

	COUNCIL POLICY	
	Fraser Coast Community Nursery Plant Donations	
	Policy Number	CP056
	Directorate	Development and Community
	Owner	Executive Manager Open Space and Environment
	Last Approved	27 July 2022
	Review Due	27 July 2025

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides a framework for Council to donate native plants to the community in an efficient, effective, flexible and responsive manner, which is guided by the Greening the Fraser Coast Strategy 2021-2030.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to the following individuals/organisations who have an interest in land within the Fraser Coast local government area:

- ratepayers/residents
- bodies corporate or complex managers of multi-residential land containing flats, residential resorts, other land
- lands owned by registered Land for Wildlife members
- public educational institution
- not-for-profit organisation
- environmental group
- registered community environment volunteer
- community group that aims to promote and encourage the protection of natural environment within the Fraser Coast.

3. HEAD OF POWER

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides Council with “the power to do anything that is necessary or convenient for the good rule and local government of its local government area”.

4. DEFINITIONS

To assist in the interpretation of this Policy the following definitions apply:

“Community environment volunteer” means a registered participant of Fraser Coast Regional Council’s Community Environment Program.

“Environmental group” means an organisation listed on the Australian Register of Environmental Organisations.

“Fraser Coast Community Nursery” means community volunteer nursery managed within Council’s Community Environment Program and located at the Hervey Bay Botanical Gardens.

“Land for Wildlife member” means a registered participant of Fraser Coast branch of the Land for Wildlife South East Queensland Program.

“Not-for-profit organisation” means an organisation that provides services to the community and does not operate to make a profit or gain for its members (or shareholders, if applicable).

“Priority Planting Area” means a location identified by Council as Priority Planting Area, as updated from time to time, and may include freehold land.

“Public educational institution” means an incorporated early childhood education or care provider, a grammar school, primary or secondary school, university, or TAFE.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1. Policy aims

Council recognises that increasing the level of native plant cover across the Fraser Coast region provides several benefits including:

- Sustaining wildlife: plants act as wildlife corridors and provide habitat and food sources.
- Increasing biodiversity: increasing the range of native plants helps to make areas more resilient to disturbance.
- Reducing energy use: plants that directly shade buildings decrease demand for air conditioning.
- Improving air quality and lowering greenhouse gas emissions: by reducing energy demand, plants decrease the production of associated air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. They also remove air pollutants and store and sequester carbon dioxide.
- Enhancing stormwater management and water quality: plants reduce runoff and improve water quality by absorbing and filtering rainwater.
- Reducing pavement maintenance: plant (especially tree) shade can slow deterioration of street pavement, decreasing the amount of maintenance needed.
- Improving quality of life: plants provide aesthetic value, habitat for many species, and can reduce noise.
- Mitigating heat islands: plants lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration.

5.2. Fraser Coast Community Nursery

Council’s Community Nursery supplies plants for Council’s business as usual activities (both planned and unplanned) as well as for donation under this Policy.

Plants required for Council’s business as usual activities will have precedence over this Policy.

5.3. Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to apply under this Policy the applicant must satisfy Council that:

- The applicant is one of the following:
 - An educational institution
 - Not-for profit community organisation
 - Incorporated environmental group
 - Registered Land for Wildlife member
 - Registered Community Environment volunteer
 - Community group that aims to promote and encourage the protection of the natural environment within the Fraser Coast local government area
 - **Only if** invited by Council to apply as part of a Priority Planting Area
 - A ratepayer or occupier
 - A body corporate or complex managers of multi-residential land containing flats, residential resorts, other land
- The proposed planting location is within the Fraser Coast local government area
- The planting is in support of or would contribute to:
 - Community planting events (e.g. National Tree Day, World Environment Day)
 - Demonstration plantings or enrichment planting for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage purposes (in consultation with the Butchulla Community)
 - Local species conservation
 - Environmental education
 - Erosion control, including riparian plantings
 - Urban lakeside revegetation
 - Wildlife corridor plantings
 - Urban heat mitigation in an area identified by Council as requiring heat mitigation, or
 - Other genuine biodiversity, environmental education or community benefit.

Private landholders are **only** eligible to apply in response to a Council invitation relating to a Priority Planting Area.

For-profit organisations are **not** eligible to apply under this Policy.

5.4. Donation streams

Council will only donate plants to eligible applicants through one of two streams, and depending on the proposed planting location:

1. Priority Planting Area – land identified by Council from time to time as land that would benefit from prioritised, coordinated planting across large areas, including freehold land – Council may invite property owners located on freehold land to express interest in receiving donated plants.
2. All other areas – eligible individuals and organisation may apply through the twice-yearly call for nominations.

Category	Priority Planting Areas	All Other Areas
How do I apply?	Council invitation only	Eligible individuals and organisation can apply through one of the Plant Donations Rounds using the form available on the website or from Council's Customer Service Offices in Hervey Bay and Maryborough
When can I apply?	In response to a written invitation from Council	Round 1 – 1 April to 31 May Round 2 – 1 September to 31 October
What priority will my request have?	1. Plants will be allocated first to locations in Priority Planting Areas	2. Plants will be allocated secondly to locations that are not in a Priority Planting Area.
Projects that will be considered	Areas identified by Council as a Priority Planting Area.	As per 5.3 above.

5.5. Priority Planting Areas

Council will identify priority locations that would benefit from prioritised, coordinated planting across large areas, including on private property.

The criteria that Council will use to determine a Priority Planting Area is expected to change over time but may include consideration of:

- Areas where Council is undertaking other works, such as tree planting, or bush restoration and regeneration, and efficiencies can be gained through targeting that area under this Policy
- Areas of high biodiversity including Council managed natural environments
- Areas identified for wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity
- Heat map analysis – properties located in heat islands.

In these circumstances, Council will write to landowners located in the Priority Planting Area and invite eligible individuals and organisations to accept donated plants for planting on their property, subject to the landowner returning a completed Response to Invitation Form.

Council must be reasonably satisfied that recipients of donations in a Priority Planting Area would satisfy the eligibility requirements at 5.3 above.

5.6. All other areas

Applicants who have not been invited by Council to apply through a Priority Planting Area invitation may apply for donated plants through one of the Plant Donations Rounds.

Private landholders are **only** eligible to apply in response to a Council invitation relating to a Priority Planting Area.

5.7. Plant Donations Rounds Application Process

Eligible applicants who are not located in a Priority Planting Area may apply in one of the Plant Donations Rounds held twice yearly, running from 1 April to 31 May and 1 September to 31 October, using the form available on the website or from Council’s Customer Service Offices in Hervey Bay and Maryborough.

The Fraser Coast Community Nursery Native Plant Donation Guideline provides further information on the application process.

5.8. Application requirements

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

Table 2 – Documents required

Type of resident/property/organisation	Documents to be submitted
For a Plant Donations Round	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An educational institution• Not-for profit community organisation• Incorporated environmental group• Registered Land for Wildlife member• Registered Community Environment volunteer• Community group that aims to promote and encourage the protection of the natural environment within the Fraser Coast local government area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Application Form• Indicative map showing planting location• Written consent from landowner / manager (if applicant is not the landowner / manager)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registered Land for Wildlife members	In addition to “All”, above: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current rates notice and proof of membership
Priority Planting Area – in response to Council invitation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invited individuals and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Response to Invitation Form• Indicative map showing planting location• Written consent from landowner / manager (if applicant is not the landowner / manager)

5.9. Entitlements

Council will donate a maximum of 18,000 trees and plants annually under this Policy.

Eligible applicants shall be entitled to the number of free plants every financial year, as per the Guideline.

Unclaimed entitlements do not carry over from one financial year to the next.

5.10. Conditions of Service Offering

- Eligible applicants are limited to receiving one donation per year
- Donated plants are to be planted at the property stated on the application form
- Council’s contribution should be acknowledged in any promotion of the project
- Applicants must obtain and supply evidence of landowner permission if the applicant is not the landowner
- Funded projects will only be considered if Fraser Coast Regional Council was included in the initial application of the funded project and had provided in-principle support
- Council’s in-house planting needs will be met before any plants are donated under this Policy, and
- Total plants provided are limited to the plants allocated per category as outlined in the Guideline.

6. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Fraser Coast Community Nursery Native Plant Donation Guideline (EDOCS #3972974)
- Greening the Fraser Coast Strategy 2021-2030 (EDOCS #4253269)

7. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed when related legislation/documents are amended or replaced, other circumstances as determined from time to time by Council or at intervals of no more than three years.

Version Control

Version Number	Key Changes	Approval Authority	Approval Date	Document Number
1	Adopted	Council	19.02.2020	#3953473
2	Reviewed	Council	27.07.2022	#3953473v2