Partnership Managers	Ongoing
	Social media	Ongoing
	eNewsletter	Bi-monthy
	Catching up Newsletter	Quarterly
	SEQ Catchments Members Association	Quarterly
	Annual General Meeting	Annually
Landholders	Community Partnership Managers	Ongoing
	eNewsletter	Bi-monthy
Government	Policy submissions	Ongoing
	Briefings by SEQ Catchments's CEO	Ongoing
	Social media	Ongoing
	Reporting	Contractual
	Annual General Meeting	Annually
	eNewsletter	Bi-monthy
Corporates/Investors	Client Managers	Ongoing
	eNewsletter	Bi-monthly
	Annual General Meeting	Annually
	Social media	Ongoing
Employees	Daily management supervision	Ongoing
	Performance reviews	Annually
	Staff retreat	Annually
	Annual General Meeting	Annually

# Our **People**

Healthy Waterways and Catchments leverages volunteer support through member and community groups across the region.

We maintained an excellent safety record in the 2015-16 year with no days of lost time injuries.

12 percent of our staff are represented in our Workplace Health Safety and Sustainability committee including management, operational and administrative staff. The committee reports to the Risk and Audit Committee, CEO and the Board.







# Our Environment

### Our sustainability strategy

Our vision is a sustainable future for our community. Sustainability is our core business and reason for being. We are dedicated to supporting positive actions to protect and enhance our natural assets. Our daily activities and facilities are designed to minimise the impact we have on the natural assets and landscapes of South East Queensland.

Thank you for taking time to read our Combined Annual and Sustainability report.



