



Coffs Harbour
Regional
Landcare



CHRL submitted an application for
Coffs Harbour City Council's
Environmental Levy Major Projects
second 4 year funding round



**Supporting Community Landcare Action
in the Coffs Harbour LGA**

2022-2026, 4 Year Project Application



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SUCCESSFUL FUNDING



CHRL has been successful in receiving funding to support community Landcare action in the Coffs Harbour LGA for the next 4 years, 2022-2026

This funding will allow CHRL to continue empowering our local Coffs community to be proactive in creating a healthy resilient local environment.



Coffs Harbour City Council's Environmental Levy Major Project



Supporting Community Landcare Action in the Coffs Harbour LGA

2018-2022, 4 Year Project Snapshot



Coffs Harbour
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\$1,969,745

Value of volunteer
work hours

DOUBLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

DOUBLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

48,492 HRS OF VOLUNTEER WORK

Equating to a value of

\$1.9 MILLION

This is more than double
return on investment.

Volunteers work hours calculated from
2017-2021 (calculated at \$40.62/hr)



31,020 PLANTS DISTRIBUTED

CHRL Community Nursery
distributes an average of
7,755 plants each year.

Local native species are
propagated and distributed
within the Coffs Harbour LGA,
to Landcare sites, private
landholders and land
managers.



1,812 MYNAS TRAPPED

Volunteers assist with local biosecurity by trapping the pest species the Common Myna, previously known as the Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*).

Volunteers trap an average of 453 birds each year.

VOLUNTEERS



335 NEW MEMBERS

Registered between
1 July 2018 and 30 June 2022

The CHRL membership sits
at an average of 300
financial members per
annum.



ENGAGING LOCAL CONTRACTORS

CHRL works with 10 local Bush Regenerator contractors.

Funding for on ground works is distributed to local sole traders and small local business.

Investment goes back into the community, into employment and the environment.



300HA OF LAND WORKED

Volunteers work on 300 Ha
of public and private land
within the Coffs Harbour
LGA.

CHCC land - 130 Ha
NPWS land - 72 Ha
Private land - 28 Ha
Crown and other - 70 Ha



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

The last 4 years of the project have enabled the delivery of annual workshops, training days, community events and professional accreditation.



The last 4 years of the project have included:

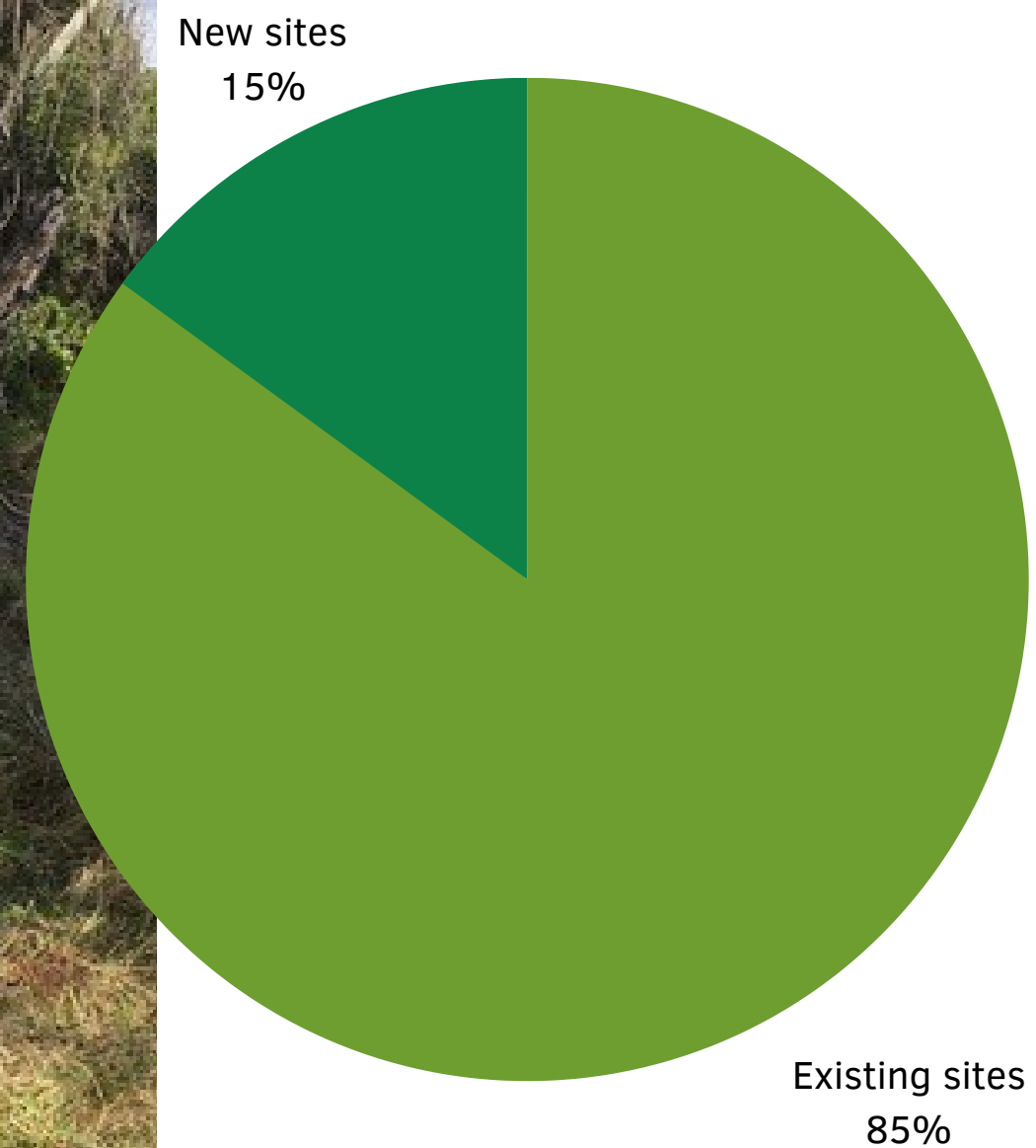
- 16 workshops
- 16 training sessions for new Landcare groups and members
- 12 Weed Blitzes
- 10 workshops/training for other community groups, such as TAFE, Scouts and school groups
- 48 members gained professional accreditation in First Aid and Chem Cert.
- 6 Landcare stalls at community events and markets



EXPANSION OF LANDCARE SITES

The last 4 years of the project
has seen an expansion in
Landcare sites, with:

- 4 New Landcare sites
- 4 Landcare sites extended
- 2 Landcare sites reinstated



EXPANSION OF LANDCARE SITES

There has been an increase of approximately 15% in work area since 2018.

We now have a total of 41 LANDCARE SITES

PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS



2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

CHRL managed 12 projects to the value of \$560,000 during the 2021-2022 financial year.

Significant project focus was on bushfire recovery and making our landscapes more resilient to extreme climatic conditions.

CHRL also continued our work in improving land management practices in the Coffs region with projects aimed at the intensive horticulture industry and small landholders (2-2ha).



CHRL

Growing Our Future

The Growing Our Future funding allows CHRL to employ a Nursery Coordinator to support volunteers and ensure our Community Nursery at Woolgoolga continues to be a successful community facility. The nursery is open two mornings a week and provides local native seedlings and advice to our Landcare sites, other local revegetation projects and the wider community. In 2021/22 the volunteers completed over 1100 hours of nursery work and supplied 8650 seedlings.

Funded through the Coffs Harbour City Council's Environmental Levy Program





CHRL

NSW Landcare Program 2019-2023

The NSW Landcare Program provides funds for CHRL to employ a Landcare coordinator for 0.35 FTE or just under 2 days/week. The Landcare coordinator role is to help stimulate local community engagement and participation in Landcare. The Landcare coordinator also assists CHRL to improve their governance, communication, partnerships and ability to coordinate on ground activities including accessing funding to deliver projects, workshops, education days and events.



Local Land
Services

This initiative made possible by the NSW Landcare Program.
A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc.
supported by the NSW Government.





CHRL

Intensive Horticulture

CHRL was successful in receiving a 2 year Smart Farms Small Grant to encourage intensive horticulture farmers to improve their groundcover and vegetation to reduce soil movement on and off their farms. 6 blueberry farms are participating in this project and on ground works have included: improving groundcover on access tracks, between rows and on watershed areas; revegetating the edges of watercourses and drainage lines with native vegetation and some minor erosion control work. Additional funding through LLS and the Clean Coastal Catchments Program to carry out erosion focused soil management projects on a number of Blueberry farms. The significant wet weather event has created delays in both these projects.





CHRL

Rehabilitating Old Banana Lands

CHRL has been rehabilitating old banana lands across the Coffs Harbour LGA for the past 2.5 years. These lands are highly degraded due to clearing and intensive farming and their very steep nature makes management very difficult. Through this project 6 landholders with ex banana properties are being assisted to restore the biodiversity and habitat values on their land through weed control and revegetation. On completion of the project a total of 12has of land will have undergone weed control and 1500 native seedlings planted.

Proudly supported by the NSW Government
through its Environmental Trust





CHRL

Small Landholder Support

CHRL regularly receives calls from small landholders (2-20ha) wanting assistance with managing their land. Many have purchased their properties as 'lifestyle' properties and are generally inexperienced in land management. This project enabled CHRL to engage with 9 of these landholders across 6 properties and carry out on ground site assessments allowing the landholders to share their issues and ask questions. The landholders were then supplied with a written report providing more information on the environmental values of their property and recommendations on how to support these values by addressing their issues and making the right management decisions.

Funded through the Coffs Harbour
City Council's Environmental Levy





Supporting Landholders with Environmental Recovery

This project supported fire affected landholders with environmental recovery actions and had a positive effect on the local environment post fire. Weed control and bush regeneration in areas that were significantly impacted during the fires has reduced weed competition and assisted in the regeneration of native species. Fencing has helped to protect fire affected riparian areas and remnant bush from cattle grazing which will also increase its resilience. The installation of nest boxes has provided shelter for local wildlife and replaced habitat that was lost through the burning of hollow bearing trees. This project was delivered alongside Orara Rivercare and Envite.

Funded through the Coffs
Harbour City Council





CHRL

Lowland Rainforest Recovery

CHRL has been working to help restore and increase the resilience of critically endangered Lowland Rainforest remnants found in the Orara Valley. One project enabled the sharing of local knowledge to map rainforest remnants and important individual tree specimens in the Orara Valley and record vital information that will enable them to be used as seed sources for future restoration projects. 78 rainforest seed trees were mapped. A second project with our partner Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance has seen weed management in remnant Lowland Rainforest carried out across a number of private properties in the Orara Valley





CHRL

Providing Hollows for Habitat

To assist in replacing critical habitat lost during the 2019 bushfires, CHRL constructed and installed 85 nest boxes on 15 fire affected properties in the Nana Glen area. 20 hollows were also carved using the recently developed hollow hog tool. As part of a regional project managed by NCRLN we have monitored approx 60 installed nest boxes using a pole camera to see how successful they are in attracting local wildlife. Half of the boxes monitored showed signs of use and 5 had animals inside at the time of monitoring. These included sugar and feather tail gliders, a possum and an Australian Owlet Nightjar.





CHRL

Koalas

CHRL through our partnership with Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance was able to help our local koala population by improving the health of two remnant patches of local bush known for their high value as koala corridors. Bush regeneration in remnant bushland along Tree Fern, west of Joyce St and Roberts Hill between the Reserve and the highway helped to reduce weeds impacting on the native vegetation and improve koala movement through the sites. This project was a collaboration between the Great Eastern Ranges, Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance and WWF which aimed to restore the health and resilience of habitat in response to the devastating bushfire crisis of 2019/20.





Annual Awards Day

The CHRL Annual Awards day acknowledges and celebrates the outstanding efforts of local Landcare volunteers and community members.

The winners of the 3 Awards for 2021 are as follows:

Fuller Street Dunecare won the *Dee Wallace Perpetual Award* which recognises a group for its contribution to Landcare.

Fiona Kealy won the *Eileen Moody Memorial Award* which recognises the efforts of an individual Landcarer.

Lindy Davis won the *Pia Dollmann Conservation & Sustainability Award* that recognises individuals, groups, businesses or schools who have made a significant contribution to local conservation or sustainability projects.

Two life memberships were awarded to Jane Ireland and Desnee McCosker.

Strategic Plan 2022-2027



Vision
Healthy Landscapes,
Empowered Community

Mission
To encourage and empower
the Coffs community to be
proactive in creating a healthy
resilient local environment.

Values

Goals

Actions

Empowerment

Promote community
participation

- Build, maintain and provide support to our membership base, volunteers and landholders.
- Identify and actively support new Landcare sites.
- Engage with local Aboriginal groups and diverse communities.
- Produce and promote educational resources.
- Facilitate and promote relevant training and workshop opportunities.

Collaboration

Build strong
relationships

- Actively seek out opportunities for collaboration, partnership and funding.
- Ensure partnerships are mutually beneficial and in alignment with CHRL's Values & Strategic Mission.
- Build networks which promote engagements and connections with the community.
- Foster long-term relationships and preferred partnerships through early collaboration and co design of long-term project outcomes.

Delivery

Support a healthy, resilient
local environment

- Strive to deliver projects to the community in the fields of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, biosecurity and pest management.
- Develop a strategic and effective whole-of-landscape approach to projects.
- Enhance climate change resilience and preparedness through projects and education
- Improve awareness, engagement and action to improve natural resource management.
- Continue and expand the services we can provide through CHRL's Community Nursery.

Celebration

Strengthen our
organisation

- Seek opportunities to create financial independence including investigating alternative funding streams.
- Maintain and enhance service delivery with sound project management.
- Demonstrate and maintain good governance.
- Build and maintain the membership base.
- Foster executive and staff skills through professional development opportunities.
- Place value on our intellectual property.
- Regularly evaluate our outcomes and achievements through monitoring and surveys.
- Promote and celebrate our achievements.



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