

# Annual Report

## 2020/21



Lake  
Baroon  
Catchment  
Care  
Group

*Working with our community...for our waterways*

# LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

## Annual Report 2020/21

---

Management Committee & Staff	3
The Lake Baroon Catchment	4
The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group	6
President's Report	8
Manager's Report	10
LBCCG Programs	12
What did we achieve in 2020/21?	13
Agriculture Program	14
Dairy Program	16
Weed Program	17
Landslide Program	18
Eden Road	20
Bunya Block	21
<i>Other Projects</i>	
Bridge Creek Connections	24
Landholder Environment Grants	25
Department of Transport & Main Roads Weeds	26
Erosion & Sediment Control Program	27
Dairy Program 2018/19	28
Research	29
Treasurer's Report	30
Total Value of all LBCCG projects in 2020/21	32
Income & Expenditure	33
Audit	34
Local Procurement	34
Governance	35
Partners	36

*All photos property of Lake Baroon  
Catchment Care Group Inc*



# Management Committee & Staff



**Peter Stevens**  
*President*



**Bob Philpot**  
*Vice President*



**Steven Lang**  
*Secretary*



**Heather Spring**  
*Treasurer*



**Steve Skull**  
*Committee Member*



**Keith Schelberg**  
*Committee Member*



**Sally Watter**  
*Committee Member*



**Mark Amos**  
*Manager*



**Clare Wynn**  
*Office Manager*



**Luke Ferguson**  
*Project Manager*  
Agriculture & Landslides



**Matt Bateman**  
*Project Manager*  
SLAM Projects & Weeds



**Paul Mackay**  
*Project Manager*  
Dairy & Landholder Liaison

## The Lake Baroon Catchment

Despite extensive historical clearing, 22% of the Lake Baroon catchment is heavily forested; a significant proportion in the immediate area around the dam, although much of this is degraded by environmental weeds. Today, the catchment is susceptible to impacts associated with a growing diversity of land use; increasingly the catchment has become popular with “tree changers” and has seen land use move from intensive grazing to smaller rural residential properties.

This has resulted in the fragmentation of larger tracts of agricultural land into smaller parcels with a significant increase in the number of on-site wastewater treatment systems in the catchment.

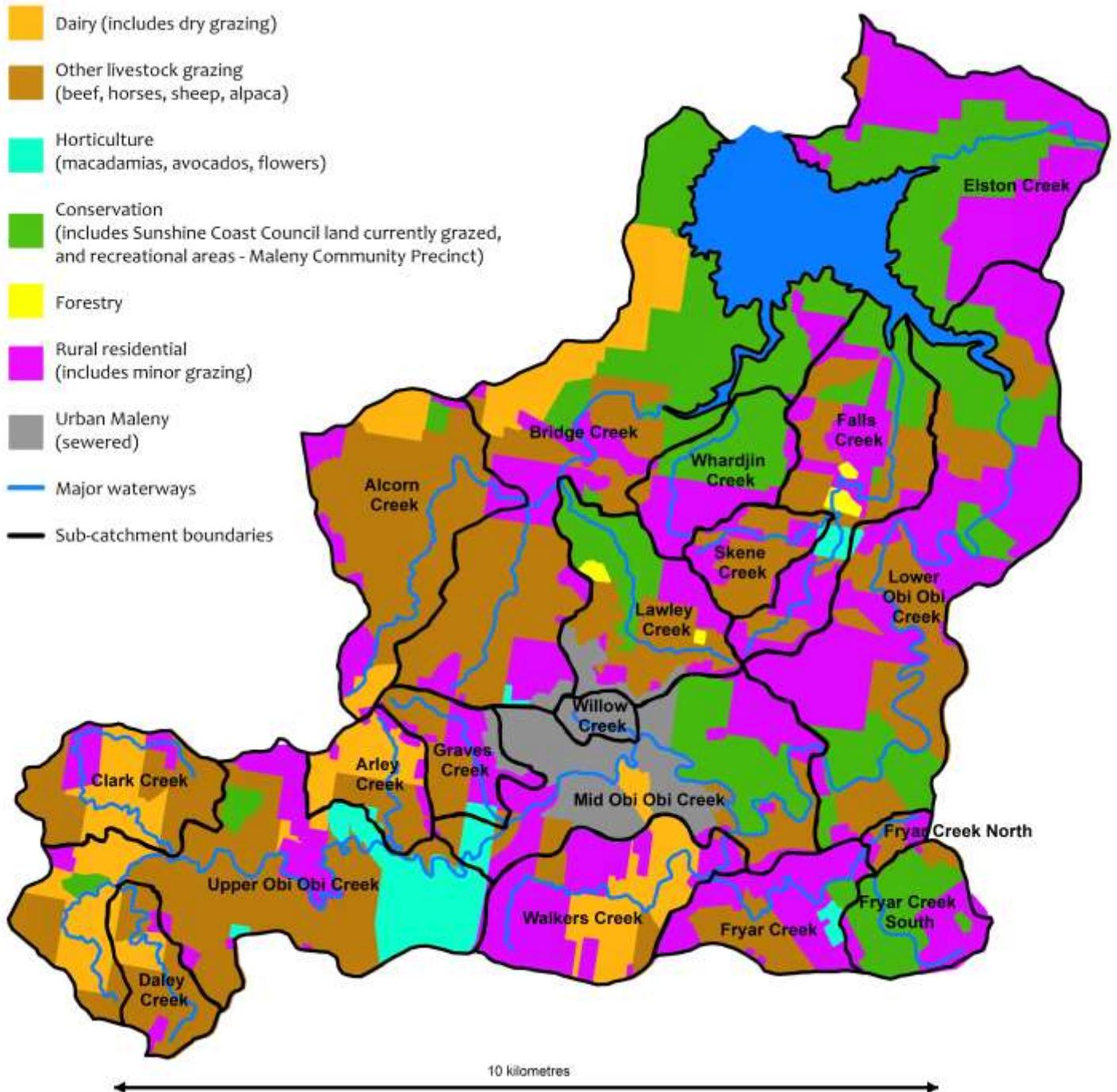
As a result, the catchment is currently susceptible to a number of land use impacts including:

- poorly managed dairying and livestock grazing
- new developments and increased stormwater runoff
- polluted runoff from impervious surfaces of existing developed areas
- uncontrolled stock access to catchment waterways
- lack of riparian vegetation and integrity – the historical result of extensive vegetation clearing
- abundance of weeds – shift in land ownership from land managers (e.g. farmers) to inexperienced residents has potentially led to the spread and proliferation of weeds (including emerging weeds)
- varying pollution sources related to increased population.

Photo: Maleny Dairies



## Sub-catchments and land use



## The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

Since 2009 LBCCG has grown from a small, moderate capacity community group into a relatively large, very high capacity group in 2021. Our staff of five have broad skillsets and abilities ranging from weed management, revegetation, erosion (including landslide management), hard engineering solutions to agricultural expertise (pasture, livestock and animal health). Effective project management is a particular skill of all on-ground staff.

LBCCG's primary purpose is the implementation of on-ground projects that deliver first and foremost improved water quality outcomes but invariably provide significant broader environmental benefits. This is achieved mainly through extension engagement of targeted industries and landholders – primary producers and other larger properties in the catchment. Generally speaking, properties need to be a minimum of 10 hectares or run in excess of 10 livestock to be a priority for on-ground projects. Smaller landholders can access support if they form neighbourhood collectives, either increasing the total landholding area and/or livestock numbers. However, we are willing to provide advice and non-investment support to anyone – best illustrated by our assistance to landholders applying to Sunshine Coast Council's Landholder Environment Grants program.

Education and awareness is delivered via agricultural workshops aimed towards large landholders, through extensive engagement of East Coast TAFE (LBCCG and TAFE have maintained a healthy and productive relationship for almost 10 years with several visits and multiple days per year) as well as other community events and publications.

However, the key skill (rare) LBCCG has is the ability to engage with all sectors of the

*Photo: Lake Baroon from Wittacork Dairy*





community – from the ‘green’ community to primary production. This is attributed to having a clear and unwavering focus and the selection of staff to meet the requirements of these community sectors. Certainty of long-term funding provides the ability to attract and retain staff with great benefits and work environment. This greatly improves our ability to develop productive and long relationships, and long after projects have ended landholders still come to us for advice and support. We pride ourselves on our non-judgemental and confidential dealings with the community.

LBCCG is in the enviable position of working within a defined and small operational area (Lake Baroon catchment) where we are engaged with virtually 100% of the agricultural community. Although this may not necessarily translate into on-ground projects (for various reasons), LBCCG continue to cultivate relationships so that when a landholder is ready to implement a project we are available, trusted and resourced to provide support.

Increasingly though, LBCCGs work area has crept beyond the Lake Baroon catchment. Our workshop program is open to anyone, with attendees from Gympie, Kenilworth, Conondale, Peachester etc. Works are also being delivered outside the Lake Baroon catchment; weed projects in the Upper Stanley River catchment (Healthy Land & Water) and along State roads (Department of Transport & Main Roads).

Where possible and mutually beneficial, LBCCG works with a wide range of stakeholders (in addition to landholders) to value add to projects, improve outcomes and ensure successful project delivery.

*Photo: Dairy Program - Ruddle Dairies riparian fencing & stream crossings*

Welcome to our Annual Report which reviews our outputs and performance for the financial year. Our group has performed well this year under difficult circumstances relating to finances and the ongoing effects of Covid-19.

The delayed implementation and approval of the Bunya Block funding under the SLAM Program as detailed last year, saw our administration spending lurch sharply into the red zone. Only modest previous surpluses and Covid-19 payments received, prevented the entire budget from a similar fate. Such issues, that have been prevented through good management in the past, highlights how vulnerable not-for-profit organisations can become. We need a system that allows surpluses to be accumulated over the longer term to guard against such shocks and unpredictable events.

On the upside, our total project value delivered over the year was just under \$1.9 million. This figure includes almost \$500,000 in landholder cash and in-kind payments, a significant contribution by private individuals to the projects we jointly undertake. This reminds us that we are primarily an on-ground group, we make physical changes to improve the landscape and our environment, our actions are tangible. On a personal level, I find that being able to observe and see these positive changes very rewarding. I also know that landholders who undertake projects often display similar feelings, sometimes unexpected, but always rewarding.

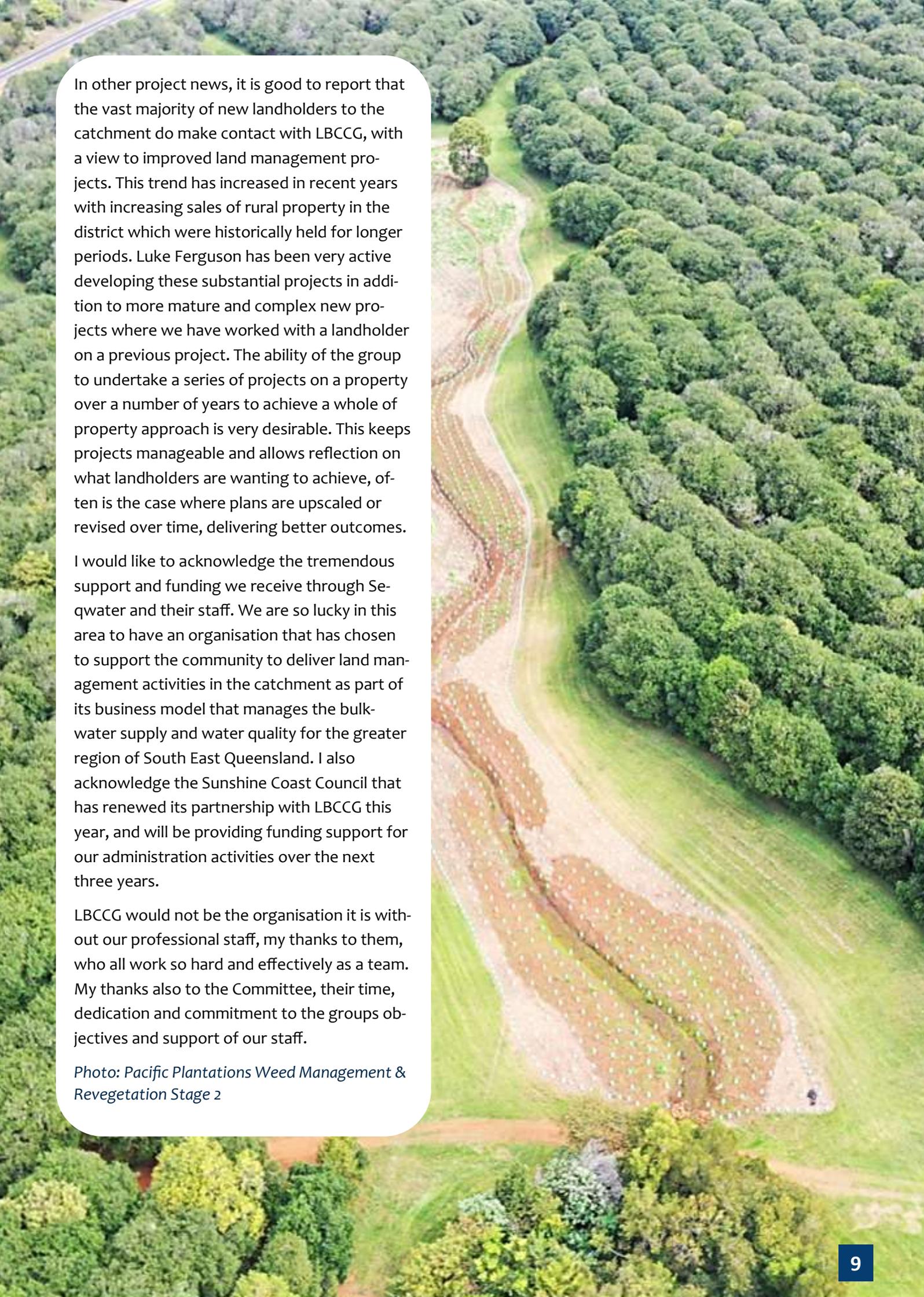
The ten-year Bunya Block agreement signed this year is significant at a value of \$3.4 million, representing the largest single project ever undertaken by LBCCG. LBCCG is appreciative of the trust shown by Seqwater in our capacity to deliver this significant project and reflects strongly on our staff, their skills and experience. Approximately 90% of the funding will be delivered in the first three years, busy times ahead for Matt Bateman, the Project Manager.

*Photo: Dairy Program - Cork Dairies  
(laneway rehabilitation)*



## President's Report *Peter Stevens*



An aerial photograph showing a large-scale land management project. The image features a dense forest of mature green trees on the right side, transitioning into a large, cleared area on the left. This cleared area is filled with rows of young, reddish-brown trees, likely eucalyptus, planted in a grid pattern. A dirt road or path winds through the cleared area, and a small vehicle is visible at the bottom right of the cleared section. The overall scene depicts a transition from a natural forest to a managed plantation.

In other project news, it is good to report that the vast majority of new landholders to the catchment do make contact with LBCCG, with a view to improved land management projects. This trend has increased in recent years with increasing sales of rural property in the district which were historically held for longer periods. Luke Ferguson has been very active developing these substantial projects in addition to more mature and complex new projects where we have worked with a landholder on a previous project. The ability of the group to undertake a series of projects on a property over a number of years to achieve a whole of property approach is very desirable. This keeps projects manageable and allows reflection on what landholders are wanting to achieve, often is the case where plans are upscaled or revised over time, delivering better outcomes.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support and funding we receive through Seqwater and their staff. We are so lucky in this area to have an organisation that has chosen to support the community to deliver land management activities in the catchment as part of its business model that manages the bulk-water supply and water quality for the greater region of South East Queensland. I also acknowledge the Sunshine Coast Council that has renewed its partnership with LBCCG this year, and will be providing funding support for our administration activities over the next three years.

LBCCG would not be the organisation it is without our professional staff, my thanks to them, who all work so hard and effectively as a team. My thanks also to the Committee, their time, dedication and commitment to the groups objectives and support of our staff.

*Photo: Pacific Plantations Weed Management & Revegetation Stage 2*

Covid continued to cast a grey shadow over LBCCG operations in 2020/21, affecting income, expenditure and the ability to implement some projects. Whether it was Covid related or not, the delay in signing an agreement for Stage 2 of the Bunya Block project significantly impacted LBCCG income, particularly when we had employed new staff in 2019/20 to deliver an anticipated vastly larger works program. Fortunately, we were able to draw on previous surpluses and able to retain all staff with no changes to work conditions.

Despite Covid and other challenges, we were still able to deliver almost \$2 million worth of project value – very similar to the previous year. Once again, the organisation pulled together and focussed on providing the best 'bang for buck' we could and spending as much investment on the ground as possible, as in reality this is what provides the greatest outcomes to water quality and environmental enhancements while benefitting primary production.

We strive to provide win – win projects in the catchment. Water quality and environmental projects provide a broad and significant community benefit, far beyond property boundaries and therefore a landholder needs to be rewarded for his contribution to the greater good. Our landholders are our most precious partners – without them we would not be able to implement the projects we do and realise the benefits we do.

The LBCCG Management Committee, led by President Peter Stevens, continues to provide exceptional strategic leadership, program and project advice when needed and the staff support that enables us to do the job we are employed to do. In fact, all the attendees of our monthly meetings have in one way or another contributed to the success of our group.

*Photo: Agricultural Practice Improvement workshop - Hoof Health & livestock laneways*



## Manager's Report Mark Amos



All staff have completed a productive year with almost all projects implemented as planned. The only exception to this has been the problematic dairy effluent project (a remnant of the 2018/19 Dairy Program).

Finding solutions to the dairy effluent issues in the catchment has been difficult when considering the local rainfall, soil characteristics and to a certain extent the difficulty in finding the relevant knowledge and skills. The proposed system and design is costly (and difficult to accurately estimate), will occupy a substantial footprint and relies on a strictly regimented management and maintenance program to function correctly. The design and negotiation phase is ongoing.

The delayed Bunya Block project received the green light late in the financial year and although the funding was received too late to implement any significant activities, nevertheless planning for the new year commenced. This 10-year project is an historic outcome for LBCCG both in scale, investment and the level of trust placed in the group by Seqwater.

Indeed, the trust afforded by Seqwater to all LBCCG programs and projects is exceptional and hopefully highlights the effectiveness, efficiency and success of the unique investment model. This partnership wouldn't exist if not for Seqwater's Tim Odgers and Julian O'Mara who not only provide unwavering support to LBCCG, but also provide an endless supply of enthusiasm and passion for water and the environment.

Finally, but certainly not least, is the ongoing support provided by Sunshine Coast Council with Environment Levy Partnership funding. This operational support is critically important as it provides essential resources for LBCCG to 'keep the doors open'. Project funding is relatively straightforward to acquire, however funding to employ quality staff to implement projects is far more difficult to source.

*Photo: Upper Falls Creek Riparian Fencing & Re-vegetation Stage 2*



## LBCCG Programs

In 2020/21 LBCCG delivered six key Programs and projects:

- CORE Agriculture – projects with beef farms, horticulture and high priority rural properties
- Landslide Program - various corrective works on properties that suffer from significant soil loss to catchment waterways
- Weed Program – eradication, control and/or management of Cats claw vine, Madeira vine, Chinese elm and other emerging weed species
- Dairy Program – implementing activities on all catchment dairy farms to improve on-farm and catchment water quality
- Eden Road – a property on the shores of Lake Baroon purchased by Seqwater with LBCCG implementing remediation actions
- Bunya Block - a large grazing property on the shores of Lake Baroon purchased by Seqwater with LBCCG implementing remediation actions.

These Programs and projects received funding and support from:

- Seqwater (CORE project & administration funding, SCIP and SLAM project funding, office facilities)
- Sunshine Coast Council (operational funding)
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (project funding)
- Department of Science & Environment (Community Sustainability Action Grants project funding)
- other opportunistic funding from Local, State and Commonwealth sources (including Council Landholder Environment Grants received by landholders)

*Photo: Upper Falls Creek Riparian Fencing & Revegetation*



## What did we achieve in 2020/21?

Activity	PROGRAM											TOTALS
	CORE Agriculture	Dairy	Landslides	Weeds (incl. DTMR)	Bridge Ck Erosion	Bridge Ck Connections	Eden Road	Bunya Block Stage 1	Bunya Block Stage 2	2018/19 Dairy Program	Other	
Riparian fencing	600	2,907										3,507 m
Landslide fencing			135									135 m
Laneway fencing		1,190										1,190 m
Boundary fencing								1,030				1,030 m
Fencing repairs								250	250			500 m
Flood fences			1									1
Revegetation	7,325		7,389			250	2,000					16,964
Advanced trees	12											12
Revegetation maintenance	5,500		27,125		1,650	1,500	8,500					44,275
New stream crossings	2	9										11
Crossings repaired	1											1
Livestock troughs	9	8										17
Weed mgt – mechanical			4.7				1.56	13.7				19.96 ha
Weed mgt – follow up	3			14.415				13.7				31.115 ha
Facilities maintenance							0.5					0.5 ha
Livestock laneways		797										797 m
Rubbish removed								1				1 site
Access tracks			855					1,600				2,455 m
Workshops	4											4 events
Community engagement	134	10	15	6	3	4	93	10	10			285
Road design								partial	partial			2 partial
Soil tests								10				10 tests
Landslide assessment								1				1
Grass slashing								24	21			45 ha
Implementation Plans								1				1
Effluent system design										0.75		1 partial

## Agriculture Program

The Agriculture Program provided the 'base' funding to LBCCG from Seqwater. Composed of both an administrative (\$113,141) and on ground project budgets (\$149,165), the program primarily works with large local graziers, horticulture and sometimes smaller landholders if they are in a priority location or several combine to deliver a significant project.

The key aims of the program are to reduce livestock contact with natural waterways and establish buffers to agricultural pursuits along waterways to reduce pathogens, nutrients and sediments inputs to streams. Other benefits include establishing wildlife corridors, weed management in riparian zones, aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancement, remnant vegetation protection and numerous other benefits.

In 2020/21 the program delivered four new on-ground projects and a workshop series:

- Upper Falls Creek Riparian Fencing & Revegetation Stage 2
- Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Fencing Stage 3
- Falls Creek Fencing & Off Stream Water Stage 1
- Obi Obi Creek Riparian Fencing & Weed Management
- Agricultural Practice Improvement Workshops

Additionally, three older projects continued to receive revegetation maintenance funding (LBCCG provides ongoing funding for maintenance for up to five years to ensure successful establishment):

- Pacific Farms Weed Management & Revegetation Stage 1
- Pacific Farms Weed Management & Revegetation Stage 2
- Daley Creek Riparian Fencing & Off Stream Water Stage 2

*Photo: Dairy Program - Cork Dairies riparian fencing & stream crossings*



A further seven projects from as far back as 2017/18 still retained small budget balances for minor maintenance and management:

- Lower Bridge Creek Erosion Project
- Falls Creek Riparian Fencing
- Clark Creek Off Stream Water Project
- Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Fencing Stage 1
- Upper Falls Creek Riparian Fencing & Re-vegetation Stage 1
- Lower Bridge Creek Riparian Fencing
- Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Fencing Stage 2

*Photo: Agricultural Practice Improvement workshop - pasture identification & management*

The program delivered:

- 600 metres riparian fencing
- 7,325 stems planted
- 12 advanced trees planted (paddock shade trial)
- 5,500 plants maintained
- Two new stream crossings
- One stream crossing repaired

Three off stream watering systems (nine troughs)

- 670 metres stream drainage correction
- three hectares weed management
- four workshops (with 121 attendees)
- 13 landholders engaged



## Dairy Program

The Dairy Program works with local milk producers to reduce livestock contact with natural waterways, address the unique intensive livestock movement typical of dairies and develop improved strategies in dealing with the high volumes of effluent generated by the milking operation.

The key aim of the program is to minimise the risk of pathogens (likely produced in high numbers according to E. coli monitoring results) being delivered to catchment waterways and ultimately Lake Baroon. Pathogens are considered the highest risk to potable water quality as they are difficult to detect and treat at the treatment plant stage and can have significant impacts on human health.

In 2020/21 the Program expended \$204,139 on on-ground works, delivered on three sites/dairies (Wittacork, Ruddle Dairies & Cork Dairies).

*Photo: Dairy Program—Ruddle Dairies stream crossings*

### The program delivered:

- 2,907 metres riparian fencing
- 797 metres of livestock laneway rehabilitation
- 1,190 metres of livestock laneway fencing
- One off stream watering system (eight troughs)
- Nine stream crossings
- 10 landholders engaged

## Weed Program

The Weed Program over the last five years has worked with over 250 individual landholders and sites managing, controlling and eradicating the key threats to water quality in the catchment and adjacent buffer zone – Cats claw vine, Madeira vine, Celtis and to a lesser extent Dutchman’s pipe and weedy Sporobolus grasses.

In 2020/21 the Program expended \$70,248 on on-ground works, delivered over 61 sites. The Weed Program is the only LBCCG project that targets urban landholders as these weeds are predominantly found in urban and rural residential areas and alongside local roads (suggesting a key mode of spread). If permitted to invade riparian areas, these ‘transformer’ weeds could significantly impact bank stability by outcompeting and replacing deep rooted native vegetation and likely resulting in future very high recovery costs.

Madeira vine continues to be found throughout the catchment, particularly in urban areas. Difficult to control (may take up to ten years of persistent control) a further complication can be the increasing reluctance of urban landholders to use or permit herbicide control.

One small urban Maleny infestation has been managed with only mechanical control since 2017/18. The first year of removing the underground tubers cost \$4,463; second year \$1,453; third year \$403; and fourth year (2020/21) \$571. An expensive method of control and after four years of management no certainty of permanent eradication.

*Photo: Weed Program — Celtis management*

### The program delivered:

- 3.3 ha of Madeira vine management on 52 sites (at a cost of \$60,489)
- 0.25 ha of Celtis management on three sites (\$5,977)
- 0.765 ha of Cats claw vine management on four sites (\$920)
- 0.1 ha of Dutchman’s Pipe management on one site (\$310)
- 10 ha of weedy Sporobolus grass management on one site (\$254)
- A further 100 sites monitored that required very minor management or no management
- 61 landholders engaged

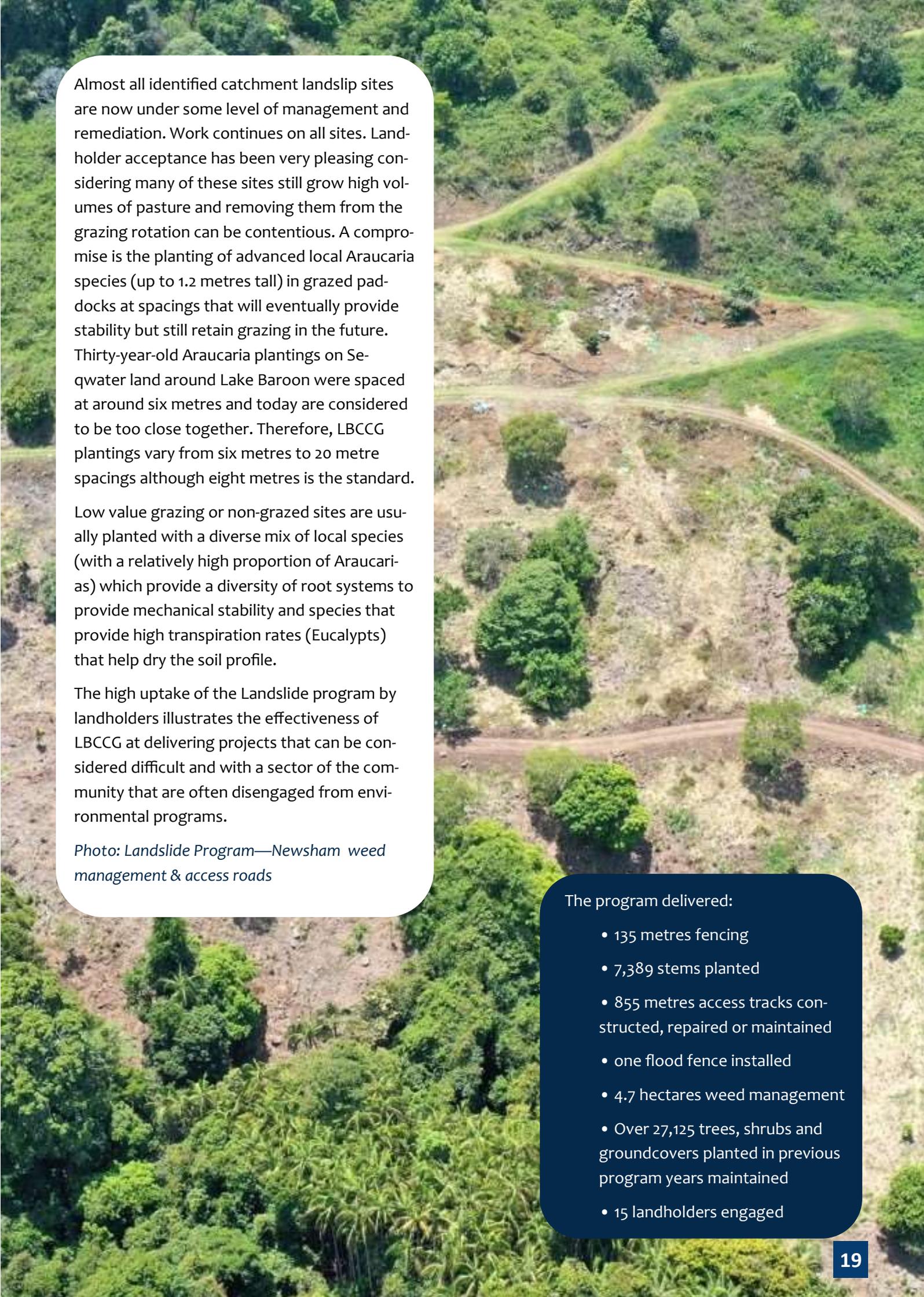
## Landslide Program

The Landslide Program is an ongoing suite of projects aimed at reducing the extent and severity of landslips within the Lake Baroon catchment. Landslips have been identified as very high risk to potable water production with high levels of turbidity, sedimentation and delivery of nutrients (particularly naturally occurring phosphorus) to Lake Baroon. The larger landslips closest to the lake are the highest priority however all catchment landslips are being remediated to some extent. In 2020/21 the Program expended \$200,413 on on-ground works. A significant proportion (\$93,515) of the total budget was expended on the maintenance of revegetation completed in previous years (over 27,125 trees) – underlining that at least 3 to 5 years of maintenance is required to establish functional and resilient vegetation.

The key aims of the program are to stabilise landslips with native vegetation and minor drainage works and, on many sites, includes weed management (remove shallow rooted weeds for replacement with deep rooted native vegetation, construction of access tracks, fencing to manage livestock access to unstable hillslopes, alternative livestock watering and other activities that contribute to remediation. As the program has matured, many of the higher priority or easier sites have now been treated and sites that are considered more problematic to manage are now being targeted. Difficult access, higher densities of weeds and other issues can mean that remediation activities become more expensive.

*Photo: Landslide Program—Newsham revegetation*





Almost all identified catchment landslip sites are now under some level of management and remediation. Work continues on all sites. Landholder acceptance has been very pleasing considering many of these sites still grow high volumes of pasture and removing them from the grazing rotation can be contentious. A compromise is the planting of advanced local Araucaria species (up to 1.2 metres tall) in grazed paddocks at spacings that will eventually provide stability but still retain grazing in the future. Thirty-year-old Araucaria plantings on Se-qwater land around Lake Baroon were spaced at around six metres and today are considered to be too close together. Therefore, LBCCG plantings vary from six metres to 20 metre spacings although eight metres is the standard.

Low value grazing or non-grazed sites are usually planted with a diverse mix of local species (with a relatively high proportion of Araucarias) which provide a diversity of root systems to provide mechanical stability and species that provide high transpiration rates (Eucalypts) that help dry the soil profile.

The high uptake of the Landslide program by landholders illustrates the effectiveness of LBCCG at delivering projects that can be considered difficult and with a sector of the community that are often disengaged from environmental programs.

*Photo: Landslide Program—Newsham weed management & access roads*

The program delivered:

- 135 metres fencing
- 7,389 stems planted
- 855 metres access tracks constructed, repaired or maintained
- one flood fence installed
- 4.7 hectares weed management
- Over 27,125 trees, shrubs and groundcovers planted in previous program years maintained
- 15 landholders engaged

## Eden Road

In 2018 Seqwater purchased the 17-hectare Eden Road property suffering from significant landslides and with a narrow frontage to Lake Baroon. LBCCG was engaged to complete the remediation of landslides (LBCCG had been working on the property since 2014) and to revegetate all other open areas so that long term management would be minimal.

A 2014 investigation into sediment inputs to Lake Baroon estimated that approximately 4,300 tonnes of sediment is transferred to the reservoir annually. Much of this sediment is fine material generated through landslide and hillslope erosion. High sediment supply to Lake Baroon reduces reservoir capacity, impacts water quality and contributes to an increase in the incidence of algal blooms. These issues increase costs of water treatment for potable supply and impact upon recreational use of the lake. Falls Creek and in particular the Eden Road property was identified as a significant contributor of sediment to the Dam.

The two key outcomes expected from the implementation of the Eden Road Management Plan are:

- 1) Stabilise as far as practical the landslides present on the property; and
- 2) Rehabilitate the entire property by re-establishing native vegetation so that future management costs are reduced to negligible levels.

In 2020/21 the project expended \$54,413.21 on revegetation, weed management, fencing, maintenance, and community events -two TAFE revegetation events (total of four days). The revegetation was unplanned but took advantage of the offer of TAFE labour. Both the cost to prepare and plant an extra 2,000 trees, and the extra maintenance of these trees placed significant strain on the budget.

*Photo: East Coast TAFE planting day*



The project delivered:

- 2,000 trees planted
- Over 8,500 trees maintained
- 1.5 hectares of weed management

## Bunya Block

In 2018 Seqwater purchased a 116-hectare property in the lower Obi Obi Creek catchment with a frontage to the southern bank of Lake Baroon of over 2.2 kilometres. Similar to the Eden Road property, LBCCG was engaged by Seqwater to implement a series of activities that would, on completion, provide almost full tree cover negating the need for ongoing and costly maintenance (to a standard comparable with other Seqwater owned land surrounding the Lake Baroon).

Stage 1, a one-year interim project, commenced in 2019/20 however the funding was secured mid-way through the financial year so that the project was only 50% completed by the end of the year. The remaining funds were carried forward into the 2020/21 financial year.

Stage 2, an eleven-year project, commenced very late in the 2020/21 financial year and therefore Stages 1 and 2 were implemented concurrently albeit with only a very small component of Stage 2 being delivered.

The two Stages, although implementing very similar activities remain very separate undertakings and therefore are reported here as two separate projects.

*Photo: Obi Obi Creek flowing through the Bunya Block*

## Bunya Block Stage 1

Stage 1 commenced in 2019/20 however significant funds (\$196,468.20) were carried over into 2020/21 and continued to be implemented in 2020/21.

With the delay of Stage 2 Seqwater funding, variations to the original plan and outputs were necessary to ensure the property was managed appropriately in the interim and preparation for the new stage continued with as minimal disruption as possible. The original planned outputs were varied by increasing weed management, reducing fencing lengths due to the abandonment of livestock grazing (pasture management), and deferral of some access track rehabilitation as revegetation was delayed by 12 months. Tubestock and other revegetation materials pre-ordered before knowledge of Stage 2 delay were largely reallocated to other LBCCG projects.

*Photo: Bunya Block weed management*

With these variations the following outputs were delivered in the 2020/21 financial year:

- 13.7 hectares weed management;
- partial completion of Weeks Road access design;
- 10 soil tests;
- Landslide assessment completed;
- 1,030 metres boundary fencing installed;
- 250 metres boundary fencing repairs completed;
- 1,600 metres of new and repaired property access tracks;
- 24 hectares property slashing completed;
- Rubbish removed from site; and
- Stage 2 Implementation Plan completed.



## Bunya Block Stage 2

Stage 2 was developed and funded very late in the financial year with the opportunity to implement significant activities limited. This was also due in part to access difficulties due to wet weather and an unavailability of contractors. The funding received in 2020/21 was intended to ensure the outcomes achieved by Stage 1 were not lost or compromised.

Stage 2 Year 1 planned outputs included:

- 8 hectares weed management;
- 2,000 metres of boundary fencing repairs;
- 100 metres redundant fencing removed;
- 2,000 metres fence line weed clearing;
- 3,500 metres of new and repaired access tracks; and
- 24 hectares of property slashing.

*Photo: Bunya Block fencing*

With the aforementioned delays in implementing the project in the 2020/21 financial year, only the following activities occurred:

- 250 metres of fencing repaired;
- 21 hectares property slashing completed; and
- Partial Weeks Road design.

## Other projects

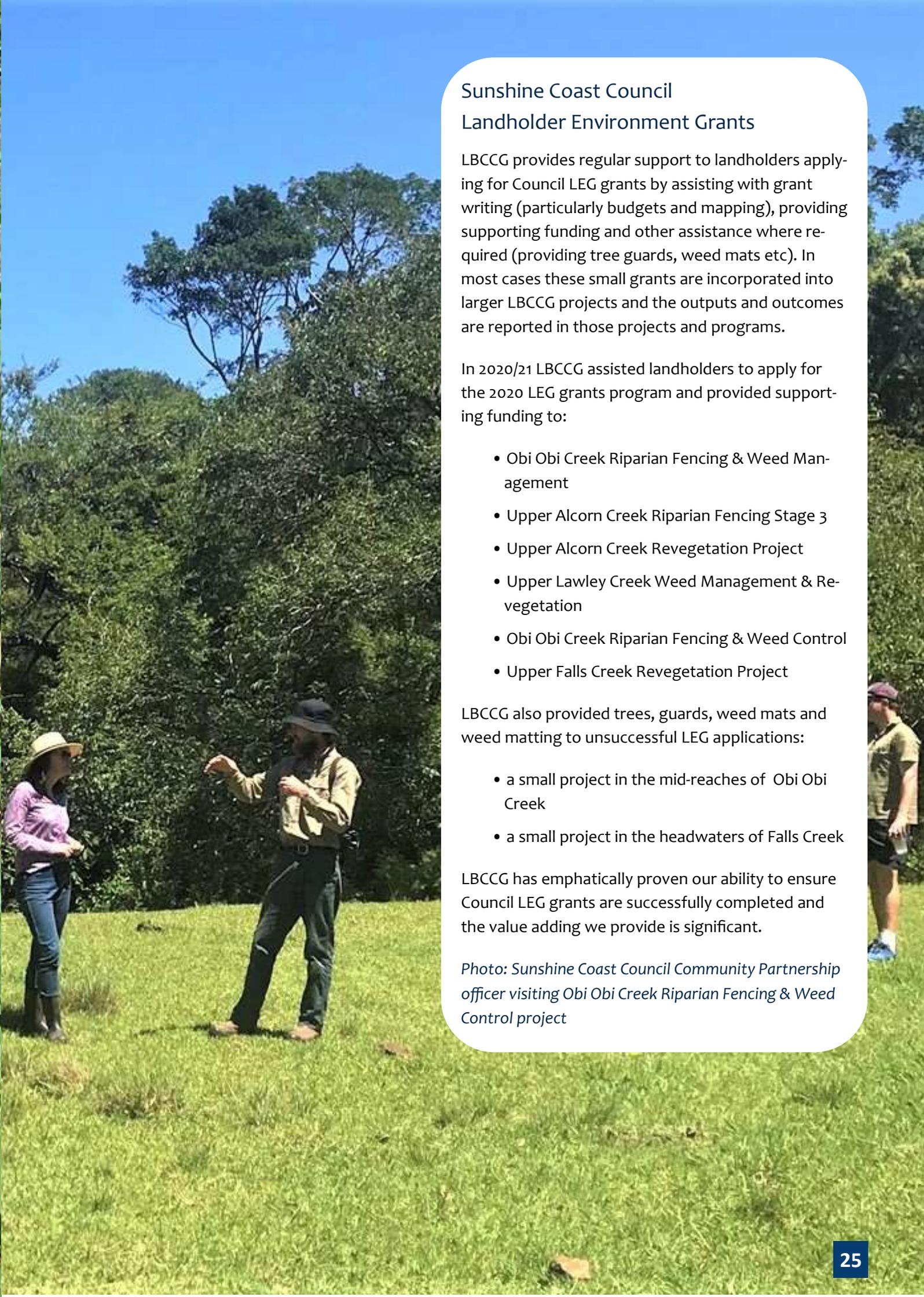
### Bridge Creek Connections

Bridge Creek Connections was a State funded project from the Community Sustainability Action grants program commencing in early 2018 and completed in June 2020. The project focussed on re-establishing and enhancing wildlife corridors through weed management and the planting of trees in riparian zones, installing fencing to exclude livestock from riparian zones and associated revegetation, installing nesting boxes and engaging volunteers (Ananda Marga River School and East Coast TAFE students). The project was completed and acquitted in 2019/20 however \$1,055.38 was carried forward to 2020/21 and a final project payment of \$6,610 from D.E.S was received.

*Photo: Four year old revegetation on the River School*

The project delivered (in 2020/21 only):

- 250 trees planted
- Over 1,500 trees, shrubs and groundcovers maintained
- 30 wildlife nest boxes installed
- Four land managers engaged



## Sunshine Coast Council Landholder Environment Grants

LBCCG provides regular support to landholders applying for Council LEG grants by assisting with grant writing (particularly budgets and mapping), providing supporting funding and other assistance where required (providing tree guards, weed mats etc). In most cases these small grants are incorporated into larger LBCCG projects and the outputs and outcomes are reported in those projects and programs.

In 2020/21 LBCCG assisted landholders to apply for the 2020 LEG grants program and provided supporting funding to:

- Obi Obi Creek Riparian Fencing & Weed Management
- Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Fencing Stage 3
- Upper Alcorn Creek Revegetation Project
- Upper Lawley Creek Weed Management & Revegetation
- Obi Obi Creek Riparian Fencing & Weed Control
- Upper Falls Creek Revegetation Project

LBCCG also provided trees, guards, weed mats and weed matting to unsuccessful LEG applications:

- a small project in the mid-reaches of Obi Obi Creek
- a small project in the headwaters of Falls Creek

LBCCG has emphatically proven our ability to ensure Council LEG grants are successfully completed and the value adding we provide is significant.

*Photo: Sunshine Coast Council Community Partnership officer visiting Obi Obi Creek Riparian Fencing & Weed Control project*

## Department of Transport & Main Roads Weeds

Additionally, we receive annual funding from the Department of Transport & Main Roads to control these priority weeds (and others) on roads under their control in the region (Maleny Montville, Maleny Landsborough, Kenilworth and Stanley River Roads). In 2020/21 we received \$14,000, although this was for the preceding financial year as well (\$7,000 per annum).

*Photo: Hand weeding Madeira vine*



## Erosion & Sediment Control Program

The Erosion & Sediment Control project was completed in 2019/20 however a small budget remained for ongoing revegetation maintenance. The project is managing livestock access and establishing stabilising native vegetation on a reach of Bridge Creek that suffers from moderate bank erosion.

Previous works have included the battering of stream banks, improvement of natural drainage, fencing and revegetation with local *Araucaria* species (to enable moderate term management by livestock), advanced *Waterhousia* trees (individually guarded) and macrophyte species planted within the stream channel.

Other minor works included weed management within existing revegetation (planted in circa 2000) and enhancement plantings. In 2020/21 the project expended \$7,765 on revegetation maintenance.

*Photo: Lower Bridge Creek*

### The program delivered:

- Maintenance of 800 *Araucaria* species
- Maintenance of 50 advanced *Waterhousias*
- Maintenance of 200 diverse species planted in old revegetation sites
- Maintenance of 600 macrophyte species.

## Dairy Program 2018/19

The 2018/19 Dairy Program included the design and construction of effluent systems on two of the seven catchment dairy farms (Maleny Dairies & Cork Dairies). Maleny Dairies was selected for planning and construction first however site constraints (near-surface bedrock, difficulties fitting sufficiently sized system in available space), consultant delays and uncertainty around meeting development application requirements has severely delayed the finalisation of acceptable designs. Consultant fees for 2020/21 totalled \$15,370.

*Photo: Protest Engineering conducting soil and seismic testing at Maleny Dairies.*





## Research

During 2020/21 LBCCG provided assistance and support to multiple universities and research organisations including Queensland University of Technology (Landslides and Healthy Land & Water Flow project), University of Queensland (sediments and pathogens in farm dams) and CSIRO (Cryptosporidium DNA decay).

*Photo: Soil testing and installation of monitoring equipment by QUT at Eden Road landslip.*



## Treasurer's Report Heather Spring

Firstly, I would like to thank Mark for his support throughout the year and for Claire's assistance with reporting. I feel it has only been in the last three to four months that I have started to fully understand the costing and expenses associated with the organisation. While the funding for the on-ground projects is quite straight forward, the administration funding is a more complex beast. I would also like to acknowledge the support I have received from the staff and committee.

This financial year has proven a challenge for LBCCG, with the impact of COVID; not necessarily directly affecting our workplace or project outcomes, it did have unexpected impacts on our budget. But saying that, the organisation turned over \$1.5 million last financial year with \$1,187,000 for our on-ground programs and \$353,000 in the administration area. Our total income for the year was \$1,540,000 with a carryover of \$281,000 from the 2019/20 FY.

Of the funds expended, \$1,112,000 was spent locally, an important focus for a local community group. Our end of financial year position was:

Loss of \$46,111.19 in the Admin budget and a carry over of \$107,334 for our on-ground programs.

Fortunately, due to the strong financial diligence of previous treasurers and committees, we were able to cover the deficit in the admin budget with our surplus funds. This budget deficit was a result of Seqwater postponing the commencement of the Bunya Block project. LBCCG had commenced planning for this project including recruiting additional staff to assist with the increased workload and committing to contracts with various organisations to grow the trees necessary for the first-year plant on the project. I would point out these trees were able to be used on other projects.

While 2021/22 looks brighter with the signing of 10-year contract for management of the Bunya Block, ensuring a stable financial position for the next two to three years, it does give us cause to look at our financial resilience into the future.

*Photo: Landslide Program—Cavanagh riparian fencing and revegetation*



The issues that caused concern last year, need to be seen as an opportunity to review and build a more resilient organisation. This two-year window gives us the opportunity to develop the ability to withstand, adapt, and thrive in the face of internal and external shocks, as well as known and unanticipated. While we may not be able to predict the next crisis, we can be prepared for it. Whether from weather, political circumstances or virus outbreaks, every organisation needs to develop resilience and a continuity plan to ensure its business operations can continue no matter the disruption. A critical component is to ensure that the organisation remains financial and productive while maintaining its goals and objectives.

The financial year 2020/21, showed the financial vulnerabilities of the organisation and without our surplus, the payment of expenses would have been compromised. It should be noted our surplus took more than 7 years to grow to its level it but can only carry our administration of about 6 months.

LBCCG received \$50,000 from Sunshine Coast Council for operational costs, and the administration takes a management fee from on-ground projects, covering our wages and other expenses. So, the annual budget for admin relies on the on-going projects we have, and any new projects taken on during the year. The loss or delay in funding for any of our projects has a significant impact on our bottom line.

This financial year has sharply brought into focus the need for a broader funding mechanism for the admin budget; the on-ground programs cannot succeed without strong administrative support. We as an employer of highly skilled and specialist staff need to be able to confidently ensure their future employment; our staff are what makes this organisation so successful.

So, to this end we will commence working on developing other opportunities for admin support and ensure a stronger financial resilience within the organisation. It is pertinent to note that currently most of our funding comes from Seqwater, however there is a limit to the number of projects that will need our assistance in the future and our organisation needs to be planning for the changes.

*Photo: Dairy Program - installation of off stream water infrastructure*

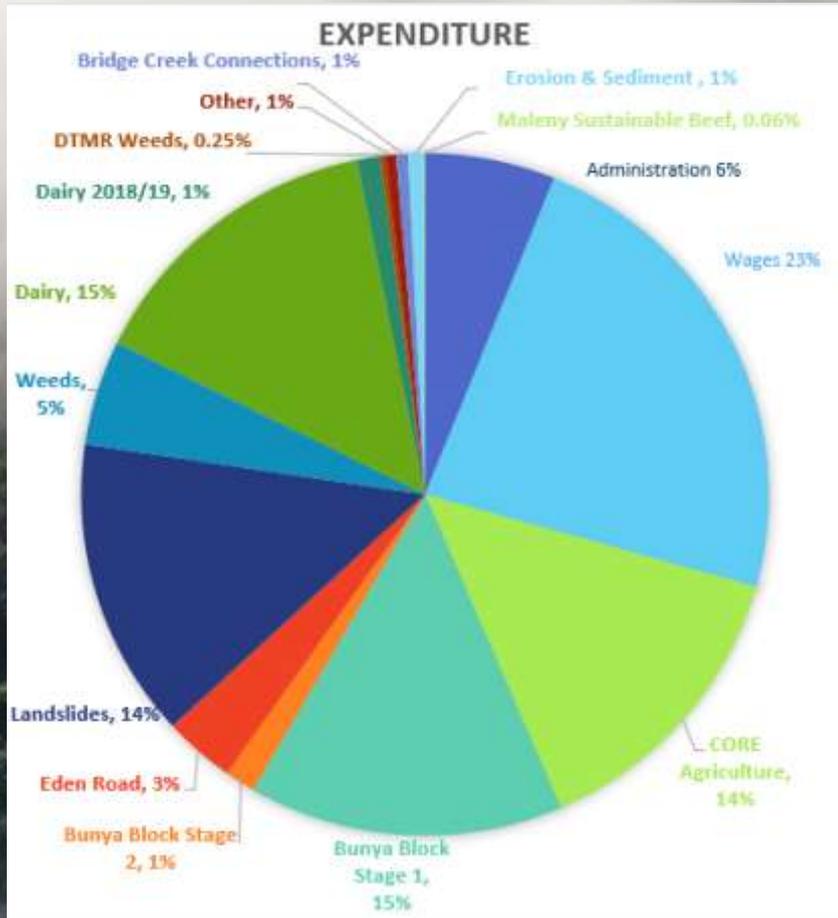
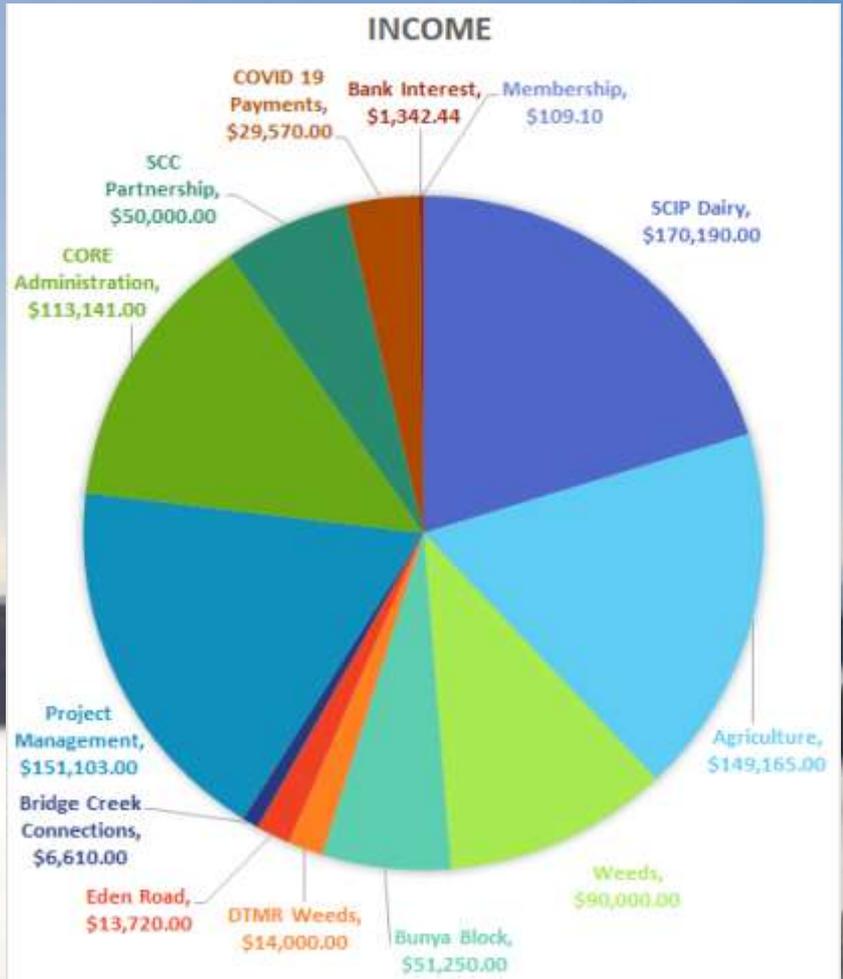
## Total value of all LBCCG projects in 2020/21

The table below is an illustration of the Total Project Value that LBCCG has delivered during 2020/21 and includes in-kind contributions and funding that has contributed to LBCCG projects but not necessarily passed through LBCCG hands (for example Sunshine Coast Council Landholder Environment Grants). **The table is for illustration purposes only and will not correlate with the Independent Audit** due to the inclusion of landholder cash and in-kind and this table does not include project funding carried forward from 2019/20.

Program	Income				Expenditure	Landholder & other cash & in-kind <sup>(1)</sup>	Total project value
	Seqwater	Grants	Other	Total			
<b>2020/21 funded projects</b>							
CORE Agriculture	\$ 149,165	-	\$ 14,160 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 163,325	\$ 199,809	\$ 216,788	\$ 416,635
Eden Road	\$ 13,720	-	-	\$ 13,720	\$ 47,309	\$ 21,690	\$ 68,999
Landslides	\$ 315,810	-	-	\$ 315,810	\$ 200,413	\$ 99,560	\$ 299,973
Weeds	\$ 90,000	-	-	\$ 90,000	\$ 70,248	\$ 66,680	\$ 136,928
Dairy	\$ 170,190	-	-	\$ 170,190	\$ 204,139	\$ 39,750	\$ 243,889
Bunya Block Stage 2	\$ 51,250	-	-	\$ 51,250	\$ 20,243	\$ 2,100	\$ 22,343
Dept. Transport & Main Roads Weeds	-	\$ 14,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	-	\$ 14,000	\$ 3,563	\$ 3,550	\$ 7,113
Bridge Creek Connections	-	\$ 6,610	-	\$ 6,610	\$ 7,765	\$ 2,770	\$ 10,535
<b>Project funded prior to 2020/21 but remained active in financial year</b>							
Erosion & Sediment Control	-	-	-	-	\$ 10,438	\$ 3,450	\$ 13,888
2018/19 Dairy Program	-	-	-	-	\$ 15,370	\$ 6,600	\$ 21,970
Maleny Sustainable Beef	-	-	-	-	\$ 827	\$ 730	\$ 1,557
Bunya Block Stage 1	-	-	-	-	\$ 208,843	\$ 18,900	\$ 227,743
Other projects <sup>(4)</sup>	-	-	-	-	\$ 6,988	\$ 18,850	\$ 25,838
<b>Administration, Project Management &amp; Operational funding</b>							
CORE administration	\$ 113,141	\$ 50,000 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 31,022 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 194,163	\$ 240,274	-	\$ 240,274
Project management	\$ 158,208	-	-	\$ 158,208	\$ 158,208	-	\$ 158,208
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,061,484</b>	<b>\$ 70,610</b>	<b>\$ 45,182</b>	<b>\$ 1,177,276</b>	<b>\$ 1,394,437</b>	<b>\$ 501,418</b>	<b>\$ 1,895,855</b>

- (1) Landholder & other cash & in-kind contributions, volunteer labour, LBCCG Management Committee volunteer hours, Sunshine Coast Council staff in-kind contributions etc
- (2) Sunshine Coast Council 2020 Landholder Environment Grants (funds do not pass through LBCCG accounts therefore will not be accounted in the independent financial audit)
- (3) Funding of \$14,000 is for two years of works (\$7,000 per year) – 2019/20 and 2020/21
- (4) Other projects include non-current CORE Agriculture projects that did not receive funding in 2020/21 but had carry forward from 2019/20 and incurred expenditure during the financial year
- (5) Sunshine Coast Council Environmental Levy Partnership Operational funding
- (6) Includes consultancy fees, bank interest, membership, sales and donations and Covid 19 refunds from ATO

# Income & Expenditure



## Audit

In the Management Committee’s opinion, the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports..

A special purpose financial report has been prepared by LeVert Audit Services for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (Queensland) to the members and is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Photo: Dairy Program—off stream water solar pump*

## Local procurement

In 2020/21 LBCCG spent almost \$1.5 million, with 74 percent of our procurement spent locally (Sunshine Coast Council region). This supports the growth and development of local businesses and service providers.

LBCCG LOCAL VERSUS DISTANT EXPENDITURE 2020-2021





## Governance

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group continued to be a responsible local not for profit entity operating in accordance with legislation with a focus on ensuring ethical business activities and relationships between Management Committee, employees, the community, government departments, business clients and other key stakeholders.

LBCCG prides itself on its ethical and robust governance culture and organisational performance.

We strive to:

- build awareness of organisational responsibilities and accountabilities;
- provide strong financial stewardship and fiscal responsibility;
- monitor and maintain compliance with legislation, policy, standards and controls;
- continually improve practices, procedures and ethical decision making with continuous improvement activities and transparent reporting; and
- involve the community as a key stakeholder in decision making and consultation opportunities.

LBCCG is committed to ensuring community and customer expectations are met and strives to continually strengthen our capabilities, accountability, transparency and leadership to ensure and maintain ongoing confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the Group.

*Photo: Agricultural Practice Improvement workshops - property planning*

# Partners

