

# WILDLIFE DIARY

## May 2015

### Great Finds

**Eastern Water Dragons**, *Itellagama lesueurii* continue to soak up the winter sun while they can. The name *Physignathus* translates to "puff-cheek". *Physignathus* comprises two recognised species; *Physignathus lesueurii* and *Physignathus concinicus*. The specific name *lesueurii* honours the French naturalist Charles-Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846). There are two recognised subspecies the **Eastern Water Dragon**, *Physignathus lesueurii lesueurii* and the **Gippsland Water Dragon**, *Physignathus lesueurii howittii*. A recent taxonomic review concluded that the Australian species of *Physignathus* shows enough differing characteristics to classify it in its own genus, *Itellagama*.

### Population

*Whether instability is worsened by overpopulation or uneven distribution of natural resources, most experts warn that countries with high population growth and not enough resources to provide for their people are likely to breed unrest locally and export it abroad.*

Population Institute

### Bullrushes

*Bullrushes*, *Typha orientalis* and *Typha domingensis* are both erect native perennials which grow to 4 metres. Found commonly around the bayside region in slower moving waterways and wetland areas. The leaves are flat or slightly rounded, sometimes spongy. There are male and female flowers on the same stem, the male flowers crowd the top section of the spike and the female flowers crowd the section just below. They are an important source of food and shelter for wildlife, they stabilise banks and prevent erosion due to their extensive network of roots (rhizomes).

### The importance of corridors

Riparian corridors often support higher biodiversity than non-riparian habitat and provide a valuable refuge for many species during droughts and fires. The nature of this habitat makes it potential climate refugia. Climate refugia are those areas less likely to undergo significant climate induced changes and therefore valuable as they protect biodiversity. As climate change continues it's expected that the koala distribution will contract East and South and it would be prudent to protect and rehabilitate the wetter habitats currently threatened by urbanisation.

### Did you Know?

Did you know that it appears Council may sell off public bushland and parklands to developers? Keep a close watch on your patch. Concerned? Contact the Deputy Premier [deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au) and tell her not to approve any change to the Redland Town Plan that allows such areas to have their land use changed to residential development.

Did you know that the Redland Council appears set to open large areas of the Redlands for development? This development will increase the loss of bushland, vehicle movement and domestic dogs in areas used by koalas. Concerned? Contact the Deputy Premier [deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au) and tell her not to approve any change to the Redland Town Plan that allows koala habitat be subject to increased development.

### Great Walks



With the colder weather approaching visit some of our rainforest and woodland patches. Here you may sight some of the rainforest birds that use these patches in winter as they move from their homes in the mountains to warmer and more productive lowland areas. West Mt Cotton, Peel island and North Stradbroke Island..

### Web Sites

**WPSQ Coastal Community Science**  
<http://wpsqccs.wordpress.com/>

**Population Institute**

<http://www.populationinstitute.org/>

**ENSO Tracker**

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/tracker/>

**Healthy Waterways Awards**

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=14ea1399ad0ff0154a462752b&id=57967feaf6&e=2f552f7731>

# don' t adopt The SEENEY Plan

It is a shame that with the sound beating dealt out to the pro-development anti-environment LNP government the Council and State Government seem set to adopt the planning scheme promoted by the LNP. This is a plan developed under the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning of Queensland, Mr. Seeney.

In essence unless the State Government and Council change tack they will be adopting the Seeney Plan.

This is a plan that said remove sea level change from planning. [Jeff Seeney orders council to remove sea levels reference from regional plan](#)

**Source:** <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/jeff-seeney-orders-council-to-remove-sea-levels-reference-from-regional-plan-20141210-123zag.html>

This is despite the science showing sea levels are rising faster than ever and are a real threat to coastal communities. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-12/sea-level-rise-accelerates-faster-in-past-20-years/6461752>

Whose interests was the LNP Plan protecting, the community or a few individuals?

The science shows koalas are on a rapid decline to extinction.

The results of the 2008 Koala Coast koala survey estimates a population of 2279 animals. Based on the population estimate of 4611 koalas in 2005-2006, this represents a 51% decline in less than three years and a 64% decline in the 10 years since the original 1996 -1999 estimate of 6246 koalas. The full report can be found here.

[https://wildlifebayside.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/decline\\_of\\_the\\_koala\\_coast\\_koala\\_population\\_status\\_in\\_2008.pdf](https://wildlifebayside.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/decline_of_the_koala_coast_koala_population_status_in_2008.pdf)

Despite the science the LNP encouraged urban expansion into koala habitat.

The LNP also said it wouldn't interfere with local planning but our own council said this wasn't the case. Some council credit the removal of the LNP government as a direct result of the LNP pro-development interfering style. [From the Sunshine Coast: "It is clear the Premier, Campbell Newman, and Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney wading into local planning matters and not listening to the community had a serious impact on the election outcome."](#)

So it begs the question. If Queenslanders despise the LNP planning style why then do the State Government and Redland Council seem set to adopt the Seeney Plan?

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- *Margaret Mead*



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