

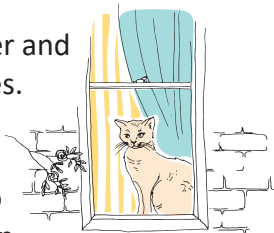
WHAT CAN I DO?

Here are some actions you can do to keep our waterways and lakes healthy for the enjoyment of everyone.



In your own backyard:

- Wash your car and other equipment on the lawn to stop detergents, pollutants and nutrients washing into the lakes
- Install silt fencing and keep building materials covered when building or renovating
- Avoid over-watering lawns and use fertilisers in moderation to stop excess nutrients being washed into the lakes
- Compost lawn clippings and garden waste or take it to the green waste area at a transfer station
- Plant a buffer inside your own property to further reduce run-off that might flow into a neighbouring lake
- Be a responsible pet owner and keep cats inside at all times.



In lakeside reserves:

- Respect Council's policy to retain lake-edge vegetation
- Keep dogs away from wildlife at all times and pick up your pet's droppings
- Collect and properly dispose of rubbish
- Avoid feeding wildlife with unnatural foods such as bread
- Empty fish tank contents on your lawn or garden and not into lakes
- Respect no fishing areas.

TAKE ACTION

Join a Council volunteer bushcare or other local conservation group.

Participate in citizen science activities and community environment events.

Contact Council to:

- Report water quality concerns
- Deal with dangerous limbs, fire concerns and many other issues
- Report bad behaviours
- Report cats and foxes
- Find out about local law permissions, such as mowing and clearing vegetation along fence lines.



GET IN TOUCH

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URBAN LAKES



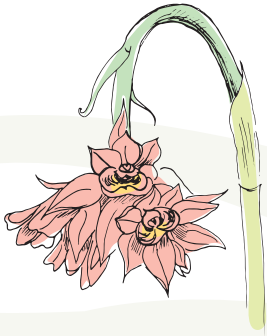
Respecting our
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

URBAN REFUGES

Lakes are an important community asset, providing tranquil surrounds that add to our enjoyment and lifestyle.

They are home to a range of plants and animals that depend on healthy ecosystems.



Most urban lakes in the region have been developed to retain stormwater runoff in areas that previously held water. These lakes now provide enjoyable open space for local residents, refuges for wildlife, as well as removing pollutants from the water before it reaches the ocean.

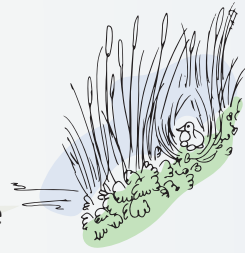


Due to the shallow nature of urban lakes, their health and appearance can change quickly in response to weather conditions or impacts from pollution. Changes include drying up during drought, colour or cloudiness of the water, smell or changes in plant growth in and around the water.

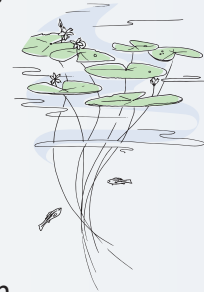


AQUATIC AND LAKESIDE PLANTS

Aquatic plants and are the foundation of a healthy, flourishing lake. They help clean the water by absorbing nutrients that would otherwise stimulate algal blooms. These water plants along with surrounding edge vegetation provide food and habitat for wildlife.



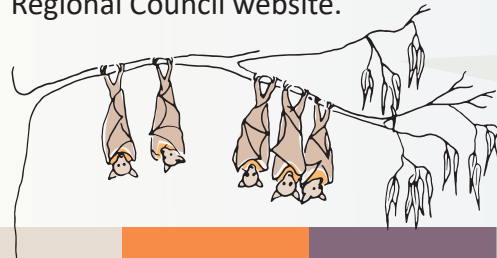
Council retains a buffer of vegetation around all waterbodies. Reeds and rushes filter runoff by trapping litter and pollutants from entering the waterway. Larger trees and shrubs increase shade and together this vegetation helps prevent erosion.



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Lakes in urban areas offer valuable habitat for wildlife, including birds, fish, insects, amphibians and reptiles. They use these sanctuaries to rest, feed and reproduce.

Try not to disturb wildlife around our lakes, just enjoy their presence. Allowing nature to maintain its natural balance without interference helps ensure our urban lakes remain healthy. You can find out more about living with wildlife on the Fraser Coast Regional Council website.



ENJOYING OUR URBAN LAKES

Lakes are great for recreation and observing nature. The attractive water views and relaxed surroundings make waterfront properties sought after addresses. These lakes have been designed to capture stormwater from our streets and may contain pollutants or increased levels of bacteria. Paddling or sailing on lakes is not encouraged, and fishing is restricted to a small number of approved lakes.



Go for a walk, take a camera and photograph the wildlife that visits the lakes. Grab a set of binoculars and look for birds. Walk your dog on a lead around the lakes. Meet up with friends or family to have a picnic on the banks of a lake. These are just some of the activities you can do and enjoy around our lakes.

