



2022 IECA AUSTRALASIA

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Regional Erosion & Sediment, Education & Trial (RESET) Project

Waterways and coastal foreshores are a vital part of the Sunshine Coast’s identity, prosperity and life-style. Our Sunshine Coast community places strong socio-economic values on our local waterways and ocean environments. They are used for recreation, tourism, food and livelihoods.

The Sunshine Coast’s major river catchments and ocean environments, however, are under increasing pressure from unprecedented growth and development. Water quality results are deteriorating, particularly in the Maroochy and Mooloolah Rivers, because of measurable increases in sediment laden runoff, likely due to poor drainage, erosion and sediment control (ESC) practices across many land practices throughout the catchment.

ESC has been fundamental to Sunshine Coast Council operations for decades. For the past 20 years various staff have worked both in the classroom and in the field to improve ESC practices with mostly positive results, but something was still missing. We sometimes noticed a lack of cohesion between classroom theory and on-ground results, but more importantly – we noticed that staff often did not see the connection between what they were doing on site and how that impacted on our waterways.

We believed it was time to RESET. Reset our thinking, reset the stories we are telling, reset the way we are talking to our diggers and doers, to achieve good, effective ESC practices. We needed to empower our staff to be the change they wanted to see. And to understand the clear link between environmental impacts, their work and their own lives – “What you do during the week, affects how you play on the weekend”. A practical “ESC101” educational program, that highlights the fundamentals of ESC and that speaks to the target audience was needed.

To achieve this goal and address the issues facing our waterways, the team identified a regional need for a practical, on-ground ESC education program and a space to enhance ESC knowledge.



