

ORDINARY MEETING	11
1 MAY 2024	

RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT GIFTED GLOBAL GREEN PROGRAM

61/7/2-01 | #7360358

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Approves a three-year Resource and Performance Agreement with the Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre to support their Gifted Global Green program for \$10,000 (plus up to \$1,000 in-kind event support) per annum, commencing 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2027.**
- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to finalise any and all matters associated with the Resource and Performance Agreement.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre (HBEEC) is an Education Queensland facility located at Holloways Beach. In 2014, the HBEEC introduced a program that caters for gifted and talented students at primary schools in the Cairns area, called the Cairns District Schools Science and Environmental Sustainability Enrichment Program, since rebranded as the Gifted Global Green program (the Program).

Council has a long-established relationship with the HBEEC that commenced in 2004, supporting the education of students on topics of sustainability and the environment. Council has provided funding and in-kind expertise to the Program since 2014, helping students successfully raise awareness and create change in their schools and communities. A full list of the 2021-2023 Agreement of student-led projects are detailed in Attachment 1.

The current Resource and Performance Agreement (R&P Agreement) between Council and the HBEEC is due to conclude on 30 June 2024 and HBEEC is seeking the continued support of Council. The Program encourages the development of real-world skills based on current environmental issues to educate the future scientists and innovators of our region.

It is recommended that Council enter into another R&P Agreement for a period of 3 years with a contribution of \$10,000 (plus up to \$1,000 in-kind event support) per annum until the 30 June 2027, consistent with the current level of financial support.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2004, Council has had a strong working relationship with HBEEC, assisting with financial contribution, program support and officer time. From 2006 - 2011, Council supported the centre with a \$10,000 per annum sponsorship to deliver education initiatives in schools through the EnergyWise Program, Queensland Environmental Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) and the Earth Smart Science Schools Program (ESSS). This support ceased in 2012.

In 2013 and 2014, Council provided up to \$5,000 per annum funding for the HBEEC through the Community Sustainability Grant, including funding for interpretive signage highlighting traditional and modern uses for specific plants, and for providing visiting schools with a Sustainability Kit and a litter free lunch.

In 2014, Council entered into a Resource and Performance agreement with the HBEEC to fund the Environmental Sustainability Enrichment Program for a period of three (3) years. The Program supported talented and gifted science students in the region, selected from their science results, to deliver a real-life sustainability project in their local school and community.

In 2021, the Program was rebranded as Gifted Global Green. Students undertake projects across a diverse range of environmental issues within local schools and the community. They receive training to build leadership capabilities, including teamwork, presentation skills for radio and stakeholders.

In 2023, The program delivered a wide range of engaging projects with an increased focus on aligning projects with Council's own sustainability goals and the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). A full list of the 2021-2023 Agreement of student-led projects are detailed in Attachment 1.

Council Officers from Water and Environment, Resource Recovery, Natural Areas Management and Sustainability have provided support to students during this Resource and Performance Agreement, for individual projects and as part of a stakeholder reference group/expert panel.

Each year students visit the Council chambers with their teachers and present their ideas to Council. The Mayor and Councillors have attended the presentation and celebration events over the past three years, providing feedback and presenting the students and teachers with certificates of completion.

COMMENT:

The HBEEC Gifted Global Green program is aimed at engaging talented and gifted Year five students in applying science to on ground environmental sustainability issues. Students are required to work with stakeholders and teachers to develop their knowledge, skills and attributes to deliver projects in our community, taking responsibility for creating a sustainable future. The Program acknowledges and empowers youth in contributing to managing sustainability issues of our region.

The HBEEC is seeking funding from Council for a further three years for the Program. The funding will assist with:

- program delivery, activities and student support; and
- student and community events.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves a three-year Resource and Performance Agreement with the Holloway's Beach Environmental Education Centre to support their Gifted Global Green program for \$10,000 (plus up to \$1,000 in-kind event support) per annum, commencing 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2027.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to finalise any and all matters associated with the Resource and Performance Agreement.

Option 2

That Council does not continue to support the program.

Option 3

That Council approves a Resource and Performance Agreement for a different amount or period.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

There are no identified risks with supporting the project. The funding provided under the Resource and Performance Agreement would be acquitted annually.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

This project will require \$10,000 to support the program annually, plus up to \$1,000 in-kind support annually for event catering, for the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. This is included in draft 2024/25 budget.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

Students participating in the Program have a chance to actively work within their local schools and communities to develop projects which positively influence behaviour, informed by local experts and science.

Natural Environment:

This program educates students using real-world situations to develop skills for the future leaders of tomorrow to protect and enhance our natural environment. It promotes awareness in schools and the community about reef and waterway health, biodiversity, climate change, litter and waste management and other significant environmental issues. The program also includes a focus on delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, supporting Council and the community's progress towards these goals.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The Program supports the Corporate Plan 2021-2026 and Council's vision to 'value our natural environment, lifestyle and surroundings' by helping to advance Council's Natural Assets and Design for Liveability strategic goals:

- Prioritise water security to accommodate population growth
- Improve resource recovery through new technologies for a green circular economy
- Value and protect Cairns' pristine natural environment
- Encourage community and business to adopt sustainable practices.
- Address opportunities for sustainable travel choices

The Program supports the Cairns Climate Change Strategy 2030 vision to be a leader in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change by:

- Prioritising a healthy natural environment and;
- Building resilient, informed, low emissions communities, specifically to involve youth in climate change planning, education and action.

It also aligns with education goals within the Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy 2018-2027 to Empower our community to embrace waste avoidance, reduction and reuse.

Statutory:

Nil

Policy:

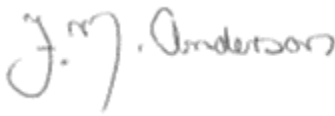
The Program aligns with the Corporate Sustainability General Policy and Community Grant Policy.

CONSULTATION:

Internal engagement has been undertaken within Council, including Water and Environment, Waste Education and Sustainability, who recommend the program's continuation and recognise its unique value for dedicated environmental education. Council has also been approached by other environmental education programs which are run from outside the region; however, this locally-run, well established program is recommended for its strong delivery record, value for money and collaborative approach to programming in line with Council's strategic goals.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre Student Projects 2021-2023





Fleur Anderson
Executive Manager, Growth and Sustainability





Ed Johnson
Director Planning, Planning, Growth and Sustainability

Attachment 1: Gifted Global Green (GGG) Student Projects Summary 2021-2023

GGG STUDENT PROJECTS 2023

	NAME/SCHOOL	PROJECT
1	<p>WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL</p>  <p>On air clip - GGG program and Whitfi</p>	<p>OUTDOOR LEARNING AT WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL</p> <p>Through a Principal initiated student survey, it was clear that outdoor learning was very important to the students at Whitfield State School. This prompted a GGG project to restore and enhance a rainforest plot at the back of the school, complementing the school's 4-year plan. Enhancing the biodiversity and improving student access would provide a natural learning area that can be safely explored and enjoyed. Data collection included bird and plant identification with regular monitoring to record changes.</p> 



<p>2</p>	<p>YORKEYS KNOB STATE SCHOOL</p>	<p>THE WEED WARRIORS OF YORKEYS</p> <p>Many years ago, a large parcel of protected coastal wetland at the back of Yorkeys Knob State School was designated as an environmental park for school projects. Over the passage of time, the area has become impacted by invasive plants, many of which have originated from household garden waste. The Yorkeys Knob SS GGG team restored the land as much as possible back to its natural state. The historical land use has been researched to gain an understanding of decisions made previously, incorporating this knowledge in future planning of the area. Long term, enhancement of the area for the public will include removal of weeds, pathway maintenance and improvement, revegetating with native plants, and erection of interpretive signage.</p> <div data-bbox="475 577 1385 896"><p>Treeforce Cairns is with Yorkeys Knob State School and Rhonda Coghlan - Div. 8 Councillor, Cairns Regional Council. September 14, 2023 · 🌍</p><p>A glorious afternoon well spent helping the gifted global green #students #plant #trees at Yorkeys Knob State School nature reserve today 🌿🌳</p><p>We learnt all about why illegal dumping of green waste in natural areas is so harmful and how we can help our natives thrive by removing them 🍷</p><p>A huge thank you to all who came along and helped out today, such a wonderfully caring school community of #passionate environmentalists 🙌</p><p>Th... See more</p></div> <div data-bbox="475 907 1385 1668"><p>A collage of five photographs showing a group of people, including students and adults, engaged in a weed removal activity. The photos show individuals kneeling and pulling weeds, holding up plants they have removed, and posing for group photos in a natural setting. One photo in the bottom right corner has a '+3' overlaid on it, indicating more photos in the gallery.</p></div>
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3 **WHITE ROCK STATE SCHOOL**

REGALS OF THE REEF

Always hearing about the aesthetically pleasing creatures of the sea, the White Rock SS GGG team discovered that most of the conservation funding goes towards supporting our graceful turtles and bubbly, playful dolphins. The team decided that there are plenty of animals doing wonderful things for the environment that go unnoticed because they are deemed “ugly”. The team created a stop-motion animation about the benefits of these creatures in the environment in an effort to raise their profile. A drawing competition was conducted in a bid to have the winning design transferred onto a t-shirt as a prize.



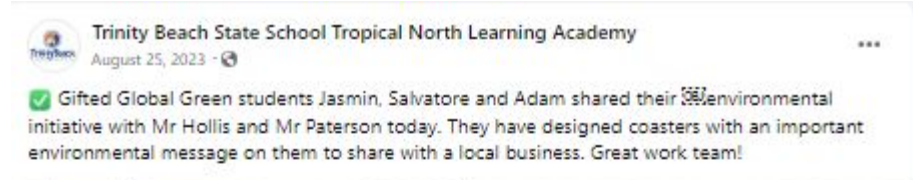
<p>4</p>	<p>ISABELLA STATE SCHOOL</p>	<p>IMPACT ISABELLA</p> <p>Focusing on reducing the ecological footprint of Isabella State School, the GGG Team investigated ways to improve the school's sustainability practices. With support from the school's Eco-warriors' group, key staff and Cairns Regional Council, the team brainstormed ideas to implement a more efficient school recycling program.</p> <p>Following on from a water conservation project a couple of years ago based on developing water saving behaviours in the school community, the GGG team went a step further by collecting rainwater in a tank for the school garden and communicating this through film.</p> <p></p> <p>Today the Isabella State School Gifted Global Green Team, Kaitlin, Liueni, and Caleb learned about interviewing and filming techniques at Whitfield State School. The team is very excited to implement some environmentally sustainable programs at Isabella during 2023.</p> 
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<p>5</p>	<p>PARRAMATTA STATE SCHOOL</p>	<p>KINGS OF THE OCEAN</p> <p>After an excursion to the Cairns Aquarium, the Parramatta SS GGG team became concerned about the future of sharks and how their decline in numbers could impact the ecosystem. As an apex predator sharks play an important role in maintaining the balance of marine life. Unfortunately, worldwide, sharks have been portrayed in a negative way leading to a large scale misrepresentation of sharks. By providing accurate facts and figures about the real threat of sharks to human life and highlighting the environmental significance of sharks, the students hope to change the negative community perception.</p> <p></p> <p></p>
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6 TRINITY BEACH STATE SCHOOL

THE BLUEWATER WATERWAY WARRIORS

Sighting litter in the beautiful Bluewater Estate prompted the Trinity Beach SS GGG team to investigate ways to prevent litter going into this waterway and out to the ocean. Bluewater is an area of water and land in Trinity Beach, featuring waterfront house sites, restaurants, parklands and a marina. Identifying litter 'hotspots' by surveying the community, the team targeted areas and developed a strategy to educate the school and wider community about the issues of litter in the ocean. It was proposed to local restaurants to use drink coasters with an anti-littering message designed by the students.



7 HAMBLEDON STATE SCHOOL

SEAGRASS SAVIOURS

With an increasing knowledge on seagrass importance came an increasing passion and dedication by the Hambleton State School GGG Team to advocate for the protection of this very special underwater plant. As expected, presurvey results of the school community indicated that seagrass and its significance is relatively unknown. The Hambleton SS GGG team will embark on an education campaign highlighting the need to protect seagrass meadows and how this can be achieved. The plan is for resources to be developed, including an educational video to be made available to tourists by accessing a link from a QR code. Prior to screening, tour boat operators and representatives from GBR Biology will be asked to assist with video content.



Hambleton State School
December 5, 2023 · 🌐

On Saturday, the Gifted Global Green students presented their Seagrass Saviour project on board the Big Cat Green Island tour boat vessel to an audience of local, national and international tourists. The group were then lucky enough to seagrass up close on a glass bottom boat, a semi submergible and a guided snorkelling tour.

Well done to Hambleton's Gifted Global Green students for promoting environmental sustainability to such a large audience.

You can be a Seagrass Saviour too. Click the link below watch the video and leave your pledge in the comment section below.
<https://www.facebook.com/HambletonStateSchool/videos/237764055674842>



GGG STUDENT PROJECTS 2022

	NAME/SCHOOL	PROJECT
1	Babinda SS GGG	<p>TEACH TO NOT BLEACH, TO SAVE OUR REEF</p> <p>The impact of coral bleaching events was brought to the attention of the Babinda SS GGG students through presentations by the Sustainability Officer at Cairns Regional Council and the Senior Wildlife Officer at Cairns Aquarium. Prompted to investigate simple actions that could be implemented in the local area to reduce coral reef loss resulted in students developing an education campaign consolidating it through the school curriculum.</p>
2	Isabella State School	<p>MYNAS ARE A MAJOR PROBLEM</p> <p>A familiar sight at Isabella State School, the infamous introduced Myna bird is now under the watchful eyes of the school's GGG team. The Isabella State School GGG team embarked on an awareness crusade to persuade the school and wider community to adopt strategies to reduce Myna bird populations. Easy and practical strategies to discourage Myna birds from the school grounds was also implemented.</p>
3	Yorkeys Knob State School	<p>THE CURFEW OF CURLEWS</p> <p>The Bush-Stone Curlew population at Yorkeys Knob State School play an important role in the school's rich biodiversity. Comprehensive data was collected about the curlews using night cameras provided and set up by Cairns Regional Council. Ensuring the school population knows of the ecological significance of the curlew would contribute to the preservation of this species in the school grounds.</p>
4	Whitfield State School	<p>ZOOXAN THELLAE AND BEYOND</p> <p>An excursion to the Cairns Aquarium provided the inspiration to target the health of the Great Barrier Reef for Whitfield State School's GGG project. Senior Wildlife Educator, Christine Jorgenson drew attention to the impact of climate change and coral bleaching events leading to the loss of coral coverage. Creation of an information video and a colouring competition formed part of the awareness campaign.</p>
5	White Rock State School	<p>BIO-DEFAKE-ABLES</p> <p>Greenwashing, ambiguous marketing to entice environmental conscience consumers to purchase products they believe to be eco-friendly sparked the interest of the White Rock State School GGG team. A personal, motivational video to the GGG team from Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis explained the extent of greenwashing, and the importance of effective communication to engage different target audiences. Comparison between decomposition of different packaging products was very interesting. With the help of Junkweavers and school staff, the GGG team have used art as a way to reuse packaging</p>

GGG STUDENT PROJECTS 2021

	NAME/ SCHOOL	PROJECT
1	GORDONVALE STATE SCHOOL	<p>A Greener Gordonvale</p> <p>The 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) have been adopted by the countries of the United Nations with Australia being one of them. Students will endeavour to educate the Gordonvale community about the SDGs and will work with Helen Reilly (Plastic Free Cairns), Scott Paterson (Cairns Regional Council) and owners of Coco Sushi to reduce waste in the business community highlighting Coco Sushi as an outstanding example of how this can be achieved.</p>
2	ISABELLA STATE SCHOOL	<p>Wet, Water, Wise</p> <p>After analysing water use data during a comprehensive school water audit, students embarked on a water education campaign, encouraging the school and school community to adopt water saving habits. Upgrading and replacing faulty plumbing fixtures was identified as a simple way to reduce water wastage. Future education campaigns will endeavour to include the school mascot, Izzy the Water Dragon in water education campaigns.</p>
3	PARRAMATTA STATE SCHOOL	<p>Aquatic Invaders</p> <p>Freshwater ecosystems can be threatened by the invasion of non-native fish and also native fish that have been moved out of their naturally occurring habitat. After an excursion to the Cairns Aquarium, the plight of the Lake Eacham Rainbow Fish was highlighted to the students. The Lake Eacham Rainbow Fish has become extinct in Lake Eacham due to the introduction of the Mouth Almighty. Guided by Fish Ecologist, Dr Brendan Ebner the students gained a more in depth understanding of problems of introducing fish into waterways they do not belong. Using song helps to reinforce learning. With the assistance of their music teacher, the students created a rap to grab the attention of a younger audience and highlight the issues of introducing 'aquatic invaders'.</p>
4	TRINITY BEACH STATE SCHOOL	<p>Wetland Wonderland</p> <p>Through rejuvenating and rehabilitating a section of land that tended to result in muddy pools in the school grounds during the wet season, students will improve the natural ecosystem, resulting in an increase in plant and animal species. Jared Sunderland from JCU provided advice around best practices to progress this project including information on plant selection and improving soil quality. Comparison of data on birds and litter prior to and after natural enhancement of the area will show an increase in bird species as well as a reduction in litter.</p>

5	WHITE ROCK STATE SCHOOL	<p>White Rock Ant Busters</p> <p>Being in the vicinity of Yellow Crazy Ant (YCA) infestations and with the school community survey results showing limited knowledge about the pest species, the students decided to investigate innovative ways to communicate the importance of being alert to the presence of YCA and reporting YCA infestations. A film clip with students singing a catchy rap song, with backing music and their teacher in a yellow crazy ant costume was a fun strategy to spread the word. A strong partnership with the Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Team helped progress the project to a professional level. The incorporation of a costume, made by the craft group from the Anglican Church in Gordonvale provided an entertaining and engaging element.</p>
6	WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL	<p>Whizzy's Water Warriors</p> <p>Becoming aware of the water ingress problems in the school grounds and learning more about the connectivity to the Reef through the urban stormwater drain system gave students food for thought when considering their project direction. It is hoped the hydrologist's report will provide some solutions in the water issues. A meeting with Cr Max O'Halloran, resulted in swift action in clearing the McManus Street drain assisting in flood prevention diverting rainwater back into a natural body of water. Alignment with other school priorities like the construction of an undercover multipurpose shed, has overlapped with the project giving it more traction.</p>