Stockland

Biodiversity

FY19

Why this is important to Stockland

We develop new land for housing, including infrastructure and social amenities, to create sustainable, thriving communities. Development brings challenges and opportunities that we manage as we deliver our projects. In particular, developments on greenfield sites can impact local bushland habitat, ecological communities and protected or significant species.

As part of our strategy to deliver shared value, we aim to minimise and mitigate these impacts to protect the biodiversity of our surrounding environments. We appreciate that preserving biodiversity enhances the liveability and vitality of our communities over the long term. Our Liveability Index survey results tell us that our residential customers value green space and a connection to nature. We also understand the inherent value of biodiversity conservation for protecting the values of Australia's unique flora and fauna. We therefore seek to balance developable land with retention and activation of biodiversity to enhance the long-term success of our masterplanned communities. By proactively minimising and mitigating the impacts on biodiversity, we are also able to have more productive conversations at all levels of government on our development proposals.

The impacts of our business on biodiversity are, for the most part, unique to our greenfield residential developments and in particular our masterplanned communities. These impacts may occur both during construction (e.g. clearing, sediment runoff, changed hydrological regimes) and as a result of urbanisation (e.g. poaching species, introduction of invasive species, isolation of habitat).

This Deep Dive document is a component of our FY19 sustainability reporting suite, which is publicly available on our website. Our sustainability reporting is third-party assured and drafted in accordance with the GRI Standards.[1] The material in this Deep Dive is supported by a wider collection of performance metrics contained in our Environmental Data Pack.

This Deep Dive is to be read in conjunction with our published approach to biodiversity, available as part of our sustainability reporting suite at Our Management Approach to Biodiversity.

Our key achievements

- Delivered activities to rehabilitate and restore Australian native biodiversity on approximately 152 hectares of land across our assets.
- Planted over 100,000 trees at our Newport (Qld) site, to restore an environmental corridor to protect the Ramsar listed wetlands adjacent to the site.
- Installed an additional three nesting boxes at Augustine Heights (Qld) to support local fauna nesting opportunities, as part of our greater commitments to conserving a 47 hectare nature park at the site.
- Planted 6,000 indigenous plants at our Willowdale (NSW) community as part of a riparian corridor, with 4,000 more plants still to be planted.

[1] The GRI Standards are global standards for sustainability reporting published by the Global Reporting Initiative (https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/)

In this document you will find:

FY19 priorities and progress

FY19 PRIORITIES	STATUS	FY19 PROGRESS
For new masterplanned residential communities being planned from FY18, make an aggregated net positive contribution to the biodiversity value by FY20 as determined by the biodiversity calculator.	In progress	Minta (Vic), the only eligible project assessed during FY19 achieved a positive change in Biodiversity Index with a score of 3.47 (Good score >1; Moderate score 0-1; Poor score <0).

Future priorities

- For new masterplanned residential communities being planned since FY18, make an aggregated net positive contribution to the biodiversity value by FY20 as determined by the biodiversity calculator.
- Develop our next phase of long term biodiversity targets (FY21-23)

FY19 performance and case studies

In FY19, we identified 20 projects that require biodiversity to be protected on site during and post-construction. Many of the areas identified for protection include species that are considered threatened or vulnerable[2]. Upon completion of these projects, we will have placed approximately 2,410 hectares of land into protection for the purposes of biodiversity management. Our biodiversity management is guided by site investigations undertaken by experienced ecologists throughout the process of masterplanning a project. Proposed conservation actions are then reviewed by the local or state regulatory authority for approval.

Our FY20 target is to make a net positive contribution to biodiversity value across our residential developments, as measured by our biodiversity calculator. Minta (Vic) was the only project assessed during FY19 and achieved a positive change in Biodiversity Index with a score of 3.47. The project will set aside all good condition native habitat available on site (around 9 hectares), and will replant approximately 10 hectares to improve the overall biodiversity footprint and ongoing sustainability of local native flora and fauna habitat. A full list of projects scored by our calculator since FY15 is provided in our Environmental Data Pack. More information on the methods behind our biodiversity calculator can be found in Our Management Approach to Biodiversity.

Biodiversity conservation activities

We delivered 152 hectares of rehabilitation works during the year. Rehabilitation activities help support the longevity and resilience of significant biodiversity identified on our sites and is generally undertaken by specialist contractors as part of our biodiversity commitments for the project. At our Pallara (Qld) residential community, for example, we delivered the final tree planting requirements during this year completing the delivery of 6,850 koala habitat and feed species across 7.6 hectares. We will be delivering weed eradication through to 2022 as part of a larger 49 hectare reserve that provides habitat to locally significant species such as sugar gliders. Following completion of the five-year rehabilitation plan, the reserve will ultimately be dedicated to Brisbane City Council as an Environmental Conservation Zone.

We actively engage local community groups in our biodiversity activities to both enhance the extent of our impact and educate local communities on biodiversity values. Community groups help to define the value and biodiversity management activities planned for rehabilitation. As an example, our Bokarina Beach project on the Sunshine Coast lies adjacent to a sea turtle nesting location. In FY19, we worked with our landscape consultants and a local turtle care community group to understand the best way to construct beach access and avoid turtle nesting times and locations. In order to mitigate any impacts from activities that might disturb turtle nesting, we mapped all known nests through the dunes, along the strip of coast, along with expected hatching dates. Once the nesting season was complete, we recommenced activities, with a fauna spotter on site at all times. In FY20, we will seek to develop community education initiatives to support the ongoing understanding and conservation of the turtle nest site.

On projects where key areas of habitat are identified, we often work with local and state Governments to identify opportunities to leverage species protection. For example, we identified that our Highlands (Vic) project site was habitat to the Golden Sun Moth, a protected species in the Melbourne area. As such, we have conserved a 44 hectare reserve of core Golden Sun Moth habitat at the site, which we will hand over to the local council in October 2019. On top of this, we are securing a 250 hectare

[2] A total of 52 species on our development sites are considered threatened under Australian State and/or Commonwealth legislation. Of these species 16 are included under various threatened species categories on the IUCN Red List.

site in Campbelltown for Golden Sun Moth habitat, just over 100km north west Highlands. We have prepared Conservation Management Plans for both sites to guide ongoing habitat management.

Other project-specific examples of our conservation activities in FY19 include:

- Installed an additional three nesting boxes at Augustine Heights (Qld) to support local fauna nesting opportunities, as part of our greater commitments to conserving a 47 hectare nature park at the site.
- Ongoing management and monitoring of the translocation of Grand Spider-orchids from within the development boundary at Calleya (WA) to an area with a large population of the orchids, where they will be conserved in perpetuity.
- Continue to work with our Aura (Qld) community reference panel, managed by our Healthy Land and Water. This panel consists of 18 local stakeholder groups who review issues and progress relating to natural areas and biodiversity conservation.
- The preservation of high value conservation land at our Cloverton (Vic) project, through application of zoning reflective of the high ecological values. The land will be managed for conservation in perpetuity by transferring ownership to Melbourne Water and Hume City Council.
- At our Foreshore (Qld project, we identified 91 hectares of riparian land adjacent to the Coomera River prone to river disturbance and erosion, that we will rehabilitate over the life of the project. Once rehabilitation works are complete, we will hand over to Council and the State Government for ongoing management.
- Restored an environmental corridor at Newport (Qld) to protect the Ramsar listed wetlands adjacent to the site, including planting over 100,000 trees.

CASE STUDY

Investing in biodiversity through green corridors

At our Willowdale project in South West Sydney, we are undertaking a 16ha conservation project, to restore a creek corridor that includes endangered ecological communities associated with the Cumberland Plain of Western Sydney.

With the goal of conserving biodiversity in Western Sydney, the 16 hectare creek corridor was set aside for rehabilitation and conservation as part the project's 39 hectares of open space and parkland. The plan to restore the biodiversity corridor will see 10,000 plants indigenous to the location planted, including Forest Redgum and Sickle Wattle. Over 6,000 plants have already been installed, with the remainder will be planted in future stages of the restoration work.

As part of the restoration activities, boardwalks, trails, and shared picnic areas will be formed to enable locals and visitors to experience the natural landscapes along the creek line. Another unique opportunity to experience nature comes from the installation of a Bird Hide. The Bird Hide will provide an opportunity for the community to observe an array of aquatic birds that frequent the area at close range, including the White Faced Heron and the Royal Spoonbill.

The other key feature of the creek nature corridor will be the planting of an assortment of "bush tucker" plants along the trails. The trail will feature educational signage describing species of plants that provide food opportunities such as edible berries and finger limes. This will allow residents and visitors to learn more about native species and biodiversity, whilst getting amongst nature and staying active.

Richard Rhyddarch, Stockland's General Manager for NSW Communities said "Sustainability is at the core of our masterplanned community and our exciting new 16 hectare parkland will allow residents to get back to nature in the heart of Sydney's southwest. Willowdale exemplifies Stockland's philosophy of creating affordable, highly liveable communities as well as fostering healthy and active lifestyles.''

Once complete, the Willowdale creek corridor will not only provide a refuge for flora and fauna species and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, but also contribute to shade and heat relief in Western Sydney, helping to build greater resilience to impacts of climate change.

Willowdale is a 6 star Green Star Community, as certified by the Green Building Council of Australia.

To access the complete list of documents in Stockland's Sustainability Deep Dive Series, click here.