

ENGINEERING SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 2011

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Purpose

To review Engineering Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending September 2011.

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for period are as follows: -

ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Coordination of project meetings, briefings and reports on the following projects:

- Discussion held with Council regarding possible Cyclone Shelter at Eimeo
- Attended meeting to discuss Sandfly Creek
- Attended a site inspection of Woodlands Estate, Andergrove
- Met with Aus LED Lighting to discuss Gregory Street Carpark
- Met with Reef Catchments and DERM to discuss Protected area planning for the Mackay Highlands and Mackay Islands
- Attended QTCCC workshop in Townsville

On-going involvement in the following areas:

- Whitsunday Regional Roads Group Committee, City Focus Advisory Committee, Sustainable Futures Advisory Committee, Paget Depot Steering Committee, Corporate Projects Committee.
- Safe Plan, Design and Construct Review Meetings and SES matters
- Engineering Services Program Managers meetings

CIVIL PROJECTS

DAY LABOUR

- Norris Road / Beaconsfield Road Traffic Signals
- Freshwater Point Boat Ramp
- Mirani Streets Flood Damage works
- Keeley's Road Flood Damage repairs
- Midge Point Road Culvert extension



Petersen Street Sarina

CONTRACTS

- Perry Road Reconstruction
- Mango Avenue Reconstruction



Perry Road, Walkerston

Works have been substantially completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

- Casey Avenue Drainage at Bridge Road
- Traffic Facility works at various locations Beaconsfield and Eimeo
- Wood Street reconstruction works
- Victoria Street reconstruction works
- Calen's Area Stabilisation and Flood repair damage
- St Helen's Beach Resealing
- Matsuura Drive works
- Pratt's Road Drainage



McEwens Beach Road

CONTRACTS

- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 904
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 905
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 906
- Roger Road Culverts

The following projects are in progress:

DAY LABOUR

- Victor Creek Car Park Area
- Calen's Area Stabilisation and Flood repair damage
- Mirani Area Stabilisation and Flood Damage Repair (stage 2)
- St Helen Beach Resealing
- River Street Reconstruction (Wood to Gregory Street)
- Pratts Road Drainage
- Petersen Street Sarina
- LATM works various locations
- McEwens Beach Road
- Armstrong Beach Road
- Cowleys Road
- Tolchers Lane Intersection upgrade

CONTRACTS

- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1001
- Caping Road – Realignment and River Crossing Repair
- Holts Road Culvert Upgrade
- Cape Hillsborough Widening
- Hague Street Drain Culvert Replacement
- Cell 2 Hogans Pocket
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 907
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 908



Caping Road Realignment & River Crossing Repairs, Bloomsbury

The following projects have been awarded:

CONTRACTS

- Demolition & Disposal – Bedford Road Depot
- Rosewood Drive Construction – Federal Funding
- Grasstree Beach Road – 3.95 to 4.2km including Bikeway, awaiting on land dealing status before commencing

The following projects have been put to tender:

CONTRACTS

- Branscombe Road Reconstruction – FLOOD
- North Mackay Levee Construction Stage 1B/2
- Landfill Remediation Bayersville
- Park, Paradise & Porter Streets Reconstruction
- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1002

CIVIL OPERATIONS

Maintenance Grading in the following areas:

Heavy Grading	
Formation Grading	Miles Road, Ivan Johnson Road, Manaways & Flood Roads, Black Mountain Road, Track Road, Habers Road, reshape Larsens Pit, Powells Road, Bonson Scrub Road, Orphanage Road, Howells Road, Habana-Seaforth Road, Sarina-Marlborough Road, Campbells Road, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Crediton Loop Road.
Temporary Gravel Road Repairs (Grading & Gravelling)	Brodies Road, Toons Road, Ruggeris Road, Brownsey Road, Linderman Road, Exmoor Road, Bloomsbury Back Road, Williams Road, Pinevale Road, Ventons Road, Sugarloaf Road, McFauls Road, Mt Martin Loop Road, Mt Toby Road.
Shoulder Grading	Midge Point Road, Pinnacle-Septimus Road, Tannalo Road, Galeas Road.
Submergence Repairs (Job no. 1712)	Turners Road, Masottis Road, Running Creek Road, Miles Road, Ivan Johnsons Road, Iwers Road, McDonalds Road, Marwood Road, Calen-Mt Charlton Road, Muller Road, Petersens Road, Courtney Gap Road, Kippen Road, Sichter Road, Middle Creek Road.

Special Works:

Footpath repairs – McHugh Street.

Sign & Guidepost repairs – Sunnyside area, Oakenden area, Mackay-Eungella Road, various North-West areas.

Culvert, Pipe & Catchpit repairs – Ethelenes Road, O'Sheas Road, Valley Street, Adair Court, Clanside Road, Grendon Street floodway, Treveys Road, Owens Creek Road, Westlake Drive.

Kerb & Channel repairs –

Water Board Patching –

Street and Gutter Collection –

Suckins, Digouts & Scours – Shoal Point Road.

Special Works – concrete works – O'Donnells Road, extend floodways – Rise & Shine Road, Watson & Boyd Road, Doughertys Road, Porters Road, reinstate floodway - Gells Road, extend causeway – Smithcross Road, Vegetation clean up – Dalrymple Road.

Pothole Patching: Victoria Plains, Palmyra, Marwood, Balberra, Farleigh, Hampden, Mt Pleasant, Glenella, Bucasia, Andergrove, Beaconsfield and various North-West areas, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Armstrong Beach Road, Sarina area, Patch Street, Grasstree Beach Road, Grasstree Road, Von Fahland Road, Cliftonville Road, Garrett Road, Pinnacle-Septimus Road, Leichhardt Road, Luscombe Road, Heads Road, Tannalo road, Galea Road, North Street, Hinton Street, Holland Street, Denton Street, Ulanda Drive, Graffunder Street, Camerons Road, James Muscat Drive, Melissa Court, Kennedy Street, Etwell Court, Pugsley Street, Warland Street, Bold Street, Minster Street, Helens Court, Heathwood Court, Miltons Lookout Road, Pitkin Street, Gregory Street, Holts Road, Ness Street Depot, Christie Street, Slade Point Road, Cumberland Street, Pacific Drive, Brisbane Street, Longair Street, George Street, Hart Street, Ball Bay Road, Port Newry Road, Simpson Street, McGinn Street, Sophia Street, Mackenzie Street, Shakespeare Street, Stockbridge Street, Binnington Esplanade, Boddington Street, Paulette Street, Lamb Street, Queens Park, Bucas Drive, Scawfell Avenue, Bradford Street, Hocken Street, Eucalyptus Drive, Grove Court, Nadarmi Drive, Nadina Street, Keswick Avenue, Morris Street, Burton Court, Hillside Terrace, Les Cameron Avenue, Pioneer Street, Dunrock Esplanade, Dunrock Road, Neilsons Road, Milton Street, Gardiner Street, Goldsmith Street, Illawong Drive, Credlin Street, Cooks Lane, Sydney Street, Paradise Street, Barren Creek Bridge, Evan Street, Keith Hamilton Street, Nebo Road parking bays.

Drainage Maintenance: Wollingford Road, Victoria Plains Road, Balberra area, Thomas Road, O'Sheas Road, Sunnyside area, Chelona Sandiford Road, Grants Road, Stockroute Road, Coalmine Road, Truemans Road.

Mowing & Slashing: Nil

Main Roads RMPC:

Other Bituminous Works / Pothole Patching / Pavement Repairs	Bruce Highway (North), Mackay-Eungella Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Bruce Highway (South), Mackay-Slade Point Road.
Heavy Formation grading / gravel resheeting / other formation works	Bruce Highway (South), Eton-Homebush Road, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Eungella Dam Road.
Culvert / Drainage Works	Mackay-Habana Road, Eimeo Road.
Tractor Slashing Rural / Urban / Boom Mowing / Clearing Works / Herbicide Spraying / Declared Plant Spraying	Tractor Slashing: Peak Downs Highway, Marian-Hampden Road, Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Rockleigh-North Mackay Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road. Boom Mowing: Herbicide/Declared Plant Spraying: Mackay-Eungella Road, Marian-Eton Road, Mirani-Eton Road. Other: Mackay-Bypass Road (minor landscaping).
Rest Area Servicing	Bruce Highway (North).
Road Sweeping/Roadside Litter Collection	Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North).
Emergency Call Outs	Bruce Highway (South), Peak Downs Highway, Mackay-Bucasia Road.
Signs / Guide Post Works	Mackay-Eungella Road, Bruce Highway (South).

Materials were extracted during the month from the following quarry operations:

- Bezzinas Pit
- Breadsells Pit
- Buggybend
- Eton
- Hazelwoods Pit
- Hoffman Pit
- Howells Pit
- Jensens Pit
- Larsens Pit
- Mezzens Pit
- Omands Pit

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Development and design of projects for saturation damage projects throughout the Council area for 2009, 2010 and 2011 events
- Development and design of projects within Capital Works Programme
- Development of draft 20 yr Capital Works Programme making provision for all current projects and proposed development projects and its revision to match LTFP and PIP requirements. Indicative 2012/13 & 2013/14 CWP to be presented to Council for approval to allow advance planning
- Consultation and detail design regarding Archibald Street (Connors to Milton) upgrading
- Consultation and detail design of the HAFF Grant project including Rosewood Drive from Mackay Bucasia road to Chenoweth Drive including design development for works associated with Northern Beaches Central and the Northern Beaches High School
- Discussion with property owners and businesses regarding pavement upgrade and alterations to pavement markings in Shakespeare Street between Milton and Sydney streets
- Detail Design associated with CBD footpath upgrades via Bluewater Trial extension from Bluewater Quay to River Street Boat Ramp and from the boat ramp to Iluka Park via East Gordon street
- Design and Quotations associated with Bluewater Quay shade structures and balustrades. Shop drawings in preparation for installation prior to end of 2011
- Prepare and advertise brief for Consultants for CBD Access Audits for Sarina, Walkerston, Marian and Mirani
- Lead role in the preparation of “Safety in Design”, Erosion and Sediment Control and Fish passage and Waterway Barrier applications in relation to designs to meet industry standards.
- Attendance at Paget Depot Management Group & Steering Committee meetings and Corporate Projects Meetings , Program Managers, Shakespeare street public meetings with residents
- Participate in Departmental Briefing to Council
- Provision of Council report regarding CBD DDA Audit
- Trial rationalisation of school zone times currently in operation for later report to Council
- Ongoing rationalisation of Cemetery database to upgrade records and verification of records with Mackay Historical Society. In addition trial of MARCIS GIS recording tool for cemetery records.
- Completion of street lighting audits and reporting of information to Ergon
- Various drainage investigations for assessment of maintenance and capital upgrading requirements to address system performance issues
- Development of remote access for rural traffic counters via 3G network to improve efficiency and reduce costs to maintain traffic counts in remote rural areas
- GPS Base Station Network installed at Civic Centre, Koumala and Midge Point SES buildings, Mirani Council Chambers & Eungella Maintenance Depot. GPS undergoing data collection and

processing to reconcile position to survey accuracy for Geoscience Australia to certify the GPS network for use by registered surveyor.

- MRC Surveyor currently testing network coverage for mobile phone reception and accuracy relationship to DERM permanent mark Mackay area Control
- Testing to date shows the Civic Centre Base may need to be relocated to Slade Point to gain better coverage north and south along coastline
- Extra base stations at Calen, Hay Point and Hogans Pocket appear to be required to provide full coverage. Discussions underway with DTMR and NQBP to provide funding for these installations.

PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

The Parks & Environment report for the month of September contains information on activities undertaken throughout the month by the staff within the program.

Officers on call attended; - 11 after hours phone calls and 6 after hours call outs.

- **Administration** – 129 park bookings were recorded.
- **Customer Requests** - Actioned: 207, Received: 164, Unactioned: 148
- **Technical Officers** – 2 Off Maintenance, 1 On Maintenance, 1 Irrigation inspections, 9 Planting inspections & 10 Civil inspections.
- **Horticulture Activities** 10737 m2 garden beds serviced; 26.45 hours spraying herbicide and 2 hours spent fixing vandalism.
- **Grass Maintenance Activities** – mowing figures not available. 2918 toilet cleans; 1380 BBQ cleans.
- **Mirani** – 325380 m2 parks mowed; 436695m2 road reserves mowed; 44 hours spent whipper snipping.
- **Sarina** – 475000m2 mowed;100 hours spent whipper snipping
- **Tree-Crew** –

Sum of Scoping (hours)	Sum of Total Trees Pruned	Sum of Council Trees Removed	Sum of Scheduled Palm Trees defroned/deseeded	Sum of Requests-branch pick up	Sum of Coconut Trees denuttet	Sum of Requests-major prune	Sum of Trees Planted in Streetscapes
2.25	318	92	3	1	1	7	0

- **Cemeteries**

2011 (YTD)	Sept-11
Burials Mt Bassett	16
Burials Mt Bassett Ashes	9
Burials - Mackay	2
Burials - Mackay Ashes	0
Burials - Walkerston	4
Burials - Walkerston (Ashes)	2
Burials - Mirani	1
Burials - Marian	0
Burials- Sarina	3
Hand Dig of grave	2

- **Natural Environment and Marine Beach Activities –**

- During September, in addition to normal duties, staff members were also kept busy with the relocation to the new Paget depot, including undertaking site-specific inductions and moving gear and getting set up in the new facility.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia:
 - Worked at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve from 12-14th September and on Saturday 17th September undertaking weed control as part of the Hail Creek Mine funded project.
 - Worked at Louisa Creek Reserve funded by BMA and supported by Council and SLCMA from 5-9th September and 19th-22nd September.
- Coasts and Communities working bees were held on Saturday 10th September
 - Ball Bay – 7 volunteers worked from 9-11.30am undertaking weed control and maintaining recent plantings.
 - Haliday Bay – 5 volunteers helped remove weeds, maintain recent plantings and pick up rubbish from 2-4 pm.

Council delivers this program in partnership with Reef Catchments.
- Council adopted the Reef Guardian Action plan for 2011/12 as part of GBRMPAs Reef Guardian Council Program.
- Met with Seaforth residents to discuss operational projects and the Seaforth Beach Plan.
- Finalised the funding arrangements for Landcare support projects with Pioneer and Sarina Landcare groups including finalising the contracts and agreed deliverables.
- Met with GBRMPA staff to discuss the new format of the Reef Guardian action plan and the reporting requirements.
- Landcare Day at the Gardens was held on Sunday 11th September. Funding was provided for Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group to attend the event.
- Held discussions regarding the capital works and natural environment levy budgets.
- Received a briefing from DERM regarding Protected Area Planning for the Mackay Highlands and Mackay Islands
- Met with stakeholders regarding Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve and shorebirds management.
- Liaison with Reef Catchments regarding the Natural Environment Plan and the prioritisation of on-ground coastal works.
- Funded Pioneer Catchment and Landcare group to deliver a Land for Wildlife workshop '*Snakes, identification and behaviour*' on 3rd September, an event at the Gooseponds as part of weedbusters week on 1st September and a Great Northern Clean up day event on 11th September.
- Funded Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association to hold a Weedbuster Week event on 10th September, a Great Northern Clean up day event on 11th September and the weekly plant propagation session at the SLCMA nursery.

- The Sarina Beach team has been inspecting sand ladders across various beaches, organizing the new nursery facilities at the Sarina depot, and undertaking weed control at all sites. They have also watered and weeded around recent plantings and started propagating plants for use next season.
- The Mackay Beach team watered revegetation at Shoal Point and Bucasia, undertook repairs and repainting at the Loughnane St depot, repaired the swimming enclosures and undertook weed control, fencing repairs and rubbish removal across several sites
- The Habitat Restoration team controlled weeds and watered seedlings at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve, undertook depot maintenance including receiving and installing a donga and several containers from Bedford Rd



CVA volunteers watering recently planted seedlings at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve



CVA volunteers undertaking weed control at Louisa Creek Reserve



SLCMA volunteer at the Great Northern Clean up event at Grendon Park

• **Parks Building Services Activities –**

Parks Electrical Department Monthly Report for September 2011

Traffic Signals	
Traffic Signal Push Button Maintenance	1
Traffic Signal Re-alignment	2
Traffic Signal Lamp Replacement	22
Traffic Signal LED unit Replacements	0
Traffic Signal New loop Installations	1
Traffic Signal Emergency attendances	0

Other Electrical Work	
Site Hut Connection	2
Site Hut Disconnection	0
Test and Tag Inspections	4
RCD test - switchboards	3
Park Light Repairs	5
Park Light Vandalism Repairs	1
Barbeque Repairs	3
Amenities Light Repair	2
Tool Box Talks (Take 5's)	2
Street Light Repair	1
Building Repairs/Installations	7

Playgrounds:

Operational Inspections	23
Visual Inspections	25
Play Equipment Repairs – Substantial	10
Play Equipment Repairs - Minor	18

Built Asset Maintenance:

There was the usual string of minor vandalism associated with the school holidays which involved minor repairs and graffiti clean up to several amenities and park fixtures. Small repairs were completed in four toilet blocks and graffiti was cleaned in five toilets and three picnic shelters. However the last day of the school holidays saw the worst case of vandalism this year when three wheelie bins full of rubbish were placed in the Blacks Beach amenities and set alight. The resulting fire was very intense and created substantial damage to the building. The fact that the building has concrete walls and ceilings resulted in no structural damage but substantial damage to plumbing, electrical fittings, floor wall and ceiling finishes and cubicle doors and jambs. The amenities have been closed to the public and a Portaloo placed on site. Repairs will take well in to October to complete.



Other work completed during the month included the installation of two artificial trees on the Wood/Victoria St Roundabout. They are the same as to two existing trees at Blue Water Quay.



The Musical Activities Hut in the all abilities playground at Illuka Park was fully repainted and the timber floor was oiled as it has received considerable wear and tear since opening.



Capital Projects – The following projects are completed



New Picnic Settings Sarina Beach



Gargett Amenities Refurbishment



Napier St Park Picnic Shelter



Murals completed by Progress Association and Local Artists On Recently Refurbished Picnic Shelter Sarina Beach

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens: -

Meadowlands:

Progress continues on the Meadowlands development at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG), including second stage bitumen sealing, reforming of Crowleys Road, stormwater drainage and continuing works to the carpark. Electrical and irrigation conduits are being installed for future connections for carpark lighting and garden bed irrigation. All works are proceeding to schedule with the tender for the Outdoor Performance and Events Centre expected to be released in mid October.

Horticultural Reference Group:

The Horticultural Reference Group (HRG) met on September 27 to review the initial Meadowlands phase 1 tree species planting plans and further discuss the Waster Sensitive landscaping for Urban Design (WSUD) species lists for plantings in drains, drainage swales and adjacent parklands.

Meadowlands will contain only species sourced from known locations within the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion that surrounds Mackay and the Whitsundays, for conservation and preservation and trials as useful horticultural species. The first trees species selected will be for avenue and carpark plantings – many which have not been used before as such, but show potential.

BGANZQ:

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand - Queensland Regional Group (BGANZQ) Chair – Kate Heffernan, Lawrie Smith (BGANZQ Secretary) and Dale Arvidsson (BGANZ Committee liaison) met with representatives from the Office for the Minister for Primary Industries & Fisheries and the Australian Centre for Lifestyle Horticulture in Brisbane. This meeting provided information on the BGANZQ Network and its member gardens and outlined some of the initiatives that demonstrate the possibility of specific liaison between the two groups for mutual benefit. Discussed were options for further funding the rollout of the “Smart Gardener” program and stronger links with horticultural industries and education institutions of Queensland.

It was also identified that Queensland is the only state without a ‘state botanic garden’ and this explains the need for BGANZQ to exist to undertake the linking of projects and opportunities between government, industry and the botanic gardens state wide.

A follow up meeting to outline projects identified will occur in November, along with a meeting with Tourism Queensland to further progress the Botanic Gardens state tourism trail.

Volunteer working bees:

Volunteers from Mackay West Rotary Club participated in a planting bee in the Coastal Lowlands and Geology Gardens on Saturday September 17. Nine participants were joined by the Gardens Friends and staff and 100 plants were added to the MRBG living collection. Trees and shrubs typical of Mackay’s coastal fringe and shrubs and grasses endemic to the sandstone ranges of Isaac Shire were planted in the botanic gardens ‘Summerlands’ sector.



Mackay West Rotary Planting bee – Geology Garden – Sandstone bed.

Herbarium:

The Herbarium session on September 26 was attended by all for of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) volunteers plus Council Parks and Environment staff from Queen's Park undertaking horticultural studies.

The next ten specimens prepared to be sent to Brisbane were retrieved from their bundles and the MRBG duplicates were removed and replaced with the Botanical Specimen for Identification sheets.

Several more flowering specimens were collected and processed. The enormous leaves and bulky inflorescence of the Golden Bouquet Tree – *Deplanchea tetraphylla* – collected as a MRBG reference specimen gave participants an opportunity to gain some experience with difficult material. In situ photographs were also taken of a Golden Orchid – *Dendrobium discolor* - to accompany the voucher specimen of an individual inflorescence that will eventually be sent to Brisbane.

Horticultural and site Works:

Snipping – 68hrs

Mowing – 102hrs

Herbicide Spraying – 93.5hrs

Pruning (trees, shrubs including hedging) – 76.5hrs

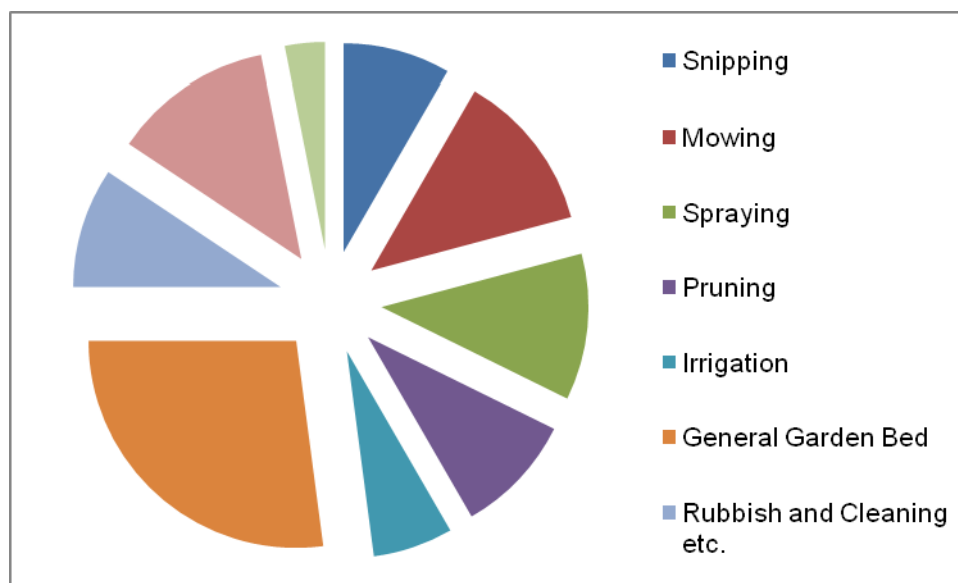
Irrigation (repairs and manual watering) – 51hrs

General garden bed maintenance – 221hrs (not including volunteer hours)

Rubbish collection including bin emptying – 76.5hrs

Planting – 102hrs (not including volunteer hours)

Infrastructure repairs – 25.5hrs



Contractor works undertaken (not included in above chart) were repairs and rewiring to Monsoon bridge and Irrigation main line repairs.

Weather Station Data:

Rainfall for month (mm): 8.4mm

Days of rain: 12 (> .2 mm) 1 (> 2 mm)

Avg. Temperature for Month (deg C): 19.4 (high of 29.1 - low of 7.4)

High Wind Speed (knots): 20.9

Avg. Wind Speed (knots): 2.7

Dom. Wind direction: ESE

Visitor Services Program:

Events and Bookings:

Meeting Room: 6 communities groups, 2 Mackay Regional Council working groups and 1 private company used the meeting room facility this month. The Visitor Services Officer had holiday activities in THE meeting room. The last two weeks of September

Weddings: 4 weddings and 2 receptions were held at the Restaurant and Cafe at the Lagoons.

Events: Child Protection Week event & Landcare day were both held on the front lawn and the Fathers day fun run along the Bluewater Trail commenced at the MRBG. There are also 2 personal training companies now using the grounds 2 days a week each, increasing visitation and usage especially of the Tamarind Carpark and Botanic PlayGarden area of the 'Rawson's Hollow' section of the Gardens each evening.

Landcare in the Gardens on September 11 was only attended by a small, but very interested crowd this year, with lots of people turning up in time for the Photo competition winner's announcement at 12 noon. The children who came enjoyed the passports; completing activities and then receiving a stamp in their passports and later receiving a surprise (hats or bags) when lots of stamps were collected.

The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) plant sale was another popular stall on the day.

Gallery Exhibition:

The Exhibition featured in Lagoons Gallery during September (7 September - 2 October) is titled 'Secrets of the Pioneer' by photographers David Phillips, Mitch Galletly and John Robertson.



"Night Crossing" by David Phillips.

The photographers began their project photographing the Pioneer River around 12 months ago. Both fortunately and unfortunately the Mackay area has had an abundance of rain during that time – fortunate as the river has remained torrent, unfortunately as the rain has hindered a number of attempts to get out there and photograph it.

Historic images of the Pioneer River to compliment the modern photographs were sourced from Mackay Regional Council's history collection held at the Library.

Plant-ed Education Program:

September 2: Mackay Home Schooling Group; 25 parents and children visited the Gardens to learn about Biodiversity including the plants (flowers and leaves), birds and small creatures.

September 7: 22 prep children from Glenella School visited the heritage and Kitchen gardens and then joined in a composting experience as well as making recycled newspaper pots to plant seeds in.

September 8: 100+ prep children from Fitzgerald participating in four rotating activities including Mini-beasts, self guided walk to see birds and creatures, leaf hunts and water (including plant adaptations to great or small amounts of water). The entire group also listened to a water pollution presentation.

September 15: 23 children from Mackay North Prep to engage in involving what living things need e.g. food, water shelter and plants needing sunlight.

Self guided visits:

Fitzgerald State School visited the gardens for a pleasant lunch stop and Whitsunday State School during their camp week also used the Gardens on two separate days to enjoy self-guided tour activity sheets supplied by the Gardens.

Plant-ed Elsewhere:

September 1: a visit by the Visitor Services Officer to 3 Prep classes at St. Francis experience “Drawing in nature” with children observing and drawing leaf shapes.

School Holiday Activities explored ‘Mysteries of the Lagoon’:

The Botanic Gardens is a great place to discover secret and mysteries of different environments. The children went for a walk through the Gardens to seek out the wonders of the Lagoon and the plant and animal life it supports. They observed birdlife, water-plants and caught and inspected the tiny macro-invertebrates that live in the quiet waters. The session also included story reading and making origami fish.

Australasian Friends Walking Guides Conference 12- 16 September Brisbane:

The Visitor Services Officer and the three Gardens Friends were able to meet many friends / walking guides from all over Australia and New Zealand to tour and view signage and interpretation, not only for new ideas but to verify that we have good ways of doing things at our Gardens too. The walks and presentations were varied through Mt Coot-tha, Maroochy Bushland Gardens and Roma Street Parklands.

Web stats for August: www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

1133 visits

3847 page views

878 visitors

3.40 pages/visits

eNewsletter total Subscribers in August - 498

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Community Education

The Emergency Management Section continues to support and promote community disaster awareness education, community preparedness and resilience for disaster events.

A presentation on Emergency Management was given to Year 2 students at West Mackay State Primary School on the 5th September 2011.

A presentation was given to the Volunteers Queensland Resilience Workshop held in Mackay on 8th September 2011.

Disaster Coordination Centre

The Disaster Coordination Centre remains at a point of readiness.

A number of IT issues regarding the Guardian Disaster Management System remain outstanding.

A meeting was held on the 15th September 2011 regarding the purchase of additional laptops and the movement of the system onto the main server to allow greater ability to train and provide a more secure system in accordance with the consultant's report.

As at March 2011, Council has approximately 100 staff trained in the use of Guardian and approximately 140 staff trained in Disaster Coordination Centre Operations.

Guardian revision training has been deferred until after the upgrading of the server and installation of Version 4.

Review of Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry Recommendations

A review of the Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry recommendations released on the 1st August 2011 was undertaken and work is being planned to undertake the remedial actions required to comply with the reviewed recommendations.

The recommendations were referred to the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 29th August 2011.

A reply to the Request for Information from the QFCI was forwarded on 24th September 2011. Information requested from Council was in relation to the SES membership, vehicles and equipment supplied, remuneration paid to SES staff and financial support given to the SES by Council for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Review of Emergency Alert Guidelines Version 3

Revised guidelines were released by the State Disaster Management Group on 26th September 2011 and received in early October 2011. These guidelines are yet to be fully reviewed to see how they impact Council.

Review of the Draft Memorandum of Agreement for State Emergency Service

A review of the Draft memorandum of Agreement for the State Emergency Service released by the Emergency Management Queensland is currently being assessed.

Emergency Management Website

The Emergency Management website content was reviewed and updated during the month.

Mackay Local Disaster Management Group

The Mackay Local Disaster Management Group met on the 29th August 2011.

The next scheduled meeting is the 24th October 2011.

Meetings and Conferences

- Presentation on 5th September 2011 to Year 2 students at West Mackay State Primary School on emergency management, flooding risks, functions and roles of the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group.
- Attendance as a guest speaker to the Volunteers Queensland Resilience Workshop on 8th September 2011.
- Attendance at a meeting with EMQ staff from Kedron, Area Director EMQ, newly appointed Community Resilience Officer and Emergency Management staff on 12th September 2011 regarding the Community Resilience Projects.
- Attendance at the MRC Guardian Steering Group Meeting on 15th September 2011.

NDRRA Claims – Counter Disaster Operations

Claimable costs for Counter Disaster Operations for TC Ului, December 2010 rain events, Emerald Assistance and TC Anthony/ TC Yasi were forwarded to EMQ.

Planning

Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan and Operational Plans

Work on updating the Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan continued during the month and it is expected to be finalised in early October for submission to the Local Disaster Management Group meeting on the 24th October 2011.

Work and revision of a number of Operational Plans continues. Some Operational Plans will require major changes due to new guidelines being released. At this stage, it is unlikely that all Operational Plans will be completed before the commencement of the storm season.

Projects / Mitigation Strategies

A number of Projects and Mitigation Strategies are currently being either assessed or undertaken.

Storm Surge Study

This project is now being undertaken by the Planning and Development Program to meet the requirements of the Coastal Planning Guidelines.

A brief has been prepared and tenders will be sought in the near future.

Community Emergency Wardens Project

A meeting to discuss progress on the project was held for the 12th September 2011. This project is being co-ordinated by the Community Resilience Officer in conjunction with Emergency Management staff with the intention to have three trail areas (Midge Point/ Seaforth/ Eungella) instigated prior to the upcoming wet season.

Aged Care Facilities Emergency Planning Project

Emergency Management staff have maintained contact with the Regional Aged Care Facilities to assist in adequately planning for evacuations during disaster events on a all hazards basis. This project is continuing with a goal that updated plans for all facilities will be available by December 2011.

SES Functions/ SES Instructors Project

No meetings were held in September.

Backup Generators for Sir Albert Abbott Admin Building

The project is continuing under the supervision of the Property Services Section. Works to be completed include the construction of the permanent foundation and compound for both the 90kva and 350kva

generators, relocation of the 90kva from the temporary site and installation of the 350kva and associated switch board and electrical works.

Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2011.

Community Resilience Officer Project

The Community Resilience Officer has been active in the community attending a number of meetings.

Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Red Cross

In accordance with the recommendations of the Queensland Flood commission of Inquiry. Discussions have recommenced with the Australian Red Cross regarding negotiating the provision of ARC services for emergency relief works for local emergency events.

LGAQ are also investigating standard MOU's with the Red Cross and it is envisaged that a MOU will be agreed upon and signed off by December 2011.

SES Update

Local Controller

My attention primarily for the month of September was the handover of the welders bay and Gate House at Ness St to SES. Negotiations were continuing throughout September and an agreement was finalised in the first week of October.

The MRU also acquired 150 pieces of Office furniture and equipment which will be distributed throughout the unit.

The break in and theft of an EMQ radio repeater at the Finch Hatton SES facility was reported on the 12th October. Police were notified and the investigation is ongoing. The only damage to council property was the door lock which has been replaced. EMQ expect to replace the equipment by the end of November.

The Unit executive meeting was held on the 15th October and the priority of the 6 group Leaders in attendance was the upgrade of IT, internet and mobile Phone handsets before upcoming storm season.

Current Unit Volunteer strength

Of the SESMRU using Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) training records is **238** active volunteers with another 30 in reserve (which are those that do not train on a regular basis but hold current competencies).

Activations

Assist QPS with Traffic Control at Springfest, Calen.

Asset operational readiness

Chainsaws 65%

Plant has reported the misplacement of an SES chainsaw during the move from Bedford road to Paget. This takes us back to 65% from 70% readiness. The remaining 30% represents the 5 chainsaws still on order from plant. These have now been on order in excess of 11 weeks with no date given for future delivery at this stage.

Generators 70%

The breakdown of two generators has reduced the figure down from 80%. These generators are not worth the continued investment in maintenance due to age. We are awaiting delivery for 6 new generators.

Flood Boats 90%

An operational flood boat from Mackay Group has been deployed to Mirani to maintain operational effectiveness.

Vehicles 93%

Sarina vehicle is serviceable but not operationally viable due to the removal of SES safety features in anticipation of trade in.

Trailers 100%**Additional Assets**

Purchased 12 x 3 meter Donga from Bedford Road to place at Midge Point SES group as a covered training room.

Other Donations

Nil.

Courses Completed, all of Unit**High Risk**

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) course was completed by 16 MRU volunteers at the invitation of RSPCA.

Low Risk

Navigation

Communication

CPR

Storm Damage

General Rescue

Land Search

Public Education

Springfest 19th

Events Attended

The Great Northern Clean up. SES flood boats and volunteers utilised to clean up under Blue Water Quay and beaches with limited access along the Pioneer River.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Number of Completed Maintenance Requests Surveyed for Customer Satisfaction

Civil Operations - 113
Parks and Environment - 91
Water Services - 174

Number of Construction Projects Surveyed for Customer Satisfaction

0

Number of Customer Satisfaction Survey Results Finalised

0

Number of IMS Documents Reviewed and Updated

Standard Operating Procedures - 2
Forms - 1
Booklets - 0
Knowledge Reviews - 25
Diagrams – 2
Leaflets – 4
Manuals - 1
Inspection Frequency Registers - 29

Number of New IMS Documents Commenced

Standard Operating Procedures - 1
Knowledge Reviews - 40
Forms – 0

IMS intranet site on “Bruce”

The 8 IMS web pages have been finalised.

Number of documents uploaded to “Bruce” IMS site

410

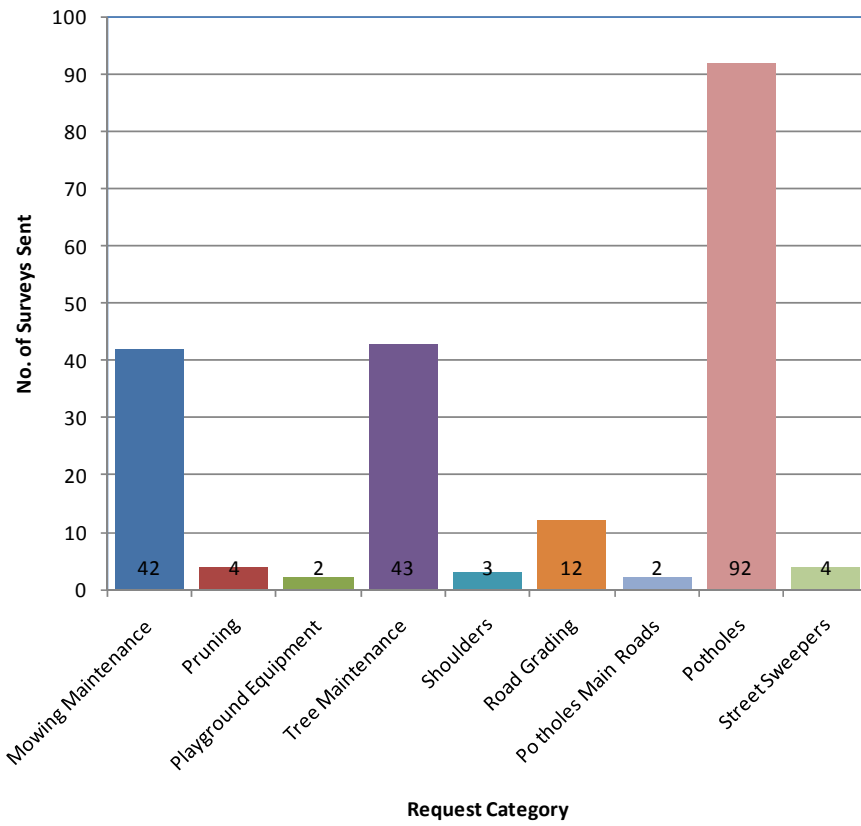
Number of Work Sites Visited

6

Number of Internal Quality Audits Conducted

0

EXTERNAL MAINTENANCE SURVEY FORMS - August / September 2011 Engineering Services



Categories / Numbers for Surveys Conducted for Water & Waste Services

Sewerage Blockage - 12
Broken Manhole - 0
Sewerage Overflows/Spillage - 2
Fire Hydrant - Damaged/Leaking - 11
Water Main - Broken/Leaking - 15
Water Meter - Broken/Leaking - 65
Water Meter - Rewasher/Leaky Stopcock - 24
Water Service - Broken/Leaking - 45

Consultation

There has been consultation with Engineering Services Program Managers.

Resource Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

The period of September was very eventful in terms of the Departments ability to progress its overall Capital Works program and pre-emptive maintenance schedules. The period also saw the transfer of operations from Bedford Road to Paget. The principle contract being resolved at this time was the Connors Road reconstruction and tenders are currently being finalised.

Officer's Recommendation

THAT this report be received.