

## Aquatic and lakeside plants

Aquatic plants are often mistaken for weeds but are the foundation of a healthy, flourishing lake, remove nutrients and pollutants and produce oxygen.

While some people may like the look of open, clear waterways, aquatic plants help clean the water by absorbing nutrients that would otherwise stimulate algal blooms; provide habitat, food and cover for fish, birds and other wildlife.

Council carefully balances the need to control aquatic vegetation by considering aesthetics, water quality and habitat for water animals.

While grassed areas around the lake edges may look nice, reeds and plants filter runoff and can stop litter and pollutants from entering the waterway and prevent erosion.



## Lakes as habitats

Lakes provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Many bird species, such as Cormorants, Herons and Black Swans rely on these areas for food, shelter and to nest.

A healthy lake system is also essential for many fish species.

Healthy lakes also sustain many insect species, grazing snails, crabs, prawns and amphibians.

Reeds and other aquatic vegetation provide vital habitat for turtles, lizards and eels.

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# Living Lakeside on the Fraser Coast



Residents can help keep our waterways healthy for the plants and animals which share them with us.

## What you can do

There are many ways you can help make sure our waterways stay healthy.

Every time it rains, oils, detergents, paints, fertilisers, grass cuttings, animal wastes and soil can be washed directly into the stormwater system and the lakes.

This can result in poor water quality, algal blooms and fish kills.

Litter washed into waterways can kill fish, birds and other aquatic wildlife that mistake it for food.

To help reduce stormwater pollution and protect our waterways, residents can:

- Pick up animal droppings and put them in a bin or compost.
- Preserve aquatic plants near your property and consider joining a Council program to plant trees and shrubs next to the shoreline.
- Dispose of rubbish in a bin so it does not blow into the lake.
- Compost lawn clippings and garden waste or take it to the green waste area at a transfer station or landfill.
- Dispose of fish tank contents on your lawn or garden and not in a lake.
- Dispose of cigarette butts responsibly.
- Wash your car and other equipment on the lawn to stop detergents, pollutants



and nutrients washing into the lakes.

- Avoid over-watering lawns and use fertilisers in moderation to stop excess nutrients being washed into the lakes.
- Install silt fencing along shorelines and keep building materials covered when building or renovating.
- Minimise erosion and create a buffer zone to catch litter by joining a Council environment program to plant native vegetation along the lake edge.
- Report pollution to Council on 1300 79 49 29 or [enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

## How your actions help

When all positive actions are combined, we reduce the impacts on our waterways. We can work together as a community to make sure our lakes continue to provide enjoyment and protect the many plant and animal species that rely on them.

## Home beautiful

Lakes are one of our greatest assets, providing tranquil surrounds, and add to our enjoyment and lifestyle.

They are also home to fauna and flora that depend on a healthy ecosystem which can react to environmental, seasonal and weather changes.

Their appearance and condition can change, including plant growth in and around the water due to weather changes and pollution.

## Recreation and lifestyle

Council does not encourage fishing, paddling or sailing on lakes as many are stormwater detention basins and may contain pollutants or increased levels of bacteria.

They are great for bird watchers and offer great water views and relaxed surroundings, making waterfront properties sought after addresses.

