Redlands 2030
creating our future

Natural Environment
Fact Sheet

Natural environment in the Redlands

Redland CITY COUNCIL

Now	The Future – In 2030
In the decade from 1996 to 2006, greenhouse gas emissions increased by 38% per resident. Greenhouse gas emissions across the city rose by 70.5% in the same period.	It is likely that greenhouse gas emissions will increase at around 4% per annum.
The Federal Government has clearly stated that expert scientific evidence confirms human activity is altering the climate. Even if greenhouse gas emissions are drastically reduced, climate change will continue into the next few decades.	By 2050, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that a rise in sea levels and an increase in the severity and frequency of storms, may exacerbate flood risk in coastal communities. This concern is consistent with Queensland State Government modelling which predicts an increase in sea levels and storm tide heights by 2100.
In 2007-08, average residential water consumption was 192 litres per person per day. From 2004 to 2006, water consumption decreased by 110 litres. Water consumption reduced from 320 litres per person per day in 2004-05, to 210 litres per person per day in2006-07.	The IPCC states that as a result of reduced precipitation and increased evaporation, water security problems are projected to intensify by 2030 in southern and eastern Australia. The SEQ water grid provides greater water security for the Redlands. However, the region is subject to the same shortages as other areas of SEQ.
In 2006, about 29,000 hectares, or 55%, of intact remnant vegetation remained from an original 53,096 hectares at European settlement. 80% of intact remnant vegetation is on North Stradbroke Island. Between 2001 and 2003, an average of 121.2 hectares was cleared each year.	If land clearing continues at the 2001-03 rate, an extra 2,900 hectares will have been cleared by 2030. This leaves 26,100 hectares or less than half of the original vegetation.

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Now	The Future – In 2030
The Redlands freshwater catchment ecosystems were given an F (fail) grade from 2004 to 2007 and major estuaries a D grade (rising to C last year) during the same period – in the successive SEQ Healthy Waterways Report Cards.	Ongoing urbanisation will place greater pressure on our waterways. A sustained effort is needed to halt and reverse any decline in the ecosystem.
Among the Redland's 39 regional ecosystems, almost half (15) are considered as either 'endangered' (4) or 'of concern' (11) under the Vegetation Management Act 1997. Redland City has 568 recorded species of native fauna of which 40 are either endangered or vulnerable. There are also about 1000 species of native plant with 15 endangered or vulnerable species.	Land clearing will place extra pressure on local ecosystems and could endanger local species.
The Redlands community is involved in various conservation management programs including: • Bushcare (44 groups and around 350 volunteers) • Land for Wildlife (117 properties) • Rural Support (74 properties) • Your Backyard Garden (400 properties over 3 years) • Schools program.	Global concern about environmental issues is likely to increase. Environmental protection will remain a priority item on the agenda of all governments. Community involvement in care of the environment will increase.
In 2007-2008 the total domestic waste sent to landfill was 445 kgs per person per year.	Greenhouse gas emission associated with domestic waste disposal will be monitored by the Federal Government's carbon pollution reduction scheme. There is a possibility that the State Government may levy landfill operators. This cost might be passed on to residents.

The implications of these trends

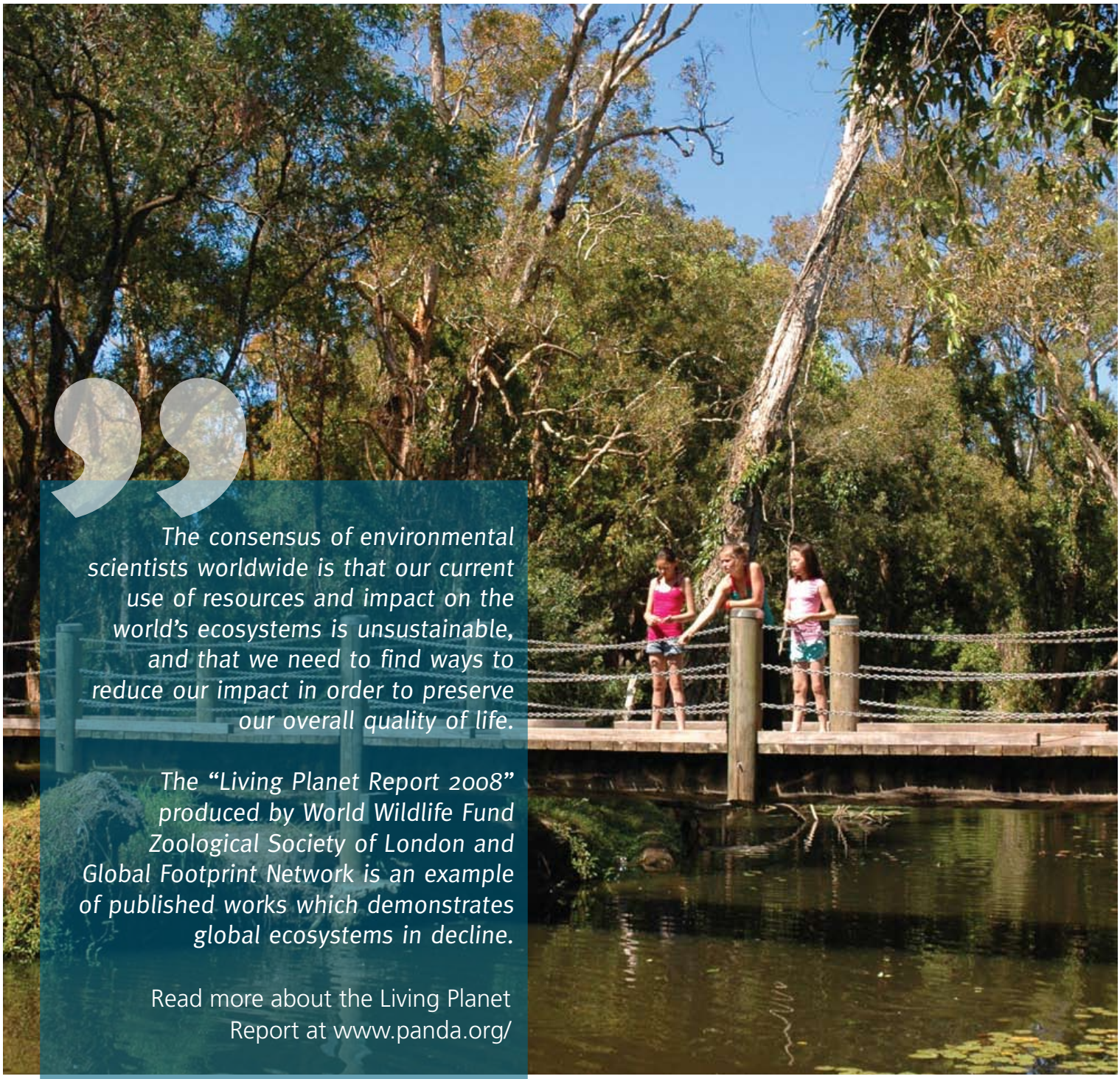
The Redlands is renowned for its pristine waters, picturesque islands and local wildlife. The region's natural beauty attracts many visitors to the area. Its relaxed lifestyle and proximity to the Islands is a drawcard for would-be residents. However, an increase in population and visitation to the area, places extra pressure on the region's natural resources.

Some environmental issues, such as climate change, are global in nature and local residents in Redland City only have limited scope to influence them. Others, such as loss of habitat, declining waterway health, and the preservation of endangered species, can be managed at a local level.

The key challenges for the Redlands are:

- ensuring local efforts help avoid or minimise global climate change
- adapting to local impacts of climate change in ways that preserve our quality of life
- finding ways to accommodate our share of population growth with the least negative impact on local ecosystems, and the most efficient use of natural resources such as fuel and water.

Redland City Council already has a number of environmental protection plans and policies in place, and has set up a system of monitoring and reporting on the quality of the environment over time. The local community also has a high level of involvement in, and knowledge of, environmental issues. This puts Redland City in a strong position to deal with future challenges.



The consensus of environmental scientists worldwide is that our current use of resources and impact on the world's ecosystems is unsustainable, and that we need to find ways to reduce our impact in order to preserve our overall quality of life.

The "Living Planet Report 2008" produced by World Wildlife Fund Zoological Society of London and Global Footprint Network is an example of published works which demonstrates global ecosystems in decline.

Read more about the Living Planet Report at www.panda.org/

More information

If you want to know more about the Redlands environment, have a look at the State of the Environment report at **www.redland.qld.gov.au** > **Environment** > **Management Plans** > **State of the Environment report**

1300 665 660

redlands2030@redland.qld.gov.au

redlands2030.com.au

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