



8 November 2019

John Young  
Ipswich City Council  
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Ipswich QLD 4305  
Australia

### **Benefits of Partnering with the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium**

Dear John,

As Acting Manager of the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC), I would like to thank you for your interest in becoming a financial partner of the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC) for the 2019/2020 financial year. *The existing long term partners and extensive network of SEQFBC are testament to the benefits of being involved in this unique non-government organisation driven by the needs of the broader community and guided by current science.* I would also like to recognise the invaluable partnership we have with you as a member of the Steering Committee, thank you again for your contribution and support.

#### **Who are the SEQFBC?**

Established in 1998, the SEQFBC is a network of land managers and stakeholders committed to improving fire and biodiversity management outcomes, supporting and disseminating fire ecology research, facilitating partnerships between key stakeholders and building the capacity of land managers and private land owners to address issues of fire management and biodiversity in south-east Queensland.

Established with funding from the National Heritage Trust, the SEQFBC has had several hosts, starting with Logan City Council (1998 – 2002) and moving to Griffith University with a focus on research in late 2002 and from there to the former Natural Resource Management Regional Body for SEQ, SEQ Catchments in 2009. Following a merger in 2016, between SEQ Catchments and Healthy Waterways (forming Healthy Land and Water) the SEQFBC was fortunate to receive continued support.

A history of the evolution of the Consortium was presented at our recent 20th Anniversary Fire Forum held in June in Brisbane this year. This history was also documented in the Forum Program which I have attached for your information.

Currently embedded with Healthy Land and Water, the SEQFBC is supported in part by funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Current funding provides for a Manager (Dr Samantha Lloyd) three days per week and a Coordinator (Craig Welden) four days per week. SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium priorities and deliverables are guided and supported by a Steering Committee and Working Groups (e.g. Engagement and Training), in parallel with Healthy Land and Water and funding driven commitments.

The business of the SEQFBC is managed on an efficient and very conservative budget. Our service is highly regarded and increasingly in demand, which whilst very positive requires funds to be able to better support the expanding program.



We have recently undertaken a strategic planning exercise to identify our vision, mission, aims and objectives, and key values (below); and to investigate opportunities for growth and financial security. For further information I have attached a copy of the SEQFBC Strategic Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24.

SEQFBC Vision: To be leaders in ecological fire management.

SEQFBC Mission: Translate science into practice for improved fire management and biodiversity conservation.

Broad Aim of the SEQFBC:

Provide a coordinated response and best-practice recommendations for fire management, fire ecology and biodiversity conservation through education, engagement, research and support.

The six core values of the SEQFBC (in alphabetical order):

- Collaboration - we are inclusive, engage broadly and partner with a diversity of stakeholders;
- Commitment - we are passionate about translating fire science into practical actions that protect life, property and the environment;
- Communication - we provide the latest information on fire science, fire ecology and fire management practice to our partners and stakeholders;
- Expertise - we support and foster expertise, experience and knowledge from a suite of fire management experts, locally, nationally and internationally;
- Integrity - we strive to ensure all our actions, products and services are to the highest possible standard, strengthen our relationships and reflect our core values; and
- Respect - we acknowledge the expertise and experience of others and welcome their contribution to the SEQFBC.

## **SEQFBC Partnering with Key Stakeholders**

One of the key strengths of the SEQFBC is the number and diversity of partners. Each supporting organisation contributes financially and in-kind to the SEQFBC and these contributions increase significantly the value, networking reach, influence, skill base and knowledge potential of the SEQFBC. The contribution of partners is vital in securing and ensuring our ongoing function to achieve SEQFBC's aims and objectives.

SEQFBC partners with an impressive list of 19 supporting organisations (our largest to date) reflecting the extensive support for the SEQFBC in SEQ and illustrating our active and dedicated partnerships over the past 20 years. Current Partners are Brisbane City Council, The City of the Gold Coast, Gympie Regional Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley RC, Logan City Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Redlands City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, Powerlink, Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (including the Rural Fire Service Queensland), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Transport and Main Roads - Darling Downs District, SEQ Water and Healthy Land and Water (HLW).





## SEQFBC Services and Resources

The SEQFBC offers partners a range of support, services and training – some of these are tangible and easily documented and others are reputational, and value driven and go beyond a monetary figure. For example, our non-government status is highly valued by our partners, especially with regards to community engagement. Further to that, our ability to represent our partners and stakeholders in a way that individual agencies or local governments cannot, is also highly valued (i.e. response to policy and legislation).

### Workshops and Training

The SEQFBC Fire Management Planning Workshops aim to educate and engage participants in best practice fire management planning, including the opportunity to develop a Fire Management Plan, utilising the newly revised SEQFBC Fire Management Planning Kit (Attached). Workshops are coordinated by the SEQFBC and delivered in partnership with other key stakeholders, including local officers from the Qld Fire and Emergency Services, the relevant local government, Qld Parks and Wildlife Services, officers from other relevant departments (e.g. Transport and Main Roads) and other key stakeholders (e.g. utility providers). Workshop topics include, the appropriate use of fire in the landscape, recommended fire regimes, plant and animal responses to fire, fire and soil erosion, fire trails, fire preparedness, mapping and government land management agencies fire management programs and strategies.

Between January and October 2019, the SEQFBC provided the following:

- **Delivered 9 Fire Management Information Nights to 545 people;**
- **Delivered five Fire Management Planning Workshops to 102 people (workshops are capped at 30 participants)**
- **Fire Management Planning Workshop Survey: Surveys revealed a range of results supporting the value of the workshops, including that pre the workshop, only 14.8% of attendees reported having “good” general knowledge of fire management, with no one reporting “very good”. Post the workshops, 48.4% of people reported having a “good” to “very good” general knowledge of fire management, this being a 33.6% increase in the “good” to “very good” ranking.**
- **Training: Undertaking a Planning and Building Performance Assessment for Bushfire Protection for LG Officers** (17 attendees, one location, 6 - 9 May); *Fire Weather 1* (143 attendees, five locations, May and June); *Fire Weather 2* (20 attendees, one location, June); and *Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment* (129 attendees, seven locations, June).

### **Other Key Achievements for 2018/19 include:**

- **The SEQFBC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fire Forum** (11<sup>th</sup> June 2019) - over 200 people gathered at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens to celebrate 20 years of the SEQFBC. With the theme *Fire, Research and Partnerships*, this anniversary forum showcased applied fire ecology and onground fire management projects and programs that highlight the value of partnerships and longevity in applied fire ecology and onground management. The program featured 17 presentations, delivered by 30 presenters from 21 different organisations, with the formal Welcome and Traditional Owner Acknowledgment provided by Margie Milgate (Figure 1). The program (attached) covers the event in more detail.
- **Recommended Fire Regime Information Booklet:** New 12-page information booklet, produced by the SEQFBC on recommended fire regimes for broad vegetation groups in SEQ. Hard copies distributed to partner organisations.( copy attached).



- The **2018 Queensland Bushfires Review**: Author - Inspector-General Emergency Management 2019, tabled in Qld Parliament on the 15 July 2019. Page 79 features the SEQFBC as an example of “good practice” in working with private landowners.
- **SEQFBC eNews**: Four SEQFBC eNews published and sent to over 1200 subscribers.
- **6<sup>th</sup> International Fire Behavioural and Fuels Conference, Sydney**: SEQFBC presented at the Conference and participated in a panel discussion at the Conference workshop.
- **Property Fire Management Planning Kit** and the **Powerline Easements, Fire and Biodiversity Supplement Supplement** with Powerlink
- Finalisation of the **SEQFBC Strategic Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24**

### SEQFBC Partnership Agreements

In return, for financial and inkind contributions the SEQFBC commits to providing opportunity for the following outcomes to be delivered as direct services from its partnership:

- Management and Coordination of the SEQFBC activities and services by Dr Samantha Lloyd and Craig Welden (respectively) at continued high standard, (estimated value \$8847 for every \$5000 contribution or \$3847 in additional value);
- Free or subsidised attendance to the annual SEQFBC Fire Science forum (estimated at \$250/attendee);
- Delivery of two SEQFBC coordinated training workshops, e.g. Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment (OFHA) training (estimated delivery value of \$1950/partner based on delivery of seven OFHA training workshops);
- 20 x provision of editions of the SEQFBC *Enews* and additional published articles in newsletters and websites (estimated \$1,000 value/partner);
- Two x advertising opportunities in the SEQFBC *eNews* (estimated \$2,000 value);
- Provision of hard copies of new SEQFBC *Property Fire Management Planning Kit* (production value/partner \$3200) and the *Fire, Powerline Easements and Biodiversity Supplement* (production value/partner \$740);
- Provision of SEQFBC produced educational and/or promotional materials (estimated production value/partner \$1,200 based on four-page fact sheet);
- One Property Fire Management Planning workshop (estimated value at \$7300 for workshop); and
- One x seat at the SEQFBC steering committee (estimated \$5,000 value)





In addition, the SEQFBC commit to recognising and acknowledging partnering organisations as a key SEQFBC partner through all relevant promotional and reporting avenues.

We believe this agreement represents better value than if a single organisation directly engaged the SEQFBC or a consultancy to provide these services and when considered cumulatively, along with the other 19 SEQFBC partners, represents unique land management, community capacity building and networking opportunities.

I look forward to hearing from you and invite you to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Welden".

Craig Welden  
Acting Manager  
**South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium**

