

ENGINEERING SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2011

Author: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

Purpose

To review Engineering Services Department highlights and significant issues for the months ending November and December 2011.

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for period are as follows: -

ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Coordination of project meetings, briefings and reports on the following projects:

- Attended the DDMG meeting
- Meeting held to discuss Meadowlands Sound Shell construction
- Attended the Mackay Model Development Meeting
- Accompanied Major General Wilson of Qld Reconstruction Authority on his trip around Mackay
- Attended discussions on Fursden Creek Bridge upgrade and flood modelling
- Attended LDMG meeting
- Site Inspections with Cr Casey held in December

On-going involvement in the following areas:

- City Focus Advisory Committee, Corporate Projects Committee Meeting, Sustainable Futures Advisory Committee, Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, Whitsunday Regional Roads Group Technical Group, LGEG Meeting, Natural Environment Advisory Committee, Resilience Steering Group Meeting.
- Safe Plan, Design and Construct Review Meetings and SES matters
- Engineering Services Program Managers meetings

CIVIL PROJECTS (CONSTRUCTION)

Works have been completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

- Norris Road / Beaconsfield Road Traffic Signals
- Calen's Area Stabilisation and Flood Repair Damage
- St Helen Beach Resealing
- Pratts Road Drainage
- Petersen Street Sarina

CONTRACTS

- Caping Road
- Cape Hillsborough Widening
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 904
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 906



Casey Avenue - Culvert Construction

Works have been substantially completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

- Casey Avenue Drainage at Bridge Road
- Traffic Facility works at various locations Beaconsfield and Eimeo
- Armstrong's Beach Road construction 4.55 to 6.2km
- Cowley's Road Reconstruction Temples Lane to Peak Downs Highway
- McEwens Beach Road Construction 0 to 1.4km
- McEwens Beach Flood Damage 2.9 to 3.7km
- Leichardt Road 0 to 4.5km
- LATM works various locations

CONTRACTS

- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 907
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 908
- Cell 2 Hogans Pocket
- Demolition & Disposal – Bedford Road Depot



Cowley's Road



Caping Road - Complete

The following projects are in progress:

DAY LABOUR

- Holts Road at Pioneer Street
- Holts Road at Woodwards Road
- Cowleys Road from Peak Downs Highway to Boundary Road
- Hampden School road upgrade
- Dalrymple Road
- Boundary Road Milton Street upgrade
- Archibald Street Drainage upgrade

CONTRACTS

- Rosewood Drive Construction – Federal Funding
- Landfill Remediation Bayersville
- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1001
- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1002
- Holts Road Culvert Upgrade
- Branscombe Road Reconstruction – FLOOD 2010
- North Mackay Levee Construction Stage 1B/2
- Park, Paradise & Porter Streets Reconstruction
- Grasstree Beach Road – 3.95 to 4.2km including Bikeway



Branscombe Road, Walkerston

The following projects have been awarded:

CONTRACTS

- Meadowlands Botanic Garden Sound Shell
- Hill End Road

The following projects have been put to tender:

CONTRACTS

- Sea Wall remediation – Blacks Beach and Slade Point
- Connors Road

CIVIL OPERATIONS

Maintenance Grading in the following areas:

Heavy Grading	Nil
Formation Grading	<p>November - Coalmine Road, Old Pindi Bog Road, Reedmans Road, Kilcullens Road, Mackenzie Road, Zamparuttis Road, One Mile Road, Landing Road, Mt Martin Road, Dougherty's Road, Cemetery Road, Walking Road, Seninis Road, Kowari-Gorge Road, McLeans Road, Barrie Lane.</p> <p>December – Blue Mountain Road, McFadzen Road, Watts Road, Matten Road, East Funnel Creek Road, Oakey Creek Road, Kolijo-Mt Pelion Road, risley Parade, Smalley Beach Road, Gormleys Road, Te Kowai Road,</p>
Temporary Gravel Road Repairs (Grading & Gravelling)	Nil
Shoulder Grading	<p>November - Barrie Lane.</p> <p>December – Kippen Drive, Schmidtke Road,</p>
Submergence Repairs (Job no. 1712)	<p>November - Holmes Road, Simpsons Road, Clarendons Road, Marwood Road, Osbornes Road Causeway, Barrie Lane, Osbornes Road, Stony Creek Road, Boundary Street, Telegraph Street, Victoria St (Eton), Ball Street.</p> <p>December – Ball Street, Hill Street, Kemmis Street, Baulch & Webbs Road, Brands Road, Borgs Road, Tennis Court Road, Carlton Road, Cliftonville Road, Frank Miles Road, Cone Creek Road, Shirmers Road, Campbells Road, Mt Martin Road, Gormleys Road,</p>

Special Works:

Footpath repairs – November - Nebo Road, Gordon Street, Alfred Street, Len Shield Street, Sophia Street, Prospect Street, Ginger Street. December – Luscombe Street, Evan Street, Wood Street, Gordon Street.

Sign & Guidepost repairs – various Northern areas. December – Oakenden area.

Culvert, Pipe & Catchpit repairs – November - Mackenzie Road, Sugarloaf Road, Pinevale Road, Borges Road, Gorge Road, Staytes Road, Ulanda Drive, Scott Street, Sydney Street, Lagoon Street and Napier Street. December – Hucker Street, Napier Street, Branscombe Road, Crowleys Road.

Kerb & Channel repairs – Milne Lane, Dutton Street, Denton Street, Camerons Road, Wellington Street, River Street, Alexandra Road and Kenilworth Street.

Water Board Patching – Nil.

Street and Gutter Collection – Nil.

Suckins, Digouts & Scours – Nil.

Special Works – November - concrete works Cathu O'Connell Road, Aldis Road and McLennans Road. December – spraying, kerbing and channelling – Sarina area, concrete works – Jackson Street, Traffic Island Maintenance – Goldsmith Street.

Pothole Patching:

November - various northern areas, Kowari Road, Dalrymple Road, Pinnacle Road, Smithcross Road, Kinchant Dam Road, North Mackay areas, Andergrove area, Beaconsfield area, Peak Downs Highway, Eton Range, Eungella area, Boundary Road, Peri Road, Jeffcoat Street, Hansen Road, Tennyson Street, Victoria Street, Moore Street, Leisure Court, Kellys Road, Sydney Street, Hannans Road, McColl Street, Pugsley

Street, Old Pleystowe Road, Moore Street, Warland Street, Bridge Road, Connors Road, McEwens Beach Road, Chelona-Sandiford Road, Temple Lane, Casey Avenue, Walkerston area, English Street, Barries Lane, Stockroute Road, Alexandra Road, Camerons Road, Shakespeare Street, Glenella area, Walker Finn Bridge, Tedfords Road.

December – Bells Road, Dunrock Road Hay Point Road, Sarina area, Blue Mountain Road, Hay Point Road, West Plane Creek Road, Sarina Beach area, Grasstree Road, Miran Khan Drive, Oonooie Road, Middle Creek Dam Road, Ball Bay, Glenella, Farleigh, North Mackay, Andergrove, Slade Point and Eimeo areas, Beaconsfield area, Stockroute road, Tedfords Road, Victoria Plains Road, Leisure Court, Cowleys Road, Juliet Street, Carnegie Court, Wood Street, Victoria Street, Branscombe Road, Elvin Street, Bridge Road, Ooralea and Walkerston areas, Mackay CBD area, Queens Park, Mangrove Road, River Street.

Drainage Maintenance:

November - Bogga Road, McDermotts Road, McIntyre Road, Condor Road, McColl Street, Pugsley Street, Clarendens Road, Thomas Road, Walz Avenue, Eton area. December – Eton area, Marwood area, Condor Parade, Midge Point area, Coconut Grove Road, Halliday Bay Road, Kippen Drive.

Mowing & Slashing:

November - Midge Point area, Yalboroo area, Pindi Pindi area, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Racecourse area, Te Kowai area, Walkerston area, Greenmount area, Bakers Creek area, Pleystowe area, Marian area, Victoria Plains area, Eton area, Northern and Southern areas – all main drains have been mown.

December – Munbura, Sunnyside, Marwood, Balberra and Chelona areas, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Calen area, St Helens area.

Main Roads RMPC:

Other Bituminous Works / Pothole Patching / Pavement Repairs	November - Bruce Highway (North), Rosella-Homebush Road, Eton-Homebush Road, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Sarina-Coast Road, Yakapari-Seaforth Road, Peak Downs Highway. December – Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Rosella-Homebush Road, Sarina-Homebush Road, Eton-Homebush Road, Mackay-Eungella Road, Marian-Eton Road, Mirani-Eton Road, Mackay-Habana Road, Sarina Coast Road, Hay Point Road, Yakapari-Seaforth Road, Marlborough-Sarina Road, Maraju-Yakapari Road, Yakapari-Habana Road, Mackay Bypass Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road.
Heavy Formation grading / gravel resheeting / other formation works	November - Marian-Eton Road. December – Bruce Highway (South),
Culvert / Drainage Works	November - Peak Downs Highway, Gargett-Mia Mia Road. December – Mackay Eungella Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road, Mirani-Eton Road.
Tractor Slashing Rural / Urban / Boom Mowing / Clearing Works / Herbicide Spraying / Declared Plant Spraying	Tractor Slashing: November - Marlborough-Sarina Road, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Mackay-Eungella Road, Eungella Dam Road, Mackay-Habana Road, Yakapari-Habana Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Eimeo Road, Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Rockleigh-North Mackay Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road. December – Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Rosella-Homebush Road, Sarina-Homebush Road, Eton-Homebush Road, Mackay-Eungella Road, Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Eungella Dam Road, Marian-Eton Road, North Eton Road, Mia Mia Connection Road, Marian-Hampden Road, Sarina Coast Road, Hay Point Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Yakapari-Seaforth Road, Bruce Highway (South), Rockleigh-North Mackay Road,

	<p>Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road, Boom Mowing: Nil Herbicide/Declared Plant Spraying: November - Bruce Highway (South), Peak Downs Highway, Marlborough-Sarina Road, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Rosella-Homebush Road, Sarina-Homebush Road, Eton-Homebush Road, Sarina Coast Road, Hay Point Road, Bruce Highway (North), Mackay-Eungella Road, Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Marian-Eton Road, Mirani-Eton Road, Marian-Hampden Road. December – Bruce Highway (North), Maraju-Yakapari Road, Mackay-Eungella Road, Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Eungella Dam Road, Marian-Eton Road, Mirani-Eton Road, Mia Mia Connection Road, Marian-Hampden Road, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Mackay Bypass Road, Bruce Highway (South), Marlborough-Sarina Road, Sarina-Homebush Road, Mackay-Eungella Road, Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Marian-Hampden Road, Sarina Coast Road, Hay Point Road. Other: Clearing – November & December - Bruce Highway (South), Landscaping – Mackay Bypass Road.</p>
Rest Area Servicing	November & December - Bruce Highway (North).
Road Sweeping/Roadside Litter Collection	<p>November - Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Mackay-Bypass Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road. December – Mackay-Slade Point Road.</p>
Emergency Call Outs	<p>November - Bruce Highway (South), Peak Downs Highway, Mackay-Habana Road. December – nil.</p>
Signs / Guide Post Works	<p>November - Mackay-Slade Point Road. December - Marian-Eton Road.</p>

Materials were extracted during the months of November and December from the following quarry operations:

- Bezzina Pit
- Breadsells Pit
- Camerons Pit
- Comellis Pit
- Eton Pit
- Hazelwoods Pit
- Howells Pit
- Mezzens Pit
- Mt Ossa-Seaforth Pit
- Omands Pit

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Development and design of projects for saturation damage projects throughout the Council area for 2010 and 2011 events.
- Development and design of projects within Capital Works Programme.
- Development of draft 20 yr Capital Works Programme making provision for all current projects and proposed development projects and its revision to match LTFP and PIP requirements. Indicative 2012/13 & 2013/14 CWP presented to Council for approval to allow advance planning.
- Consultation and detail design regarding Archibald Street (Connors to Milton) upgrading.
- Consultation and detail design of the HAFF Grant project including Rosewood Drive from Mackay Bucasia road to Chenoweth Drive including design development for works associated with Northern Beaches Central and the Northern Beaches High School.
- Detail Design associated with CBD footpath upgrades via Bluewater Trail extension from Bluewater Quay to River Street Boat Ramp and from the boat ramp to Iluka Park via East Gordon Street.
- Design and Quotations associated with Bluewater Quay shade structures and balustrades. Shop drawings approved and manufacturing commenced for end Jan 2012 supply.
- Consultant commissioned for CBD Access Audits for Sarina, Walkerston, Marian and Mirani. Eric Martin and Associates undertaken audits 9-13 December 2011.
- Attendance at Paget Depot Management Group & Steering Committee meetings and Corporate Projects Meetings, Program Managers Meeting, Planet Footprint, Dudgeon Pt and Hay Point Coal Terminal traffic issues, Active Towns, WRRG, Reclassification Committee, QRA discussions.
- Participate in Departmental Briefing to Council and provision of Briefing regarding Indicative 12/13 and 13/14 Capital Works Programmes.
- Street meetings in relation to Paulette St reconstruction and Hill End Rd (Hwy to Davey) Reconstruction.
- Provision of Council report regarding CBD Mackay Regional Council Cycleway Strategy, Absolon / Webster Street drainage & Active Towns.
- Ongoing rationalisation of Cemetery database to upgrade records and verification of records with Mackay Historical Society. In addition trial of MARCIS GIS recording tool for cemetery records.
- Completion of street lighting audits and reporting of information to Ergon.
- Various drainage investigations for assessment of maintenance and capital upgrading requirements to address system performance issues.
- GPS Base Station Network installed at Civic Centre, Koumala and Midge Point SES buildings, Mirani Council Chambers & Eungella Maintenance Depot. GPS undergoing data collection and processing to reconcile position to survey accuracy for Geoscience Australia to certify the GPS network for use by registered surveyor.
- MRC Surveyor currently testing network coverage for mobile phone reception and accuracy relationship to DERM permanent mark Mackay area Control (ongoing into New Year).
- Testing to date shows the Civic Centre Base may need to be relocated to Slade Point to gain better coverage north and south along coastline (cannot be relocated until outcome of extra bases from DTMR is confirmed).
- Extra base stations at Calen, Grasstree Beach and Hogans Pocket appear to be required to provide full coverage. Discussions successful with DTMR to provide funding Calen and Hogans Pocket and installed 6/7 December 2011. CR Kennedy agreed to fund Grasstree Beach installation and installed 10 December 2011 on Grasstree Reservoir.
- Lead role in the development of the “Active Towns” strategy.
- Development of Oak Street and Absolon/ Webster Street drainage studies.

PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

The Parks & Environment report for the months of November and December contains information on activities undertaken throughout the month by the staff within the program.

Officers on call attended; November - 11 after hours phone calls and 8 after hours call outs.

December - 10 after hours phone calls and 9 after hours call outs.

- **Administration** – November 164 park bookings were recorded. December – 170 park booking were recorded.

- **Customer Requests -**

Date	Actioned	Received	Unactioned
Nov 2011	165	192	61
Dec 2011	176	150	149

- **Technical Officers** – Prestart meetings 1 done - Mt Pleasant Tavern. **On** Maintenance Inspections 5 done – Pioneer Lakes Stage 4B Cuttersfield 303 Southgate, Central Park stage 1. **Off** Maintenance Inspections 3 done – Pioneer Lakes Stage 4A, Tree Farm estate, Sapphire Court estate. **Tree & Hole** inspections 9 done – Cuttersfield 306, Richana Heights, Sugarview, Sam Bezzina Dr, Cuttersfield entry signs, Crichton's Rd. **Irrigation inspections** 1 done – River St.
- **Tree-Crew** –Christmas decorations were put up during November and December by Parks staff in these areas
 - City Heart, River Street, Mangrove Rd, Victoria Street, Gordon Street, Wood Street, Gregory Street and Sydney Street.
 - Civic Precinct
 - Sarina- Broad Street and Beach road
 - Walkerston -Peak Downs Hwy
 - Calen – McIntyre Street
 - Mirani - Alexandra Street
 - Mirani - Railway Park

Tree crews completed the following work during the months of November and December.

	Sum of Total Trees Pruned	Sum of Council Trees Removed	Sum of Scheduled Palm Trees defroned/deseeded	Sum of Requests- branch pick up	Sum of Coconut Trees denutted	Sum of Trees Attended in Juvenile stage	Sum of Trees attended for other Council wks	Sum of Requests- minor prune	Sum of Requests- major prune	Sum of Trees Planted in Streetscapes
November 2011	393	270	2	18	Nil	Nil	6	1	46	Nil
December 2011	97	76	Nil	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	26	Nil

- **Grass Maintenance Activities –**

November - mowing drains, community hall grounds, whipper-snipping easements; litter collecting; pruning trees/plants; 2918 toilet cleans; 1380 BBQ cleans.

December - mowing drains, Community Halls, easements whipper-snipping; litter collecting; pruning trees/plants 3016 toilets cleaned; 1426 BBQs cleaned.

- **Western Region –**

November - mowed 428,712m² parks, 561,548m² road reserves and 90,568m² in cemeteries. 83 hours spent whipper snipping. 15 garden beds serviced.

December - mowed 349,874m² parks, 453,230m² road reserves and 57,339m² in cemeteries. 70 hours spent whipper snipping. 35m² of garden beds mulched.

- **Southern Region –**

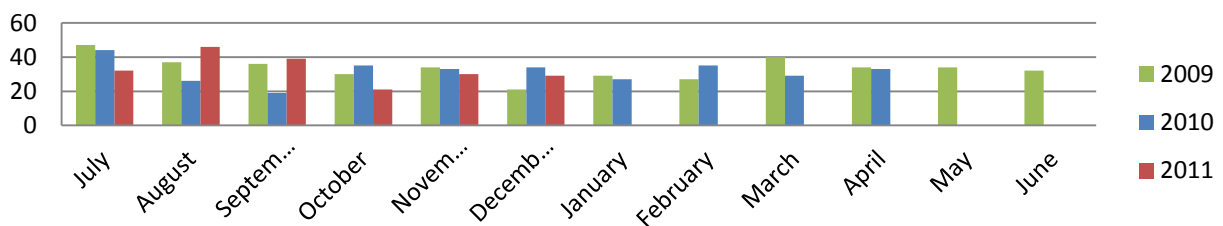
November – Mowed 885,000m² of parks and road reserves, 40,000m² in cemeteries mowed. 160 hours spent whipper snipping. 35 hours spent collecting litter.

December – Mowed 649,800m² of parks and road reserves, 40,000m² in cemeteries mowed. 150 hours spent whipper snipping, 50 hours spent collecting litter.

- **Cemeteries**

2011 (YTD)	November 2011	December 2011
Burials Mt Bassett	12	12
Burials Mt Bassett Ashes	6	2
Burials - Mackay	0	2
Burials - Mackay Ashes	2	1
Burials - Walkerston	5	6
Burials - Walkerston (Ashes)	2	1
Burials - Mirani	1	1
Burials - Marian	0	1
Burials- Sarina	0	2
Hand Dig of grave	2	1

Total monthly burials/ashes for Mackay region



- **Natural Environment and Marine Beach Activities –**

- Conservation Volunteers Australia worked in partnership with council at the following locations:

- Finlayson's Point and headland (1st-3rd November) - undertaking weed control, rubbish collection and track maintenance work. This week was funded by Council.
- Bucasia beach (5th November) - weed control and mulch spreading. Funded by Council.
- Freshwater point (7th-13th November) – undertaking weed control and rubbish removal. Funded by BMA

- Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve (14-16th and 19th November) – undertaking weed control and revegetation maintenance. Funded by Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund.
- Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve (6-9th December) – undertaking weed control and revegetation maintenance. Funded by Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund.
- Sarina Community Native Gardens and Louisa Creek (12th-15th December) – undertaking weed control and tree planting work. Funded by BMA.
- Safety inspections conducted on the Loughnane St Depot, Swayne St Depot and all swimming enclosures.
- Worked with Reef Catchments and Pest Officers to facilitate a project to clear the water weed *Salvinia molesta* from a waterway in Andergrove, funded through the Natural Environment Levy.
- Met with Waste Services staff to investigate and discuss how to manage waste dumping issues in the Blacks Beach area.
- Finalised the Significant Tree Study brief for advertising.
- Investigated options for fencing the front wader roost at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve.
- Natural Environment Advisory Committee meeting held December 14th 2011. Committee received a briefing on the review of the Natural Environment Plan and the prioritisation system for the ranges and plains chapters from Reef Catchments staff.
- Met with rural fire services staff to discuss the illegal burn that was conducted in the Seaforth Reserves and management of council land in the Seaforth area.
- Natural Environment staff and Parks on call officers attended training conducted by DERM staff on marine strandings and council's involvement in responding.
- The Habitat Restoration Crew undertook weed control at Slade Point Reserve, Blacks Beach, Eulbertie Reserve and McCready's Creek Reserve, watered revegetation at Slade Point Reserve, Blacks Beach and Sandfly Creek, maintained stock at the Swayne St nursery, undertook fencing repairs and installation of new fencing south of Anglers Parade Blacks Beach.
- The Mackay Beach Crew undertook weed control at Shoal Point, Bucasia Beach, repaired fencing at Bucasia Beach, Finlayson's Point, Sandfly Creek and Shoal Point, watered revegetation at Finlayson's Point, Haliday Bay, Shoal Point and Sandfly Creek, repaired swimming the enclosures at Seaforth, Bucasia and McEwen's Beach, repaired walkways at Shoal Point and decking at Harbour Beach, repaired vandalised lifeguard tower at Lamberts Beach, removed an abandoned vehicle from Bucasia Beach, made net weights for the Haliday Bay swimming enclosure and repaired the boat ramp at Slade Point.
- The Sarina Beach Crew installed new stairs and decks at Grasstree Beach (see photos under capital projects), collected seed and propagated native plants for use in local revegetation projects, planted and watered seedlings at Grasstree Beach, had training in use of QuickSpray units, undertook weed control at Freshwater Point, assisted the Conservation Volunteers team control lantana at Grasstree Beach, undertook weed control and watering at Salonika Beach and assisted with setting priorities for projects and establishing work plans for the current financial year.
- A weed control contractor undertook weed control work at Finlayson's Point and Seaforth as part of the priority coastal projects.



Waterway infested with *Salvinia molesta*



Excavator removing *Salvinia molesta*



Waterway after *Salvinia molesta* removal



Conservation Volunteers Australia defined a path at Finlayson's Point and planted some Lomandras

• **Parks Building Services Activities –**

Parks Electrical Department Monthly Report for November and December 2011

Traffic Signals	
Traffic Signal Push Button Maintenance	2
Traffic Signal Re-alignment	3
Traffic Signal Lamp Replacement	39
Traffic Signal LED unit Replacements	3
Traffic Signal Pole Lowering for Heavy Vehicles	2
New Intersection Installation River St	1
Traffic Signal Emergency Attendances	8

Other Electrical Work	
Site Hut Connection	0
Site Hut Disconnection	0
Test and Tag Inspections	22
RCD test - switchboards	0
Park Light Repairs	10
Building Light Repairs	3
Barbeque Repairs	2
Amenities Light Repair	4
Tool Box Talks (Take 5's)	2
Street Light Repair	0
Building Repairs/Installations	1

Playgrounds:

Operational Inspections	65
Visual Inspections	97
Play Equipment Repairs – Substantial	11
Play Equipment Repairs - Minor	57

Built Asset Maintenance:

The following repairs were carried out in public amenities:-

- Three Sharps containers were replaced at Blacks beach and Bucasia
- A new roof was fitted to the toilets at Mackay Cemetery.
- New ceiling vents fitted to Calen amenities.
- Two doors were repaired at Bucasia.
- Clothes line repaired at Seaforth Campground.
- Graffiti was cleaned and/or painted over at Queens Park, Seaforth and Grendon Park.
- Wall and switchboard repairs completed at Grendon Park following vandalism.
- A complete inspection of all amenities was completed immediately prior to Christmas. This resulted in repairs to several lights, indicator bolts and minor plumbing repairs at various locations.

The following repairs were carried out on park furniture:-

- Seven repairs to log fencing.

- Nine repairs to wheelie bin locking poles.
- Rubbish bins were replaced at seven locations.
- Two bench seats were replaced at Jaycee Park Andergrove.
- One seat repaired and painted at Plantation Palms.
- Three picnic settings were replaced at Seaforth.
- One bench seat was replaced at Broomdikes Park.
- Repairs to posts on picnic shelter at Mulherin Park.
- Heritage Listed light pole in Jubilee Park was repaired and repainted after being hit by a vehicle.
- Picnic shelter at Coral Point was painted.



Other work completed:

- Dust extraction system in Parks Services Workshop commissioned.
- Bolted down shipping containers for Plant and Procurement.
- Fitted key cabinets for Plant and Procurement.
- Manufactured draws for Plant and procurement.
- Water blasted picnic shelters, park furniture and amenities at Northview Park.

Capital Projects – The following projects are completed



River St/ Gregory St Traffic Lights



Grasstree Beach Picnic Shelters Painting, three shelters.



Inglewood Play Equipment Refurbishment



Railway Corridor tree Planting



Mulherin Park Rubber Softfall Replacement



Grasstree Beach New Timber Walkway to Beach

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens –

November

Horticultural Reference Group:

The Horticultural Reference Group (HRG) met on November 13, reviewed plantings left for 2011/carried over until 2012. **3110 plants** were planned by the HRG and added to the Living Collection by the Gardens Friends, SGAP and staff in 2011. Of these, just a small amount have been vandalised or did not survive the extended dry – however planting bees will be limited to the first half of the year or in well irrigated areas to avoid extensive hand watering/losses incurred by the hot/dry conditions of spring and summer.

ANBG MOU progress

The MRBG, SGAP Mackay and the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra share a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) whereby knowledge and plant material – particularly high altitude taxa from the region, can be sourced, material sent and grown by the ANBG for their Australian Rainforest Collections can be displayed, researched and preserved in the face of climate change.

To facilitate this relationship, a MRBG Staff/SGAP members visits ANBG and on alternate years, an ANBG staff member will visit Mackay to research the MRBG Living Collection and visit private property and Council controlled land at places like Eungella and Crediton, to source known provenance propagules. Irene Champion representing SGAP and also a key member of the Gardens Friends, HRG and Herbarium Friends will be the first to undertake this exchange in 2012 with a visit to Canberra in February from 20-27. Irene will be assisting with information on their collection and has already provided wild collected propagules (seeds and cutting material) to the ANBG.



Australian National Botanic Gardens

Herbarium:

Herbarium volunteers met on November 28. Since the October session, the electronic Herbarium accession register has been updated and time spent by the Curator Dale Arvidsson, and Gardens Friends and HRG members and local plant authorities Meryl Ritchie and Irene Champion identifying provenance site details for prior collected specimens in the MRBG Living Collection from plants supplied by the Mackay Tree Factory over the previous years.

Material was collected from the Ethnobotany – Medicinal Plants bed and pressed ready for further drying.

Horticultural and site works:

November saw MRBG horticulture staff focussing on extensive mulching, watering, pruning and weed control and general site maintenance. Ongoing removal of undesirable ‘weedy’ tree species from the Living Collection occurred at the Grassland Bird Habitat and in the Myrtaceae and Flowering Trees sections of the Gardens. Extensive mulching has taken place to minimise water use and prevent weeds and all lawn specimen trees are being mulched to revitalise vigour and prevent damage from mowing and herbicides. Post BGANZ Congress – MRBG Curator Dale Arvidsson and Team Leader Ross Demuth are developing a series of training sessions for staff based on latest knowledge and techniques being applied at other botanic gardens and Councils. Once available – these will also be offered to interested Friends as an extra bonus to learn and apply these techniques – not just at the MRBG – but also in home gardens.

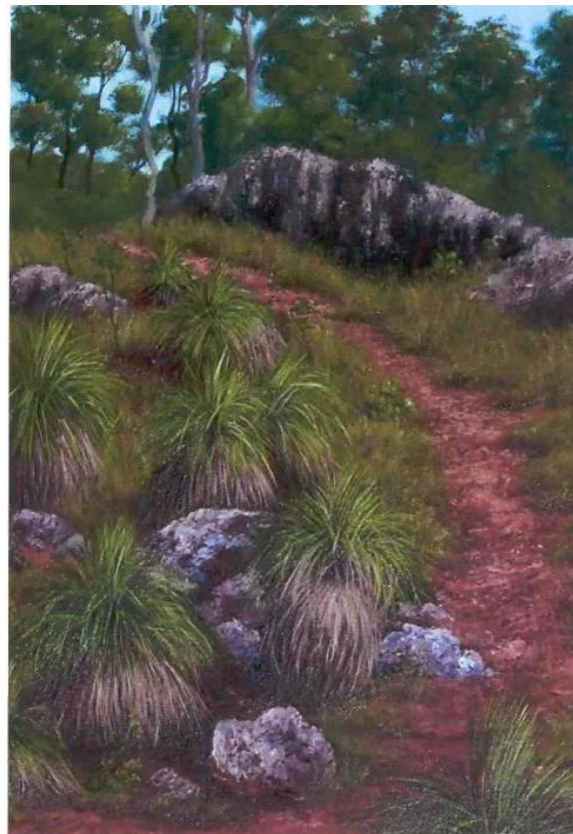
Visitor Services Program:

Exhibitions – Lagoons Gallery:

The exhibition featured in the Lagoons Gallery during November was "Happy Dabblers" by the U3A Art Group on show from November 2 - December 4 2011.

U3A Art Group consists of approximately 40 artists aged from 50 to 91 who join together each Thursday at the Mackay Visual Art Centre in Beaconsfield for a social morning and do some painting. The artists vary from beginner artists to accomplished artists and use a range of mediums - pencil; water-colours; acrylics; pastels and oils. The more experienced artists do enter competitive exhibitions and many have sold their works of art. Some of the artists also display their art at The Mater Hospital.

They said “We are privileged to be able to showcase our painting abilities at this "Happy Dabblers" Exhibition held at Lagoons Gallery & Cafe during the month of November”.



**‘The Grasstree Track’
painted by Dorothy M Ross.**

Plant-ed and Community links:

As part of our on-going partnership with schools and contributing to the community, the MRBG was approached by Slade Point State School to seek out information on Bush tucker for a new garden.

Their project involved 'Growing our Culture: Art, Language, & Bush Tucker' - a school-community project extending the school's strong indigenous culture, using art, languages with community involvement. The school sought out expertise from the MRBG to design and create - initially - a Bush Tucker Garden in the school grounds. A ‘Lighthouse Grant, was sought to provide funding for community artists and art resources for creating murals, sculptures, and artwork signs for use in the garden.

After consultation and consideration of indigenous and cultural groups, a ‘Useful Plants Garden’ was themed mixing traditional knowledge and sciences with the plants ranging from traditional foods, medicines, building material and tools from Australia and the South Pacific. Suitable species lists of local native and non-weedy Exotic species were chosen for the specific site by the MRBG and horticultural knowledge and design for the site for a low maintenance, low water use garden has commenced.

Free Guided walks: “Discover the Secrets of the Tropical Shade Garden” was November’s Special Free Guided Walk held on Friday November 18, hosted by the MRBG Visitor Services Officer Maya Harrison.

Beehive Gingers, Christmas Orchids, Cedar Bay Cherries and Red Beech flowers - with a centre that resembles a sea anemone - were just a few of the secrets and surprises seen during an informative stroll through the cool and tranquil Tropical Shade Garden.



**Red Beech – *Dillenia alata* in flower in the
Tropical Shade Garden**

Guided walks are core to the MRBG role of promoting plants – particularly those of the surrounding bioregion and encouraging residents to make suitable choices for their own backyards.

Gardens Friends Christmas Party:

The MRBG hosted a thank you Christmas dinner to acknowledge the thousands of hours of volunteer work contributed towards the botanic gardens free of charge each year. This was held on November 26 at the Cafe and Restaurant at the Lagoon and attended by over 60 volunteers. Meryl Ritchie was awarded the 'Shiny Shovel' award that highlights a volunteer effort that goes 'above and beyond' each year.

Bookings:



The Gardens Friends thankyou Christmas Party and Meryl Richie receiving the 'Shiny Shovel' award

Utilising the Meeting Room in November were:

- 7 community groups
- 6 corporate bookings
- 1 booking for Mackay Regional Council horticulture trainees

2 weddings occurred within the MRBG, with 1 of these holding their reception at the Cafe & Restaurant at the Lagoon.

Web statistics for November at www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au:

- 922 Visits
- 794 Unique Visitors
- 2,805 Page views
- 3.04 Pages per Visit

eNewsletter total Subscribers in November 523 (Last month: 505).

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens –

DECEMBER

Meadowlands:

The tender for Phase 2 of Meadowlands – the Outdoor Performance and Events Centre Stage has been awarded. Works will commence in the February, weather permitting, which will see the stage platform, roof, ‘green’ rooms and seating terraces completed by July.

BGANZ:

The Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Council of which MRBG Curator Dale Arvidsson is Vice President, met via phone hook up on December 8. The Albury Congress was reviewed and deemed an outstanding success. The new Council set about commencing a busy agenda in 2012, including developing ‘botanic gardens standards’ for horticultural training, looking for further funding and promotional links and further updating the website to contain a ‘members only’ section where numerous files of benefit to botanic gardens will be stored and shared amongst member gardens and arboreta.

The BGANZ Qld regional group Executive – Kate Heffernan (Hon Chair) from the Gold Coast, MRBG Landscape Designer Lawrie Smith (Hon Secretary) and MRBG Curator Dale Arvidsson (Qld Regional Group BGANZ Council member) met on December 7 for a planning day that covered the new Queensland Botanic Trail brochure (due mid 2012), funding opportunities, the BGANZ website (all state botanic gardens have been added to the website at www.bganz.org.au/bganz_qld) and further liaison with the Horticultural Industry. The roll out of Smart Gardener in 2012 and creating a Cook/Banks 250 events calendar for 2020 that will commence an Australia/New Zealand wide series of events to be ready for if/when state and federal funding is announced for this momentous date in Australian botanic gardens.

Herbarium:

The final Herbarium volunteer sessions occurred on December 6.

Material was collected via an early morning session to avoid the heat and stress on the plant material. Monocotyledon plants (grasses & sedges) from the Grass Tree Slope below the Lagoon Lookout Deck were collected and pressed for further drying and previously collected specimens were removed from the freezer for future mounting.

Formal identification from the Queensland State Herbarium has identified a first collection record of a species of rainforest grass – *Oplismenus imbecillis* - for the South Kennedy pastoral district (where Mackay is situated). This species has only been officially recorded prior further north and south of Mackay – again reinforcing the importance of the Herbarium at the MRBG and Mackay’s important location botanically at the climate interface of the tropical and subtropical region of Australia.

Horticultural and site works:

December saw continuing dry conditions which saw MRBG horticulture staff focussing on extensive mulching, with some targeted watering in non-irrigated area. Pruning, weed control and general site maintenance also occurred.

Lagoons Creek:

Ongoing plans to revitalise Lagoons Creek downstream from the MRBG have been discussed with Council’s Natural Environment Program and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to create a wildlife and fish way corridor between the Pioneer River and the MRBG, whilst allowing for peak flooding events, External funding is being sought to create a series of lagoons via earthworks.

Gardens Friends:

The MRBG Visitors Services Officer and Secretary of the Gardens Friends Robin McWhinney attended the “In Safe Hands” Forum. Focussing on Work Place Health and Safety Issues for volunteer organisations, issues raised assisted in thinking of some changes we may need to introduce in our inductions for volunteer planting bees.

The Gardens Friends Committee met on December 13 and planned dates for 2012.

Gardens Friends events calendar for 2012:

- Saturday February 4: **‘Wet, Wet, Wet’** from 4 pm.
- Friends are invited to find out about Wetlands/Lagoon life as a continuation of the celebration of World Wetlands Day followed by a Barbecue on the café deck.
- Saturday March 24: **Gardening Bee:** 9am start. Friends planting bee in Heritage Garden.
- Saturday April 21: **Excursion to Carmila Beach:**
- Saturday April 28: **Gardening Bee:** 9am start. Australian Regional Flora Terraces.
- Sunday May 12: **Gardening Bee:** 9am start. Ethno-Botany Garden
- Sunday May 20: **Gardens Open Day:** 10am - 4 pm. SGAP plant sale, Guided Walks, Garden Club displays, Photo competition and more.
- Sunday May 27: **Greenmount Heritage Fair:** Display at the Fair 10am - 4 pm
- Saturday June 16: **Gardening Bee:** 9am start. Australian Regional Flora Terraces.
- Tuesday June 19 Jun: **Friends AGM:** 7.30 pm start in Meeting Room. Committee member
- John Atkinson, Ranger in Charge, Mackay Lowlands, QPWS, will be the guest speaker presenting ‘Smalleys Beach Snippets’
- Saturday July 14 J: **Friends Guided Walk:** ‘Inspired by Nature’ and artistic walk and talk in the Gardens, led by Curator Dale Arvidsson, followed by a BBQ
- Saturday Aug 11: **Friends Guided Walk:** 10am - 2 pm. ‘A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush’. This guided walk and BBQ will be celebrating the installation of new bird identification signs and include bird watching opportunities.
- Saturday September 1: **Friends Excursion:** Cape Hillsborough - Hidden Valley
- Saturday October 13: **‘Seed and Feed Forum’** 10am - 3 pm. Learn about seeds, propagation, dispersal and tastes
- Saturday November: **High Tea and Heritage Guided Walk:** 3pm - 5 pm. Mrs Berenice Wright, local historian will join us on this walk to the Heritage and Acclimatisation Gardens to commemorate Mackay 150.
- Saturday November 24: **Friends Christmas Party:** 6.30 pm Lagoons Café at MRBG.
- Saturday December 15 **Christmas in the Gardens:** 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm:

Committee Meetings occur the first Tuesday of every month from 7:30pm to 9:30pm and are attended by the Curator and Visitor Services Officer.

SGAP Regional Forest Working Bees – planning for 2012:

SGAP Mackay Branch has continued to show their support for the MRBG with 4 working bees planned for 2012. Bees occur on Saturday and commence at 7:30am and are specifically for SGAP members to continue their involvement with the first plantings commence in the mid/late 1990’s. Dates will be March 31 (Council election day), July 7, August 25 and October 6.

The MRBG Curator is present and whilst the bees focus on weeding and watering of establishing plants (specifically during the dry part of the year) select planting and plant labelling also occurs.

Visitor Services Program:

Events and Bookings:

Christmas in the Gardens Event:

The annual end of year event in the Gardens was not washed out this year, but rain still made it's presence felt. Lots of sunny weather leading up to December 18 meant the grounds and lawns were perfect for family gatherings. The rains only came for the last half hour of the event, but the band kept playing and the audience joined them on the deck areas of the cafe, some of the audience remaining under the Mango Tree despite a last minute downpour. The selection of three different acts, Mackay City Band, Karen Bonham and Hullabaloo presented a good range of music to the differing age groups of the audience.

Funds raised by the Friends raffle goes back to the Gardens in a variety of ways from signage, plants and promotions.



Christmas in the Gardens 2011

Education sessions: A 'Small Explorers event', where young children (1 - 5year olds) and their parents have educational sessions with was held on December 8th discovering natures 'decorations', leaf shapes and creature habitats in the Gardens.

Exhibitions – Lagoons Gallery:

December's Exhibition was Creative Shots Annual Exhibition... "Reflections" from December 7, 2011 to January 15, 2012.

This stunning photographic exhibition displayed varying interpretations of what the club members photographed, including reflections using mirrors, water, shiny chrome, rain drops and even flood waters.



'Sands of Gold' photograph by David Phillips

This exhibition capped off another successful year for the Lagoons Gallery as a showcase for local artists to display a variety of works to a wide audience – many that may not usually visit an art gallery, in a relaxed cafe gallery environment. The Lagoons Gallery also brings visitors to the cafe that would not usually visit a botanic gardens, completing the promotional circle.

New themed temporary signage was developed for Christmas to encourage a closer look and attract the attention of families and children. Nature's Christmas Decorations Hunt. Visitors to the Gardens were met with a display panel and a challenge to locate a range of 'natural' Christmas tree decorations in different sections of the MRBG/. Visitors collected a quiz based on the display (see below) and walked through different sections of the botanic gardens to find the flowering or fruiting delights.

Can you see me?



**Look up into the shrub...
I am the fruit of this
Water Apple; Watery Rose-apple
*Syzygium aqueum***

My distinctive red fruits resemble tiny bells.

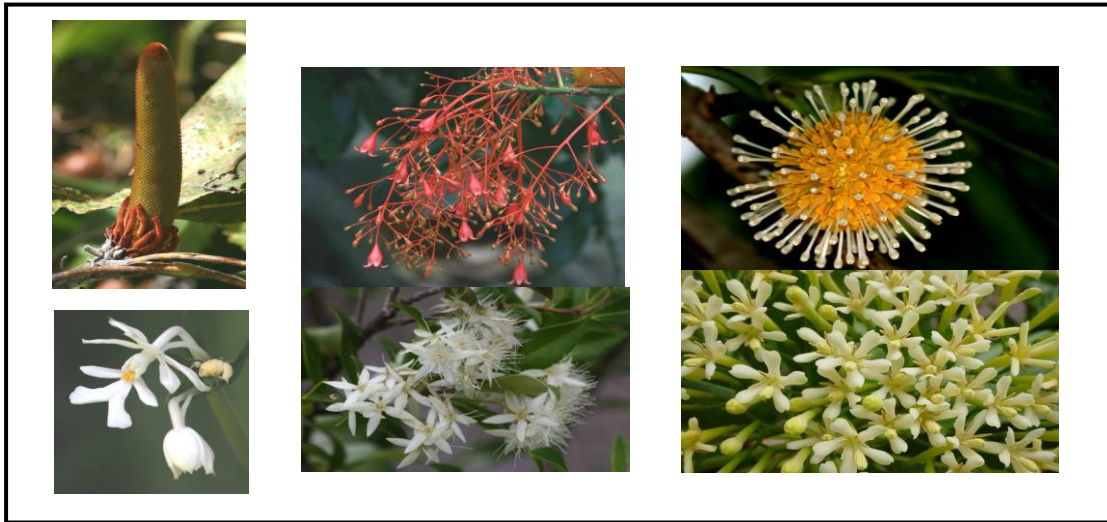
...Really I'm one of Nature's Christmas Decorations...

My fruit is very glossy red and the flesh is very juicy or watery hence my common name...

Water Apple.

I grow on a shrub and I grow best in areas with a long dry season, though I am not drought resistant and need summer rain. Shrubs like this one can easily be cultivated in home gardens, so why not add some Christmas cheer to your place?

Numerous flowers and fruit were showcased as 'Nature's Christmas decorations', relating their shapes to stars, baubles, bells and candles. The following images show some of these "decorations".



School Holiday Activities:

These sessions have become so popular with the children and parents, the bookings are completely booked out and every session has a waiting list with people hopeful for cancellations.

December's activities were "Leaves, Sticks and Sparkly Bits" which was so well received in 2010, we repeated it. Once again beautiful Christmas mobiles were created using off casts of nature and a few shiny trinkets – promoting recycling and reuse.

Card making was also included and as seen by the image all the children were very engaged. Fragile 'skeletonised leaves' were popular and were included in the mobiles and in creating 'Christmas tree' decorations on the front of cards.

Bookings:

Utilising the Meeting Room in December were:

- 4 community groups
- 1 corporate bookings
- 1 booking for Mackay Regional Council horticulture trainees

School holiday activities will take up the room use for the remainder of December.

1 wedding occurred within the MRBG in December.



School Holiday Activities

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Community Education

The Emergency Management Section continues to support and promote community disaster awareness education, community preparedness and resilience for disaster events.

Disaster Coordination Centre

The Disaster Coordination Centre was fully set up during the Christmas period in case of any events.

The movement of the Guardian server to the main network is complete with some modifications required to allow users to log in via their standard access.

Guardian revision and training is planned for February 2012.

Review of Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry Recommendations

A review of the Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry recommendations released on the 1st August 2011 was undertaken and work is being planned to undertake the remedial actions required to comply with the review recommendations.

Emergency Management Website

The Emergency Management website content on was reviewed and updated during the month.

Mackay Local Disaster Management Group

The Mackay Local Disaster Management Group met on the 5th December 2011.

The next scheduled meeting is the 5th March 2012.

Meetings and Conferences

- Attendance at the Mackay District Disaster Management Group Meetings on and 17th November 2011 and 15th December 2011.
- Attendance at the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 5th December 2011.
- Attendance at meetings for Safe Plan, 5.1 Budget, Workplace Health and Safety Committee and review of Grants during the month.

Planning

Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan and Operational Plans

The Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan (MLDMP) was submitted to the Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 5th December 2011 for consideration and endorsement. The MLDMP was endorsed with some minor alterations.

The MLDMP was approved by Council on 14th December 2011.

In accordance with the QFCI recommendations a copy of the MLDMP has been placed on council's website.

Work and revision of a number of Operational Plans continues. Some Operational Plans will require major changes due to new guidelines being released. At this stage, it is unlikely that all Operational Plans will be completed before the commencement of the storm season due to completing priorities.

Projects / Mitigation Strategies

A number of Projects and Mitigation Strategies are currently being either assessed or undertaken.

Storm Surge Study

This project is now being undertaken by the Planning and Development Program to meet the requirements of the Coastal Planning Guidelines.

Community Emergency Wardens Project

This project will be undertaken in liaison with the Community Resilience Officer with the intention to have three trail areas (Midge Pt / Seaforth / Eungella) instigated in 2012.

Backup Generators for Sir Albert Abbott Admin Building

The project is continuing under the supervision of the Property Services Section.

Works completed include the construction of the permanent foundation and compound for both the 90kva & 350kva generators, relocation of the 90kva from the temporary site and installation of the 350kva and associated switch board and electrical works.

Only minor finishing works remain outstanding.

SES Update

Local Controller

Visit to the Whitsunday SES Unit Local Controller in Proserpine on the 2nd of November to discuss inter area support and training for 2012. Mark demonstrated the Whitsunday Council supplied IT arrangements and its use of Guardian at both the unit and group level to manage SES call outs.

On Sunday the 6th November attended the Eungella community meeting to discuss the possibility of future SES trained volunteers in that community with the Rural Fire First Officer. It was agreed that six members of that community would become SES members and train in safe working at heights to be used as an SES team if needed.

The monthly MRU executive meeting was held on the 23rd November 2011

Topics discussed

Reallocation of vehicles, Maritime safety Queensland compliance, EMQ Recognised Training Organisation (RTO) compliance, 2012 training calendar, Trigger point for implementation of manual data logging over computer logging (31st November), allocation of stores, Cyclone Planning and Storm Surge Planning.

SES Local Controller attended an SES Flood Boat moderation workshop (November 24th – 27th) in Brisbane, funded by EMQ at which he achieved his instructor rating and was made aware of the recent issues regarding Maritime Safety Queensland boarding SES flood boats all over Queensland for compliance checks. New check lists and logbooks have been allocated by EMQ and have been implemented into the MRU.

Activations

20 th and 21 st November	Truck Roll over	Sarina	Emergency Lighting and Traffic Control
22 nd November	Police Assist	Alligator Creek	Flood Boat Response

Courses Completed, all of Unit

High Risk

- Flood Boat Operator Course in Nebo, 2 new operators for Midge Point
- Flood Boat competency maintenance Mackay
- Vertical Rescue Competency Maintenance Mirani

Low Risk

- Navigation Armstrong Beach
- Emergency Lighting Mackay
- Storm Damage Midge Point, Calen
- CPR Calen, Midge Point, Mackay

Public Education

12 th November	Bunning's	Community Education and Demonstration
19 th November	McGinns	Community Education (Cyclone Saturday)
20 th November	Mirani Markets	Community Education and Recruitment

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Number of Completed Maintenance Requests Surveyed for Customer Satisfaction

Civil Operations - 34
Parks and Environment - 50
Water Services - 86

Number of Construction Projects Surveyed for Customer Satisfaction

2

Number of Customer Satisfaction Survey Results Finalised

0

Number of IMS Documents Reviewed and Updated

10

Number of New IMS Documents Commenced

3

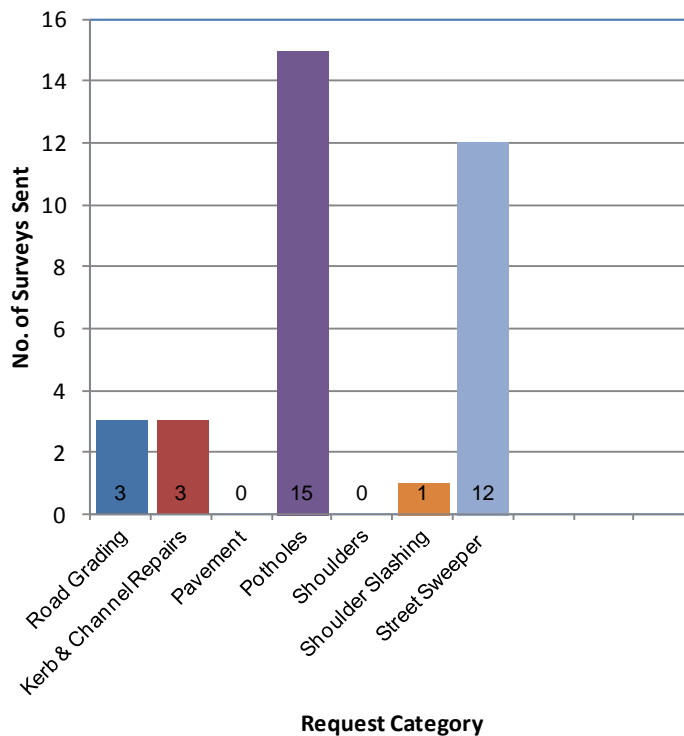
Number of Work Sites Visited

6

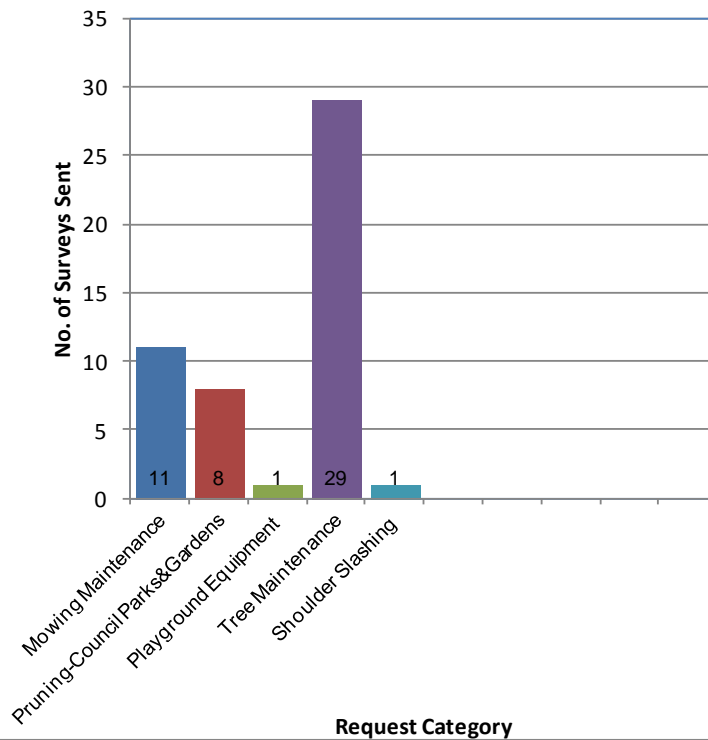
Number of Internal Quality Audits Conducted

3

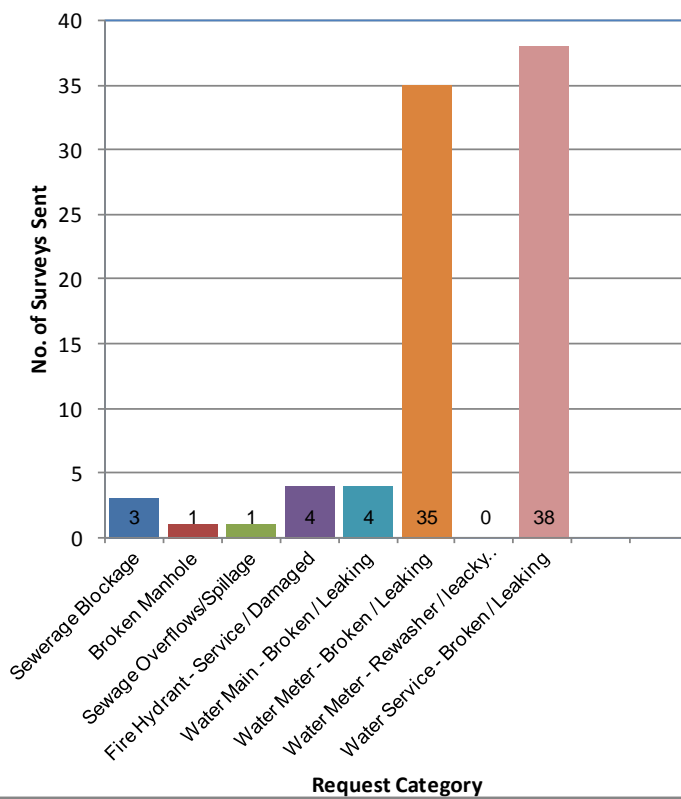
**NO. OF CUSTOMER REQUEST SURVEY FORMS BY REQUEST TYPE
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011
Engineering Services - Civil Operations**



**NO. OF CUSTOMER REQUEST SURVEY FORMS BY REQUEST TYPE
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011
Engineering Services - Parks and Environment**



**NO. OF CUSTOMER REQUEST SURVEY FORMS BY REQUEST TYPE
NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011
Conducted for Water and Waste Services**



Consultation

There has been consultation with Engineering Services Program Managers.

Resource Implications

Nil

Conclusion

Progress across all programs of the Department has been excellent over the past two months whether it be within the construction area where significant progress has been made on progressing the capital works program, and the flood damage restoration, within the parks and environment program where fine weather has enabled the teams to keep on top of the expected grass and vegetation growth or within the civil operations area where preparation for the wet season was this year not hindered by wet weather.

The design program is now well advanced both in terms of flood damage designs and Council's capital program so that tenders can be called or required to best suit construction timing.

Engineering preparation has also been the focus of the period.

Officer's Recommendation

THAT this report be received.