



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

SUNSHINE COAST
Environment Council



About us

SCEC is the peak environmental advocacy group on the Sunshine Coast. Established in 1980, SCEC represents more than 50 community groups working on a range of environmental issues as well as almost 4,000 individual supporters.

Our Vision

An ecologically sustainable world achieved through individual and community stewardship of the natural environment at local, regional and global levels.

Our Mission

Through leadership, education and environmental activism, to encourage Sunshine Coast individuals and communities to support and participate in working towards the goal of environmental sustainability.



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**KERYN
JONES**
President
April through
December



**WIEBE
TER BALS**
President
January through
March

SUNSHINE COAST Environment Council



PRESIDENTS REPORT

It has been another eventful year for the Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC). As always we've been involved in a wide range of campaign issues including the Mooloolah Logging Area, Maroochydore Sand Extraction, Airport Expansion, Caloundra South, planning legislation and Climate Change, to name but a few.

On the operational front there have been significant changes. I decided to leave the organisation as SCEC's Executive Officer after 6 years at the helm. During my time with SCEC I led our campaign efforts on key issues such as Caloundra South, the new planning scheme and Halls Creek. I also implemented major changes to our governance and administrative arrangements that have placed SCEC in a great position to face the future.

Following my decision to step down from the role as Executive Officer, a review of our staff structure was triggered, which resulted in the creation of a new coordinator position, with responsibilities for event management, administration and community engagement. Following a competitive recruitment process Leah Hays was recruited into this position and commenced in November 2015. Implementation of the new staff structure will result in a 30% saving in employment expenses which will ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation going forward.

Changes to the funding arrangements around the WED Festival have led us to decide that, after eight years at the University of the Sunshine Coast, WED will 'return home' to Cotton Tree in 2016. SCEC is grateful to festival partners Sunshine Coast Council and University of the Sunshine Coast for their collaboration and support over the past 8 years.

On behalf of the SCEC Management Committee, I express my sincere thanks to the amazing efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers. It is their talent, perseverance and plain hard work that has lifted the SCEC profile in the region, ensured campaign wins and provided the community with so many opportunities to come together and learn more about environmental issues.

I also thank my fellow Management Committee members who are also dedicated volunteers. Their ideas and professional guidance are an invaluable contribution to SCEC success. In particular I wish to thank my predecessor, Keryn Jones, who stepped down from the SCEC presidency in December 2015 due to family circumstances. Keryn was elected president in June 2013 and guided SCEC through several tumultuous and sometimes difficult years.

Wiebe ter Bals



SCECs position was reported **75** times in the media
SCEC attended **78** meetings with public and private sector parties as representative of the environment
SCEC prepared **30** submissions on environmental issues



ADVOCACY

From fabulous forests to beautiful beaches, planning to politics, SCEC has been as active as ever in the past year.

The change of government in February 2015 began to see some of the shocking environmental rollbacks that occurred under the previous Newman government addressed.

One of the most significant legislative amendments was to reinstate the cardinal principle for National Parks in the Nature Conservation Act. The Palaszczuk government then followed through by not supporting a proposed zipline in the Kondalilla National Park and its stunning Obi Obi Gorge. This was celebrated by SCEC, National Parks Association Queensland (NPAQ), Connondale Range Conservation and the community who had been campaigning against this inappropriate proposal for almost two years.

After an off-road motorcycling facility slated for the biodiversity rich Mooloolah Logging Area was off the table, this patch of special forest still had a massive interchange in the form of the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade looming over it. Combined efforts and passion of community groups, Traditional Owners, SCEC and others made sure an improved project design became a priority for the new Main Roads Minister and the Department. Renewed engagement delivered some welcome commitments to reduce the footprint in the forest to no more than 12ha by going east of the historical Mooloolah Cemetery. However, the design is not yet finalised so important wetlands and threatened species in this portion are still under threat in addition to critically endangered sub-tropical lowland rainforest, koala habitat and old growth eucalypts found in the overall 7km project footprint. Until 2013, 100ha of the forest was set to be wiped out so we are encouraged by the warranted reduction in scale. However, we continue to call for the Mooloolah Logging Area to finally be transitioned into National Park.

A container deposit scheme for Queensland gained momentum and support as SCEC worked alongside Boomerang Alliance and local groups to help raise awareness with the 'Cash for Containers' campaign.

Council elections were held on 19 March 2016. SCEC attended numerous forums and surveyed candidates to put on the record their position on a range of key issues. After a flurry of campaigning from a wide field of candidates, all incumbent Councillors including the Mayor were returned plus a new Councillor for Division 4. Our engagement and advocacy with this level of government closest to the people and our environment naturally continues.

Further information on these activities, our work on planning and vegetation legislation and much more can be found on our website www.scec.org.au



SCEC organised **29** events

Representatives from over **60** community organisations participated in SCEC events

SCEC events were attended by **8,000+** people

ENGAGEMENT



ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is an essential component in fostering a community culture that is both environmentally aware and ecologically responsible. SCEC’s engagement efforts over the past year have been focussed predominantly on delivering a diverse range of events to a broadened audience, playing a vital role in harnessing community support to ensure governments are accountable for enacting sound environmental policies. Maintaining the currency and relevance of our online communications is another key engagement mechanism that continues to be a focus for SCEC.

During the past 12 months our engagement efforts have delivered 29 events in support of our advocacy efforts.

The Climate Action campaign directly engaged with close to 1,600 people through multiple community screenings of ‘Chasing Ice’, the Climate Change Relay, the Noosa Paddle Out for Climate Action in Noosa, the Maleny screening of ‘This Changes Everything’ and Earth Hour cycle-powered screening of kids environmental movie ‘Epic’.

The Cash for Containers campaign collaborated with various other community groups to deliver the Noosa Main Beach Media stunt, engaging a crowd of 60 with the event receiving substantial media coverage.

The Hinterland to Headland: Poetry in Place event series proved to be a fruitful collaboration between the environmental and creative sectors, with ample feedback encouraging future events of the same nature. The 2015 World Environment Day Festival attracted an audience of approximately 5000 people and included 22 community groups, 19 business exhibitors and 18 children’s activities.

SCEC co-hosted a series of LawJams with the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland on planning legislation reform and koala protections with a combined audience of almost 200 people.

A public information forum on the Sekisui House proposal for Yaroomba co-hosted with member group Development Watch saw 500 people pack the Coolum Civic Centre and its grounds.

SCEC helped to raise awareness of the impacts and actions needed on marine plastic pollution with Federal Senators, Noosa Council and community groups to an engaged audience of 120 ocean lovers. SCEC were also invited as guest lecturers at the University of the Sunshine Coast on several occasions.

Online we have also greatly enhanced our reach. Although visitors to our website have stayed much the same, our Facebook reach increased by 21.6% with a total of 2,365 likes. Across all our online platforms SCEC reached over 300,000 people during the year

Website	Total	Facebook	Total
Visitors/Users	24,927	New likes	922
Visits/Sessions	32,389	Engagement	17,791
Page views	53,523	Reach	262,447



SCEC received **\$124, 831** in donations

Average readership **35%** for electronic communications

More than **1,300** new supporters signed up

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION

The efficiency and output of any organisation is dependent upon sound administration and governance – an area of SCEC driven by the Coordinator, and underpinned by the generous support of administrative volunteers.

SCEC undertook a major reorganisation and capacity building phase between the year 2010 and 2015 developing a new constitution, new strategic plan, new website, new accounting set up and new IT infrastructure. This phase concluded in the 2014/15 financial year with the adoption of the Nation Builder platform integrating our website, contact and member database and social media.

Nation Builder is a platform that is designed to help organisations grow their support base and achieve campaign objectives and is used by many organisations around the world including WWF, EDO and Barak Obama.

Moving across to Nation Builder has enabled us to exponentially grow our support base from around 1,500 individuals in mid 2014 to well over 11,000 in mid 2016. With native capacity to run petitions, sell tickets to events, solicit donations manage mass emails and much more Nation Builder greatly enhances our capacity to mobilise our supporters in support of our campaigns.

The 2015/16 financial year saw the staff restructure come to fruition, with the WED Festival coordination and administrative oversight grouped in with the KPI's of the new event-focused Coordinator position. During this time we saw the number of employed SCEC staff reduce by half with the aim of assisting SCEC's financial position into the future.

The reduction in staff positions has meant SCEC have had to rely quite heavily on the support of volunteers in the areas of finance and administration. SCEC has been fortunate in retaining reliable and well skilled volunteers who have provided the backbone of SCEC since its inception. Maintaining adequate volunteerism within SCEC assists us in reaching our goal of spending more time on campaigning and community engagement and less time on administration. SCEC are very thankful for the skills and experience our volunteers bring to the organisation, as well as their bright and cheerful attitudes that enlighten the office atmosphere.

The enhanced administrative capacity and increased focus on events has created many new opportunities for volunteers to become involved in the organisation. As a result the number of volunteers hours have increased sharply this year, indicating a culture of community action is forming around certain core activities and campaigns.





SCEC has **4,779** supporters

102 volunteers contributed over **4,500** hours

9 wonderful, dedicated committee members

PEOPLE & GOVERNANCE



GOVERNANCE

SCEC is led by a Management Committee who govern the organisation in line with the principles for good governance for not-for-profit organisations.

Tools used to set directions and to monitor and manage performance include:

- 2013-2015 Strategic Plan
- SCEC Operational Plan
- Monthly Staff & Financial Reports
- Annual Performance Reviews

VOLUNTEERS

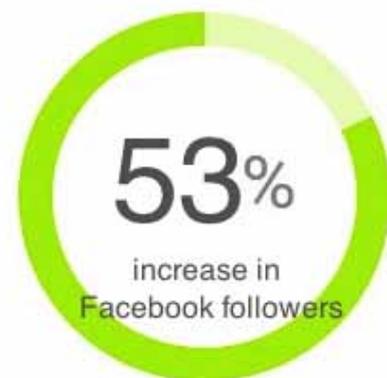
SCEC cannot function without the support of over a hundred volunteers who help around the office, with administration, research for submissions, organising events and countless other jobs. SCEC gratefully acknowledges the time and effort these wonderful people give to the organisation.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Wiebe ter bals & Keryn Jones
Vice-President	Jillian Rossiter
Treasurer	Sue Etheridge
Member	Mary-Jane Weld
Member	Leigh Warneminde
Member	Natalie Martin- Booker
Member	Marcus Finch
Member	David Knobel
Member	Nate Perry

STAFF

Executive Officer	Wiebe ter Bals
Coordinator	Leah Hays
Liaison & Advocacy Officer	Narelle Mc Carthy
Administration Officer	Karen Robinson
WED Festival Coordinator	Matt Dinneen





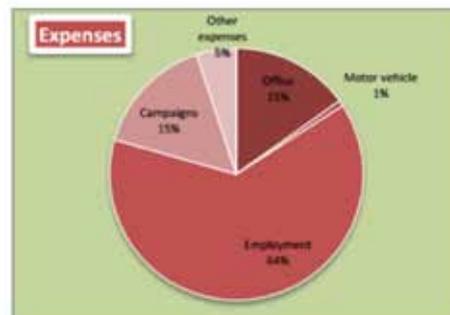
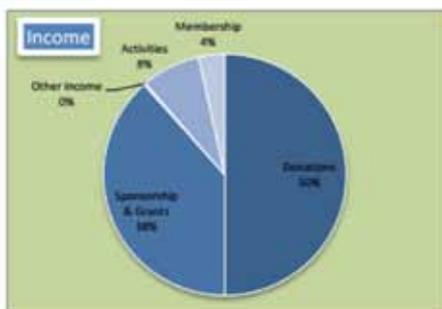
Total equity was **4.5 times** greater than 2014/15
24% saving in total expenses
307% increase in activity generated profit

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

SCEC achieved an audited profit of \$19,616 during the 2015/16 financial year. As at 31 March 2016 SCEC had total equity of \$24,130. The profit and increased equity have resulted from savings in staff wages following the SCEC restructure. Strategies put in place during the year ensured a positive result in the 2015/16 financial year, successfully re-establishing financial reserves going forward.

Along with the 2015/16 profit, SCEC has had a successful year, with significant increases in activity generated *profit* and significant savings in total expenses.



Balance Sheet - 31 March 2016	
Assets	
Cash on hand	\$28,546
Trade debtors	\$1,160
Inventories	\$455
Property, plant & equipment	\$13,782
Current tax assets	\$873
Total Assets	\$44,816
Liabilities	
Trade creditors	\$442
Tax liabilities	\$5,964
Payroll provisions	\$14,280
Other	
Total Liabilities	\$20,686
Net Equity	\$24,130

Financial Performance 2015-2016	
Income	
Membership Fees	8,715
Donations	124,831
Sponsorships & Grants	95,936
Activity generated income	19,600
Other Income	583
Total Income	249,665
Expenses	
Office	34,755
Motor vehicle	1,657
Employment	146,281
Campaigns	35,688
Other expenses	11,668
Total Expenses	230,049
Profit	19,616



Member group **round table** continued

Enhanced promotion for member groups events

SCEC conducted **27** member group visits

MEMBER GROUPS



SCEC acknowledges the amazing work of its member groups who all contribute so much each and every day to the preservation of the natural environment on the Sunshine Coast. SCEC is privileged to be representing such diverse and committed organisations and our advocacy is strengthened by the breadth and depth of the people involved in them. To all these people and organisations we say: THANK YOU!

- Association for Sustainable Communities (Bellbunya)
- Australian Marine Conservation Society
- Barung Landcare
- Bat Rescue
- Blackall Range Independent School
- Blackall Range Land Use Planning Association
- Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association
- Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation
- Conondale Range Conservation
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Coolum District Coast Care Group
- Coolum Residents Association
- Crystal Waters Cooperative
- Currimundi Catchment Care Group
- Development Watch
- Environmental Legacy Foundation
- Fraser Island Defenders
- Friends of Lake Weyba
- Friends of the Earth
- Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group
- Landsborough Area Community Association
- Manduka Cooperative
- Maroochy Community Group
- Maroochy Waterwatch
- Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
- Mooloolah River Waterwatch & Landcare
- Nambour Community Centre
- Nambour Community Gardens
- Nambour Transition Town
- Night Eyes Water & Landcare Sunshine Coast
- Noosa & District Landcare Group
- Noosa Integrated Catchment Association
- Noosa Parks Association
- Noosa Residents & Ratepayers Association
- OSCAR
- Petrie Creek Catchment Care
- Queensland Folk Federation
- Queensland Water and Land Carers
- Residents Association South Sunshine Coast
- Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers Club
- Sunshine Coast LETS
- Sunshine Coast Solar Citizens
- Sunshine Coast Transition Town
- Surfrider Foundation Sunshine Coast
- Take Action for Pumicestone Passage (TAPP)
- Wallum Action Group
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- WILVOS
- WPSQ Moreton Bay Branch
- WPSQ Sunshine Coast & Hinterland
- Yandina & District Community Association
- Yandina Creek Progress Association



SCEC gratefully acknowledges the **financial support** of these organisations

SCEC received **\$95,936** in grants and sponsorships

SPONSORSHIPS & GRANTS





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www.facebook.com/SunshineCoastEnvironmentCouncil

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