

Community Engagement Outcomes Report

Corporate Plan Linkages	
A strong community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inclusive community, with opportunities for everyone Connected, resilient communities, with the capacity to respond to local issues
Service Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular and relevant engagement with our community

1. Who Participated?

The Biosecurity Team used a variety of methods to consult with residents on the Sunshine Coast and gather information about the current awareness level of biosecurity in our community.

Engagement method	Details
Online Survey	The survey was open for three months from 1 August to 31 October 2022 on council's Have Your Say Sunshine Coast online engagement platform. A hardcopy version of the survey was also available at in person engagement activities.
Newspaper Advertisement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hinterland times Glasshouse and Maleny Country News
Facebook advertisements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 October 2022 26 October 2022 12 August 2022 14 September 2022 14 October 2022
Pop up stalls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Witta market Beerwah market Kenilworth show Montville market Yandina market
Library displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kawana Nambour Maroochydore Coolum Caloundra Beerwah Maleny Kenilworth
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapleton pop-up news



- Partner promotions
- Bush hands



Image 1 Caloundra library display



Image 2 Council Officer Rita at the Montville market pop-up stall

Contributions

324 contributions from residents from 22 different postcodes. The largest amount of contributions came from postcode 4560 which includes Bli Bli, Cooloolabin, Image Flat, Kureelpa, Nambour, Rosemount, Burnside, Dulong, Kiamba, Mapleton, Parklands, Town Mountain, Coes Creek Flaxton, Kulangoor, Montville and Perwillowen.

The next biggest came from 4552 which includes Bald Knob, Balmoral Ridge, Booroobin, Cambrook, Curramore, Harper Creek, Elaman Creek, Maleny, Reesville, Witta, Wootha.

Of note, only 2% of respondents from postcode 4574 which includes the suburbs Coolabine, Gheerulla, Kenilworth, Kidaman Creek Moy Pocket and Obi Obi.

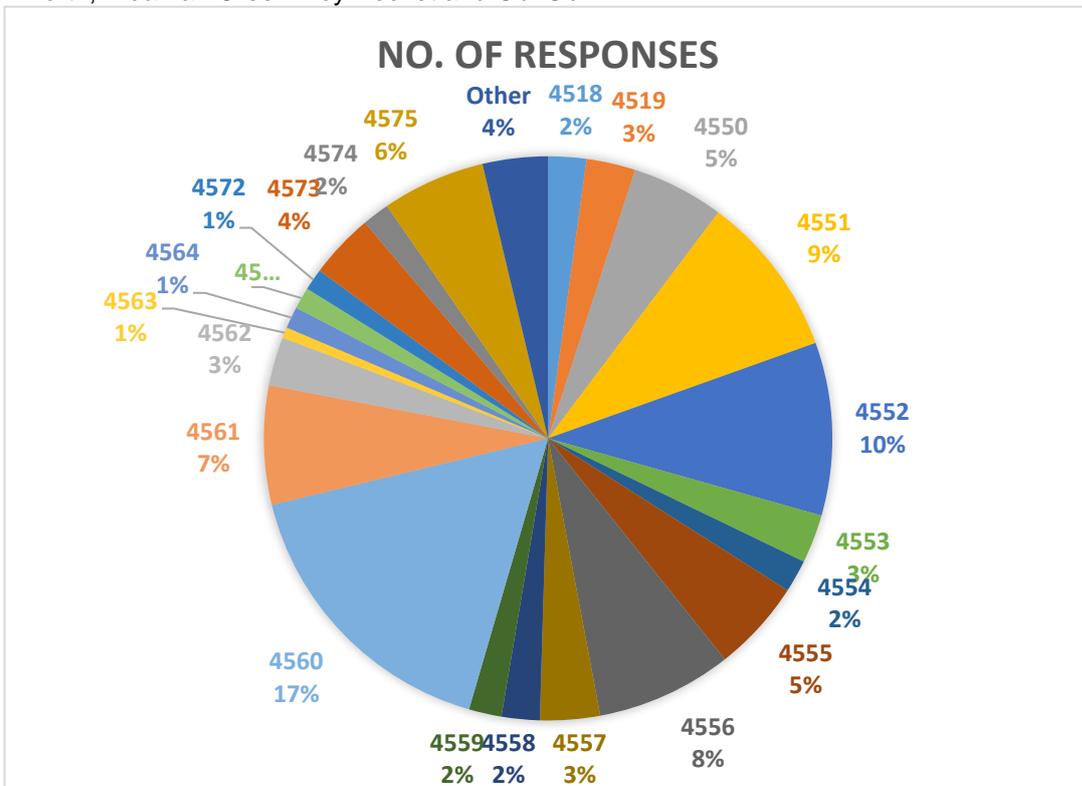


Figure 1 Respondents by postcode

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2. What you told us

What residents said about General Biosecurity

- Just over 92% of respondents said they knew what Biosecurity meant and 93% of those respondents were able to give an example or definition.
- 85% of respondents said that biosecurity in relation to invasive animals and plants was very important to them.
- 63% of Respondents said they knew what their General Biosecurity Obligation was and of those 93% were able to provide an example or definition.
- Just over 80% of respondents correctly identified examples of the General Biosecurity Obligation after being provided a definition.
- 62% of respondents knew that Council has a Biosecurity Plan.
- Most respondents said they go to the Council webpage and Biosecurity Queensland Webpage to get their information on invasive plants and animals.

Responses to question: *Where do you go to learn about invasive plants and animals?*

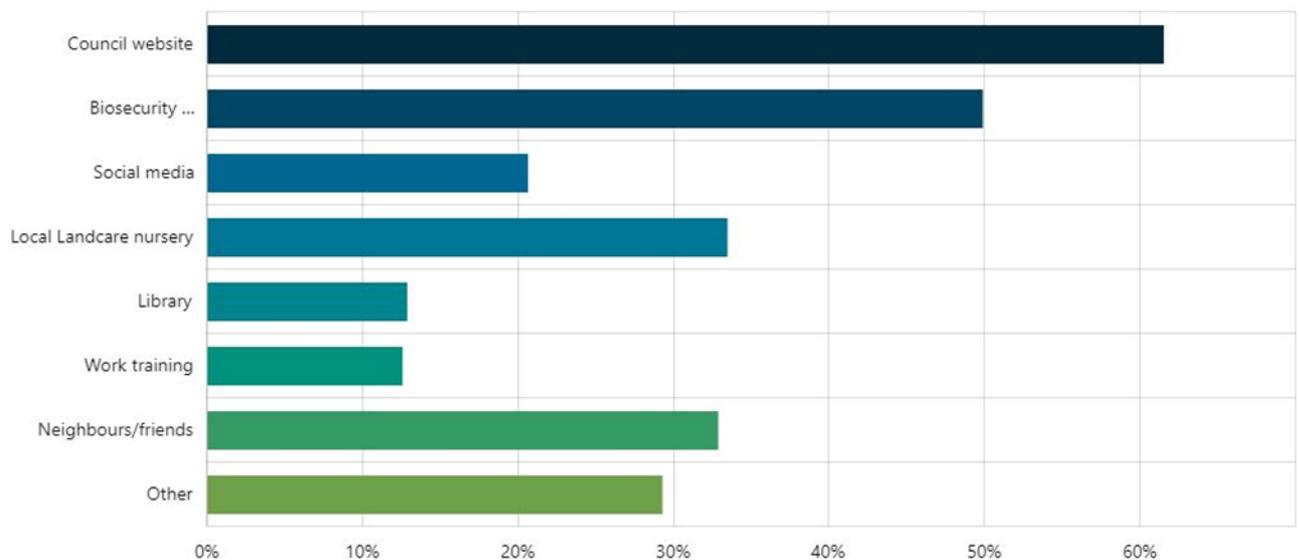


Figure 2 How respondents currently get their information on Biosecurity

What residents said about Invasive plants

- Most people were able to give an example of a priority invasive plant and 72% of respondents gave examples of the impact of invasive plants on the environment and agriculture.
- However it was apparent that some respondents were unable to distinguish between priority invasive plants and other invasive plants such as Japanese sunflower and nutgrass etc. This indicates that it would be good to do some more education on the difference between priority plants and general invasive plants.
- 73% of respondents said they were managing priority invasive plants
- Of the 27% that were not managing invasive plants the main reason given was lack of identification and management information.
- 53% of respondents were not aware of Councils programs for managing invasive plants.
- Weed identification was the most accessed council service, followed by invasive plant reporting and then back pack hire kit program

Responses to question: *Have you used any of these services (programs, designed to assist residents, for managing invasive plants) Please select which ones*

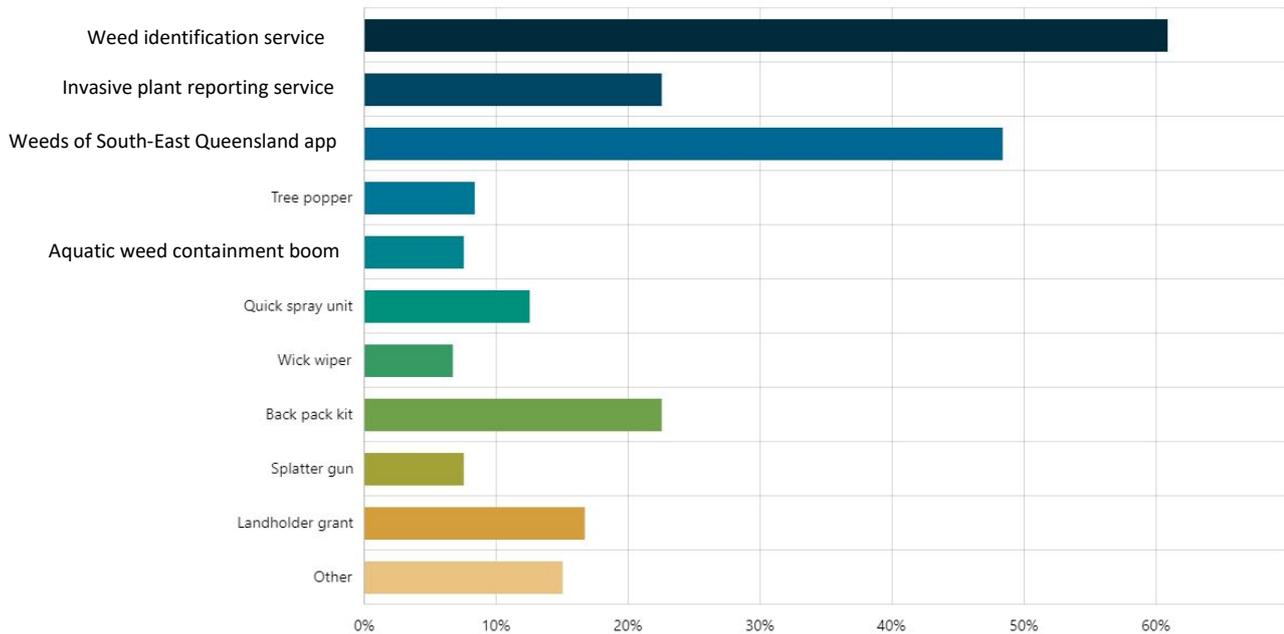


Figure 3 Number of respondents who had used hire equipment by equipment type

What residents said about Invasive animals

- 60% of respondents were able to provide an example of an impact of invasive animals on the Sunshine Coast. The impacts of cane toads, cats, foxes and Indian Myna birds were the most common examples.
- It was apparent that some respondents were unable to distinguish between priority invasive animals and other invasive animals such as cane toads and hares. This indicates that it would be good to do some more education on the difference between priority invasive animals.
- 53% of respondents said they had not been managing invasive animals on their property
- Of this 53% the most common reasons given were that they don't consider them an issue and lack of identification and management information.
- 67% of respondents were aware that council has services and programs available for managing invasive animals.
- The most accessed council service was the cat trapping program

Responses to question: *Have you used any of these services (programs, designed to assist residents, for managing invasive animals), Please select which ones*

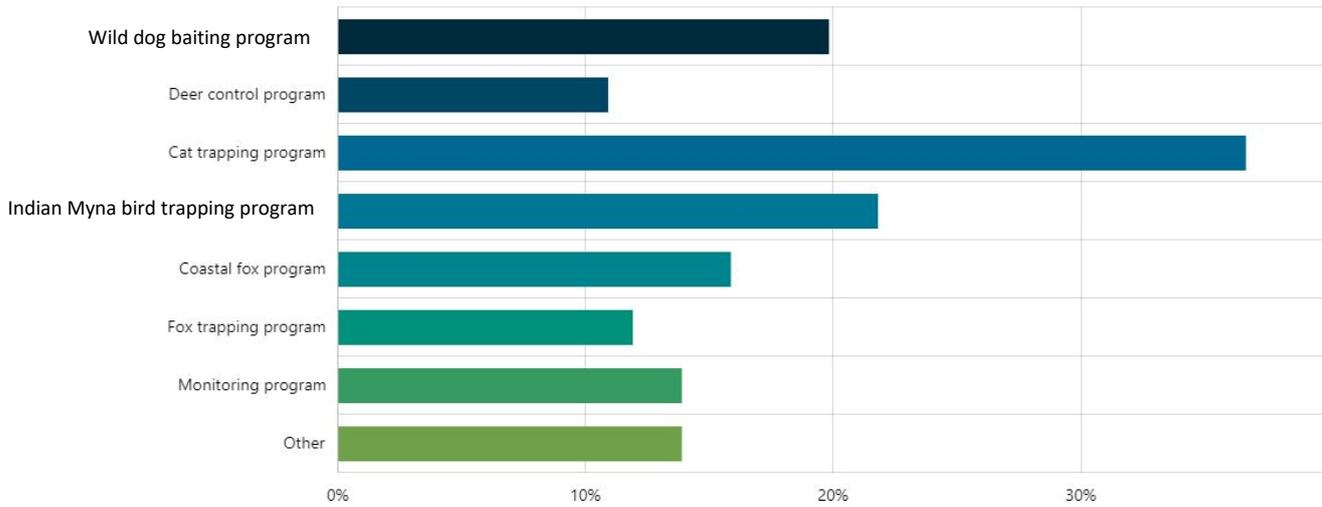


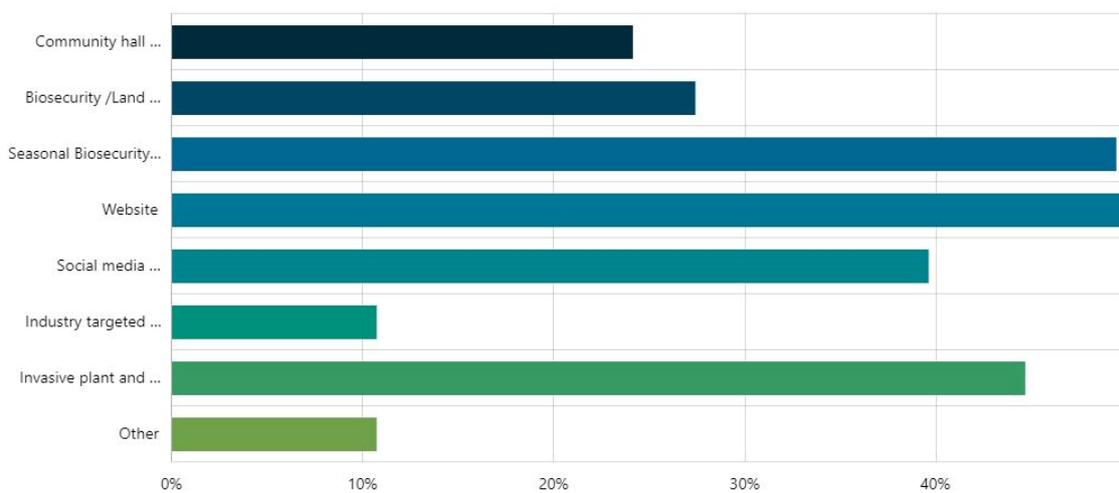
Figure 4 Number of respondents who had used animal control program

What residents wanted for future biosecurity awareness and engagement

The top 4 places respondents went to learn about invasive plants and animals were the Council webpage, the Biosecurity Queensland webpage, local Landcare nurseries and neighbours and friends.

In the future most respondents wanted to be kept informed by seasonal biosecurity news, website, social media and pop-up stalls 28% of respondents also would like to see more field days, 22% would like more small hall information sessions and 10% would like to see more industry targeted training. Some other suggestions were letter box drops targeting specific problems.

Responses to question: *In the future, how would you like to be kept informed about invasive plants and animals?*



Figure

5 How respondents would like to be kept informed about biosecurity

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The Biosecurity Team also asked respondents if they had any other suggestions for improving awareness of biosecurity and invasive plants and animals on the Sunshine Coast. Overwhelmingly the residents requested more education. The most common request was to have more targeted education of the stakeholder industries (landscaping, nursery and pet industries) and for information on the GBO and invasive plants and animals to be sent out with rates notices. The next were to have more print information (on the General Biosecurity Obligation, identification and control methods for priority invasive plants and animals), have more targeted information campaigns and more weed control on council land. These suggestions were closely followed by requests for more signage, more media education (social media, print, tv, radio) more engagement with schools and more face to face education. Respondents would also like to see more education promoting planting of native plants and replacement of invasive plants with native plants, more weed control on council land, more property inspections, and more compliance of green waste dumping.

Responses to question: *Are any other suggestions you have to build greater awareness of biosecurity and invasive plants and animals on the Sunshine Coast?*

More advertising, free booklets on invasive species

Greater social media presence

More help with feral animals

Ads on TV, radio, posters, billboards in local parks and/ or beaches/ walkways

Send out pamphlet with rates letter so everyone gets one. Incentive scheme for proactive landholders.

More advertising on Gumtree & Facebook marketplace to stop people selling invasive plants

3. Where to now?

After listening to what residents had to say Council staff have outlined the following areas requiring education and engagement and the following key methods of delivering this education and engagement.

Key areas requiring education

- General Biosecurity Obligation
- Impacts of invasive plants and invasive animals
- Biosecurity Plan
- Priority invasive plants and animals
- Priority invasive plant identification and control methods
- Invasive plant programs and specifically hire equipment
- Importance and benefits of managing invasive animals on your property
- Stakeholder industries (Pet, garden, landscaping)

Key education methods

- Facebook posts
- Small hall events
- Print material
- Increase signage in strategic locations
- Schools program
- Pop-up stall
- Newspaper advertisements



Actions	What this involves
Review and update print materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the biosecurity team have print materials covering GBO, impacts of invasive plants and animals, the Biosecurity plan, priority invasive plants and animals, invasive plant programs, invasive plant and animal control methods, importance of managing invasive animals on your property and for stakeholder industries.
Biosecurity news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a Biosecurity newsletter in autumn and spring in pdf format which can be downloaded from our webpage.
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A monthly biosecurity post covering GBO, impacts of invasive plants and animals, the Biosecurity plan, priority invasive plants and animals, invasive plant programs, importance of managing invasive animals on your property and targeted stakeholder industry posts.
Newspaper advertisements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x newspaper advertisement per year on high priority species targeting plants that are flowering and species and area specific to the paper in each of the community newspapers 1 x newspaper advertisement on planting native plants and replacing invasive plants with natives in each of the community newspapers.
Small hall 'Caring for our backyard' event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual event covering GBO, impacts of invasive plants and animals, the Biosecurity plan, priority invasive plants and animals, invasive plant programs, invasive plant and animal control methods, importance of managing invasive animals on your property
Field day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual field day covering invasive plant and animal control methods, programs and hire equipment.
Schools program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a lesson for 'Biosecurity in your catchment' and offer it on our webpage for schools to download.
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with Natural areas, parks and gardens and community halls about signage options for invasive plant and animal control.
Pop-up/event stall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maleny wood expo Maleny Show



Have your say Sunshine Coast

What do you know about Biosecurity on the Sunshine Coast

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nambour Show• Nambour Garden expo• Kenilworth Show• Yandina market
Nursery industry education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create and distribute a flyer for stakeholder industries (landscaping, pet and garden) about the General Biosecurity Obligation and priority invasive plants and animals.
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide feedback from the Biosecurity survey to other areas of council that is relevant to their core business.• Look into how the Biosecurity Team can send information out with rates notices.

