

Environmental Sustainability

Priority: To inspire, by example, in the areas of campus development, subtropical architecture and environmental sustainability.

■ **Maintaining the University's reputation as a regional exemplar and a national leader in campus development and in the conservation of natural resources**

Awards

In 2005, the University's Information and Communications Technology Centre won 'Project of the Year – Sunshine Coast' in the Education Facilities over \$10 million category of the Master Builders, Queensland Housing and Construction Awards. It was also short-listed by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter as being a commendable work of architecture in the region.

Water Management

During the year further work was carried out to the series of man-made lakes used to contain the water from the University campus and the nearby Chancellor Park housing development before it reaches the Mooloolah River National Park. Islands built in the lakes during 2004, were planted with melaleucas which in a short space of time have become a preferred bird habitat.

■ **Continuing to refine approaches to subtropical architecture, in particular for heating and cooling of work environments**

Ecological Footprint

The Institute of Sustainable Health and Regional Engagement (iShaRE) undertook an ecological footprint study of the University to assess its impact on the environment. The aim of the project was to find ways of lowering energy consumption. Key

recommendations of the study related to the way in which building management and efficient cooling systems could be used to reduce energy consumption. Simple actions that could be taken by individuals, such as adjusting temperature control by as little as 1.5 degrees Celsius, were found to influence energy consumption.

Building of Choice

In consultation with the architects the Stage 6 General Purpose Building, to be constructed in 2006, has been designed as a 'building of choice' providing multi-modal ventilation that provides the flexibility of regulating individual work area temperatures and using airconditioning when and if required.

Water Plant

The final stage of a central chilled water plant was completed in 2005 to provide economic generation of cooling systems.

■ **Ensuring the security and integrity of the campus as the surrounding urban fabric becomes denser**

Car Park Security

Following a series of motor vehicle break-ins and thefts in early 2005, the University has undertaken a review of car park security, and has taken remedial action to upgrade lighting and passive security using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. Since the completion of this work, theft of motor vehicles and contents has dramatically reduced. New car parks will incorporate additional security systems and infrastructure.

A new security access program continued to be rolled-out and a change from analogue to digital systems has improved CCTV monitoring.



The University's Information and Communications Technology Centre was awarded 'Project of the Year-Sunshine Coast' at the Master Builders, Queensland Housing and Construction Awards.



Kangaroos move freely between the University campus and the Mooloolah River National Park.

■ **Ensuring the maintenance of a green campus corridor to link with the Mooloolah River National Park to provide for the movement of kangaroos and other wildlife**

Kangaroos on Campus

Kangaroos move freely between the University campus and Mooloolah River National Park. Claymore Road, situated between the campus and the national park, was upgraded in 2003. As part of the road planning, high fences and underpasses were built to enable animals access to regular feeding areas without crossing the road. Ongoing monitoring of kangaroos through the underpasses indicates the underpasses are being used and kangaroos still populate the campus.

Compensatory Habitat

In 2003, the University was approached by Maroochy Shire Council and a local developer to provide 15.5 hectares of land as a compensatory habitat for native plant regeneration. During 2005 work commenced on the relocation of the plant seed bank to the designated site. Relocation involves removing soil and vegetation in slabs from the original site to be re-laid on the prepared University site.

Investigative work determined the best method for transporting and re-laying these slabs without damaging the seedbank. The habitat site is strategically placed to provide a buffer zone between Claymore Road and the University campus and will act as an additional protection for the kangaroos.

■ **Encouraging a respect for the campus as an environmental sanctuary**

Ongoing Communication

To ensure the safety of the indigenous fauna, additional signage was erected relating to the prohibition of domestic animals on campus. University staff continue to explain to visitors that the kangaroos should be viewed from a distance.

Indicators of Success

■ **Awards for Campus Development**

The University's Information and Communications Technology Centre won 'Project of the Year – Sunshine Coast' in the Master Builders, Queensland Housing and Construction Awards.

■ **Decrease the number of serious security breaches on campus**

There were no serious security breaches during 2005.



Visitors to campus are aware that kangaroos should be viewed from a distance.