

# ENVIRONMENT



## Feral foxes

SCC is running its Coastal Fox Control Program for the ninth year with the aim to protect native animals. Fox control will be undertaken from 27 March in coastal areas of known activity between the Maroochy River and Peregian Beach. The program area includes council-managed and state-managed lands as well as some private properties.

The European red fox was deliberately introduced to Australia for recreational hunting in 1855 and has become a significant contributor to native animal decline across the nation. The aim of the program is to decrease fox populations at a time when they are particularly active and reduce their predation on vulnerable native species including spotted tail quoll, water mice, eastern ground parrots and endangered green and loggerhead turtles at the egg and hatching stage. Foxes are also a threat to livestock and domestic animals, especially chickens.

The trapping campaign involves using soft-catch foothold traps placed across selected bushland and private properties in areas of known fox

activity. Traps are checked daily or continuously by telemetry camera. Control activities are conducted by qualified and experienced invasive animal officers.

The European red fox is a restricted pest under the Queensland Government Biosecurity Act 2014 which manages biosecurity including invasive animals and plants. Areas included in the control program will be clearly identified by warning signs at entrances. If you spot a suspected fox den report it to council on 07 5475 7272. You can also view the fact sheet to learn how to identify a fox den on council's website.



## Hinterland wild dog attacks

In response to a spate of wild dog attacks in the Noosa hinterland a Facebook page – Kin Kin and Surrounds Wild Dog Management – has been established for the community to communicate sightings and attacks, keep track of where howls are heard, and help landowners identify where they are travelling from dens and feeding areas.

Owner of Black Ant Gourmet and Mayan Luxe Villas in Kin Kin, Jodie Williams recently experienced firsthand a vicious attack on her beloved English Staffy, Baloo. "Baloo was attacked early in the morning by three wild dingo-cross looking dogs just 50m from where we sleep. One was holding his ear and the other two attacking his neck and hind legs but making no noise," said Jodie.

Thanks to some quick thinking and arm flapping the wild dogs took off leaving Baloo with several minor battle wounds requiring vet attention. These dogs have been attacking livestock for some time in the area with reports of many sheep and livestock being lost from properties. Join: [tinyurl.com/5n7famyb](https://tinyurl.com/5n7famyb).

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# INSPIRATION



What a man – Aydan Wyse

## A 'wyse' decision – cleaning up Australia

Five years ago Aydan Wyse was living in the Clarence area of NSW. His relationship had broken down and depression was threatening to take control. He often ran for fitness and healing and began to notice how much rubbish was polluting paths and started to bag and bin some, an action to help heal himself while improving the environment. At the time he had no money, no car and nowhere to live.

Gradually these actions blossomed into a passion and at times his 10yo son, who is enrolled in distance education, joined him in bagging rubbish. Aydan began to accept some random acts of kindness from individuals, community and businesses to donate and pick up the bags. He was also given a mobile phone, somewhere safe to stay, food, treats including plane and boat tickets, and moral support.

Over the five years Aydan has worked his way around several states and territories collecting rubbish almost every day and depositing it in bags, usually yellow, which he hangs on roadside posts. He receives support from random individuals and even supermarkets which donate yellow bags and appreciate his efforts. It seems councils have got into the swing of the project and pick up the bags for timely disposal.

“I’m aiming to go around the world and create a ripple effect. We can’t fix up the past but we can shape our future,” said Aydan.

Gen, a Yandina local, recently saw Aydan on the side of the road picking up litter at 6am. “He had about 30 bags full and hooked on posts and had council remove them by the next time I went by. He was a total environmental inspiration to me,” she said.

Aydan said, “Today I’m heading from Yandina to Coolum where I expect to be hosted by a supportive charity for the next few months. I have no expectations so there are no letdowns, every day I wake up is a good day. I’m just happy to be alive”. To find out more visit 'One Man's Effort to Clean the Clarence' Facebook page.

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