

From: heidi lunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 9:20 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lismore City Council SRV

To whom it may concern,

I am sending this in **support** of Lismore City Council sourcing funding for and implementing its Biodiversity Management Strategy. I am a rate payer of Lismore Shire, owning a property in [REDACTED] I live on a cattle farm in Ballina Shire, on the boundary of Lismore and Ballina Shires. I would like to see Lismore Council do more on-ground conservation works, and I commend Council's efforts so far with Rotary and Currie Parks, and the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens. In the face of landscape degradation, on-ground works show that something can be done.

I think that staff within the Council have played a huge role in conserving our remaining remnants. Starting from the late Keith King back in 1988 through to Peter Cannon now, they are doing a great job and deserve to be supported and adequately resourced. Currently the existing council reserves face shrinking budgets and investments and progress made so far may be lost.

I am excited by the prospect of local green jobs that would be generated by the strategy. Byron Shire Council's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy provided me with employment for seven years during implementation of its bush regeneration program. Whilst it would be ideal if conservation works were a part of the general budget, I think it is advisable to have the conservation budget quarantined so that attempts to syphon off the funds for other projects cannot succeed. Some of the achievements of the BCS are listed below:

- **External grant funding** totaling \$2,207,411 received to implement 18 biodiversity management projects on public and private land in the Shire
- **Bush regeneration team** undertaking restoration and revegetation works at over 40 sites covering over 200 hectares of high conservation value vegetation.
- **Biodiversity Extension Officer** – extension and advisory services to landholders managing HCV land through Land for Wildlife program.
- **Education and engagement events** - Numerous field days, education program and events delivered to provide advice and support for community to improve awareness and management of biodiversity.
- **Educational Resources** – developed/distributed a range of educational resources on topics including: Bush Regeneration guidelines, weed identification, threatened species, nest boxes for wildlife, Indian mynas, frogs, shorebirds, koalas, feral animals, flying foxes.
- **Partnership with Landcare groups** involves joint funding applications, Council providing office space for the Community Support Officer, providing training and resources for Landcare and Dunecare groups working on public land.
- **Development of a number of specific management plans** eg *Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, Feral Animal Management Plan, draft Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management.*

- ***Bush Futures project*** – urban bushland management. Winner of 4 awards including national Landcare Award and Local Government Shires Association Excellence in Environment Award
- ***Koala Connection project*** – \$2.1million grant funded project, in partnership with Tweed Shire Council, to revegetate and rehabilitate koala habitat, HCV land and wildlife corridor on private land. (Retrieved from www.byron.nsw.gov.au)

This strategy has won several awards for Byron Council. I have had first-hand experience of implementing these works, such as cleaning up a reserve that residents had been campaigning for help with for over ten years. Having ongoing funding also meant follow up works could be carried out in a timely fashion, and long term goals could be set and achieved. There was a lot of community support for proactive initiatives such as cane toad musters, and supporting landcare volunteers.

I urge you to approve the application for the special rate variation.

Yours Sincerely,

Heidi Lunn