

ENVIROFUND PROJECT FINAL REPORT

The project proponent (i.e. the organisation that signed the Funding Agreement) must complete and return this report, including the Statutory Declaration at Section C, no later than 90 days after the completion of the project due date.

Post the report to:
Australian Government Envirofund, GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Please use a black pen if completing report by hand

Project No: 65133

A. ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Project Title: Rehabilitation of North Point, Moreton Island

2. Name of project proponent (i.e. the organisation that signed the Envirofund Funding Agreement):
Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc

Contact person and telephone number: Linda Back 07 3366 1292

3. Project Start date: 06 / 02 / 2008 Project finish date: 08 /11 / 2009

4. The story of your project

a. How much of the originally planned works or tasks have been completed overall?

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Little or none | (0% to 25%) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A bit, but less than half | (26% to 50%) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A fair bit, more than half | (51% to 75%) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All or most of the work | (76% to 100%) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

b. Please describe the activities that you actually did. Tell us the successes, challenges and highlights of your project. If the originally planned work was not completed, please tell us why, as this can be a valuable part of what you learned from the project. If possible, attach before and after photos. Add another page if you need more space.

The first activity of the project was to undertake a detailed weed survey of the project site. This entailed identifying, and mapping the location of all pest plants found in the area using a Gamin 60 GPS unit purchased specifically for the project. As this was the same brand of GPS unit used by the Qld Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) staff, we were able to transfer the information to their 'Park Info' database. After an initial training session with QPWS Natural Resource ranger, Andy Quirk, four volunteers with some prior experience in plant identification, undertook the task in four days over two weekends in February and March 2008. Any unknown or 'not sure' plants were sampled and sent off to the Qld Herbarium for positive identification. This process greatly increased our knowledge of the flora of Moreton Island generally, and our confidence in spotting pest plant species.

Photographs of significant weed infestations were taken at 20 strategic sites during the initial session, for purposes of monitoring and comparison at the end of the project. A selection of these 'before and after' photographs of specific areas taken in February 2008 and then again in October 2009 is attached to this report (Attachment 1). They show the success of our volunteers' efforts in reducing, and in some cases, eliminating the worst weed species in our project site.

After the weed survey was completed, work commenced on removing the pest plants, and planting out regeneration areas in the public campground area with indigenous plants raised in the on-site nursery. A total of 24 working trips were held during the 20 month duration of the project, involving groups ranging in size from 3 to 15 volunteers, either camping on site, or staying in QPWS accommodation at Cape Moreton. These volunteers trialled, and developed, various control methods on each weed species, depending on its particular habit and location. The methods used included combinations of hand-pulling, collecting and removing seed heads, spraying foliage with herbicide, and drilling the base of large trees (eg Umbrella trees, Lantana and Easter Cassia) and applying a strong herbicide solution.

Table One lists the pest plants identified on the site, their general location and density of infestation and the control / removal action taken.

In the application for this project, we envisaged that large groups of 20-30 volunteers would be enlisted and transported by bus to the site over 6 weekend camps to complete the weeding activities, with a further 2 smaller camps to do the revegetation plantings. It quickly became apparent that it is very hard to gather such numbers of volunteers together at any one time. Despite people's good intentions, busy work schedules and family commitments usually meant that the pool of volunteer workers available for weekend weeding trips was small. However the smaller groups and regular visits once or twice a month proved to be effective as we developed an experienced and committed team of reliable workers who worked efficiently, and minimised the disturbance to native habitat by large numbers of people moving through.

The oil spill from the Pacific Adventurer in March 2009, which affected the northern end of Moreton Island, interrupted the project as we could not access our site for three months. To catch up on the loss of momentum, four, fully catered, overnight camping weekends were organised in June, July, August and September, utilising local commercial operators, Goanna Adventures (North Point) and Moreton Experience (Blue Lagoon). These were well supported by the regulars, and some new volunteers were recruited.

Photographs illustrating some of the volunteers' activities on the project are attached (Attachment 2).

Finally, an A4 colour information leaflet has been designed, illustrating and briefly describing ten of the most common weed species found at North Point. 20,000 of these leaflets are being printed and will be made available to Moreton Island visitors, campers and residents, to raise public awareness of problem weeds, and highlight the commitment of MIPC members to the conservation of Moreton Island's natural environment.

Overall, we consider the project achieved its aim in reducing the worst of the weed infestations at North Point, thereby minimising the risk of their spread into adjacent areas of the park, particularly the Lake Jabiru Special Protection Zone. The amenity of the North Point campground has been improved through revegetation of bare areas with endemic plant species, and control of nuisance weeds such as Mossman River Grass. Our members have benefited by gaining skills in plant identification, weed control and plant propagation. We have strengthened our relationship with QPWS staff (see attached Letter of Support) both on Moreton Island, and on the mainland, and are grateful for their support, particularly in the use of QPWS vehicles and accommodation at Cape Moreton. We had hoped to engage members of the local Moreton Island communities in our project, but were not successful in this regard, despite initial encouraging communications.

5. Extent of achievement of project objectives

a. Is the work having the desired effect on the problem being addressed?

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (Go to question 6) |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | (Go to question 5.b) |
| Too soon to tell | <input type="checkbox"/> | (Go to question 5.c) |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | (Go to question 6) |

b. How much, if any, additional work do you think is required to achieve the desired effect?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A little more | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| About the same again | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A lot more | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A different approach is required | <input type="checkbox"/> |

c. How soon do you expect to see an observable effect? _____ years

Describe the effect you hope to see in the long term:

6. Follow-up activity

a. Are you intending to undertake any follow-up action after completion of the project?

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (Go to question 6b) |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | (Go to question 7) |

b. What follow-up action are you intending to undertake? (Tick as many boxes as applicable)

- Ongoing monitoring for this project
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance works for this project
- Undertake further projects of this kind
- Undertake actions that implement regional natural resource management plans

7. Improved skills and knowledge

a. How many people provided volunteer assistance for the project? ___40_____

b. Please indicate whether or not you agree with the following statements, using a scale of 1 to 4.
(1 for 'strongly disagree', 4 for 'strongly agree')

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Our group's understanding of natural resource management issues has improved as a result of the project | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • There has been significant improvement in our group's skills to undertake actions to solve local natural resource management problems as a result of the project | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| • Our group has strong interest in participating in broader catchment/regional natural resource management processes as a result of the project | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our group is now participating more in broader catchment/regional natural resource management processes as a result of the project | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This table **must** be completed for every project.

If your project payment was greater than \$5,000 (including GST), you also need to provide us with an independently audited financial statement as described in Clause 10.3 of your Funding Agreement.

Please write the amounts of money **actually spent** on the project activities. These should tally with your independently audited financial statement (if any) and reflect the Envirofund approved project budget. *Insert more rows as necessary.*

EACH AMOUNT IN THIS TABLE MUST INCLUDE THE GST PAID ON THE ITEM

| | A | B | | C | D | E |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Applicant contribution | Contributing Organisation | | Envirofund Contribution | Total Expenditure (A+B+C) | Unspent Envirofund Monies |
| | | Amount (\$) | Name | | | |
| Coordination, management and administration OR Sponsorship cost | | | | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| Volunteer labour (total hours x \$20 per hour) | 20,600 | | | | 20,600 | |
| Transport Costs | | | | | | |
| Passenger fares | | 3,772.50 | Hawkins | 3,772.50 | 7,545 | |
| Vehicle fares | | 950.00 | Hawkins | | | |
| | | 440.00 | Moreton Exp | 3,222.10 | 4,762.10 | |
| | | 150.00 | Goanna Adv | | | |
| Camp hire /catering | | 1,500 | Goanna Adv | 4,915.08 | 6,915.08 | |
| | | 500 | Moreton Exp | | | |
| Equipment hire / purchase | | | | | | |
| GPS | | | | 336.00 | 2,346.46 | |
| Marquee hire | | | | 200.00 | | |
| Vehicle hire | | | | 1,141.50 | | |
| Various tools and consumerables | | | | 668.96 | | |
| Plants and associated materials | 1,000 | | | | 1,000.00 | |
| Communication | | | | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | |
| Audit Financial Statement (ONLY if funding was over \$5,000 GST inclusive) | | | | | 500.00 | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | | |
| Bank charges | | | | 21.02 | 21.02 | |
| Total project costs (GST inclusive) (A+B+C=D) | A | B | | C 20,277.16 | D 49,189.66 | E 662.84 |

C + E should equal the amount of money that you received from the Envirofund by cheque or EFT.

If you are registered for GST, the cheque or EFT payment that you received comprised the GST exclusive amount of funding stated in your Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement, and an additional component to cover your GST liability. If you are registered for GST and you had expenditure that was GST-free, C + E might not equal the total payment received. Contact the Envirofund to work out if you will be required to return unspent funds.