

What is the



1st Edition







Quarry Life Award? 2025 marks the sixth edition of the Quarry Life Awards, an educational and scientific

Life Awards, an educational and scientific competition first launched in 2012. The program now spans more than 70 quarries across 16 countries, promoting research and community projects that enhance biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

The competition

Across Australia, we'll select outstanding projects that focus on research and community benefits within our quarries.

Selected participants will begin their work in 2025, with national winners announced at our award ceremony in Q4 2025. The top project may then be invited to represent Australia at the international Quarry Life Award ceremony in Germany later that year.

Our aim is to raise awareness for the ecological value at our quarries as well as discovering and sharing new best practices.

The impact

Every submission contributes to improving how we care for and restore our quarry environments.

By sharing your ideas, you help us uncover new ways to enhance biodiversity, strengthen environmental stewardship and create lasting benefits, ensuring that together, we're building a legacy for generations to come.



2012

Warrayure Conservation Offset (Vic) Microbat monitoring

Partner: Stephen Griffiths, University of Melbourne

This study explored the use of artificial roost boxes to support microbat conservation in degraded agricultural landscapes. It documented bat activity, species diversity and the potential of roost boxes as a habitat restoration tool in Victoria's western volcanic plains.

2012

Warrayure Conservation Offset (Vic)

Vegetation plan for grass and wetlands

Partner: La Trobe University

A comprehensive 10-year management plan for Warrayure Conservation Offset, aiming to restore native grasslands and wetlands, reduce invasive species and enhance biodiversity through revegetation, monitoring and community engagement.

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2012

Warrayure Conservation Offset (Vic)

Grassland restoration focusing on endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Altona Skipper Butterfly

Partner: Richards. J, Wlodarczyk. P, Wright. K, Native Vegetation Management Services, a division of GAGIN Pty

A restoration project at Warrayure Offset site to re-establish native temperate grasslands and habitats for endangered species like the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Altona Skipper Butterfly through direct seeding and biodiversity enhancement.

2012

Warrayure Conservation Offset (Vic)

Biodiversity framework

Partner: Hannah Pearson, Maxwell Fraser

The biodiversity framework presented a decision-making model for managing grassland offset sites, integrating biodiversity outcomes, financial costs and community support. Using a Bayesian network to evaluate management actions like burning, grazing and planting.

2012

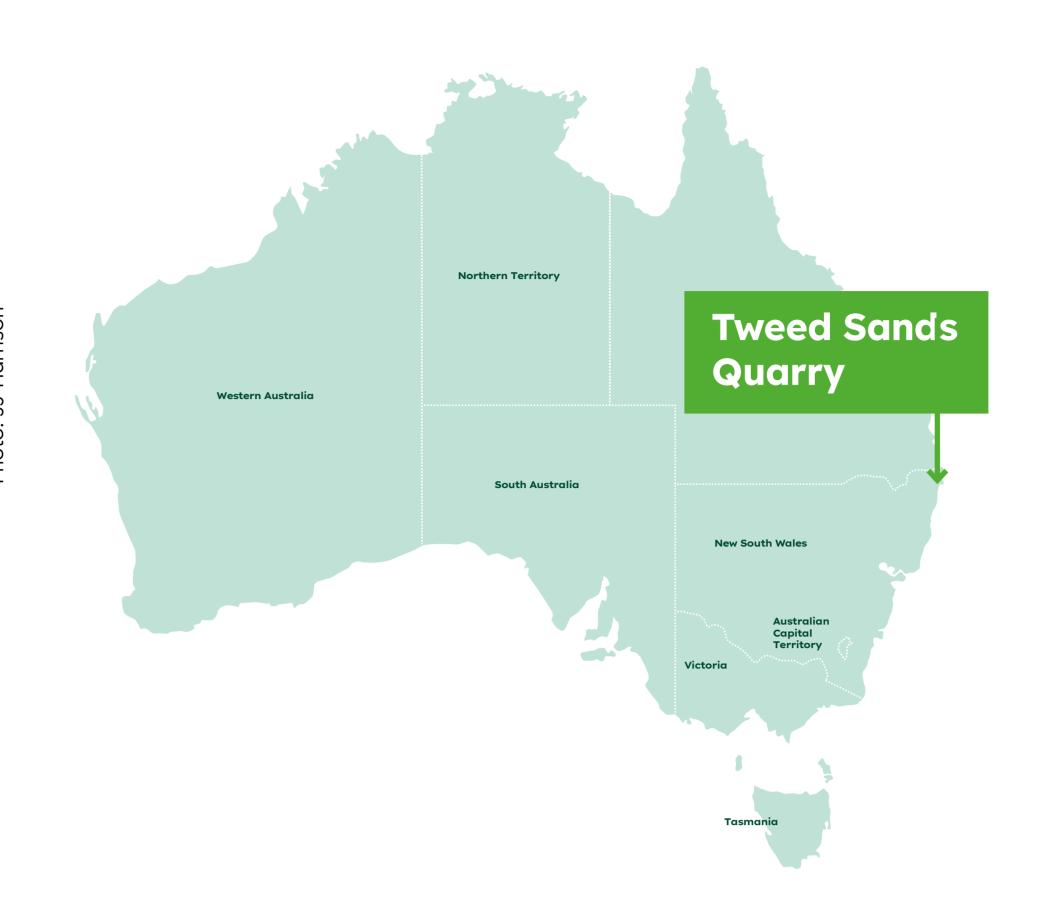
Warrayure Conservation Offset (Vic)

Species monitoring to create appropriate management plans

Partner: Stuart Gardner

The management plan assessed the restoration potential of a 60-hectare offset site in Strathkellar, VIC. Identifying vegetation types, priority weeds such as the Spiny Rush and proposed management actions including weed control, biomass reduction and habitat connectivity to enhance grassland quality for local species such as the Golden Sun Moth.

2nd Edition



2014

2014

framework

Partner: Sophie Malkin

Tweed Sands Quarry (NSW)

Tweed Sands Quarry (NSW)

Community engagement

Presenting a flexible, step-by-step

framework for quarry managers to

engage communities across quarry

life stages. Emphasises biodiversity,

to reduce conflict and supporting

sustainable quarry operations.

transparency and long-term relationships

Soil carbon and the tea tree

Partner: Jacob Woodruff

Exploring low-cost methods to measure soil organic carbon in a tea tree plantation at Tweed Sands. Found *Melaleuca alternifolia* effective for carbon sequestration and proposed community-involved carbon monitoring to support climate action and biodiversity.

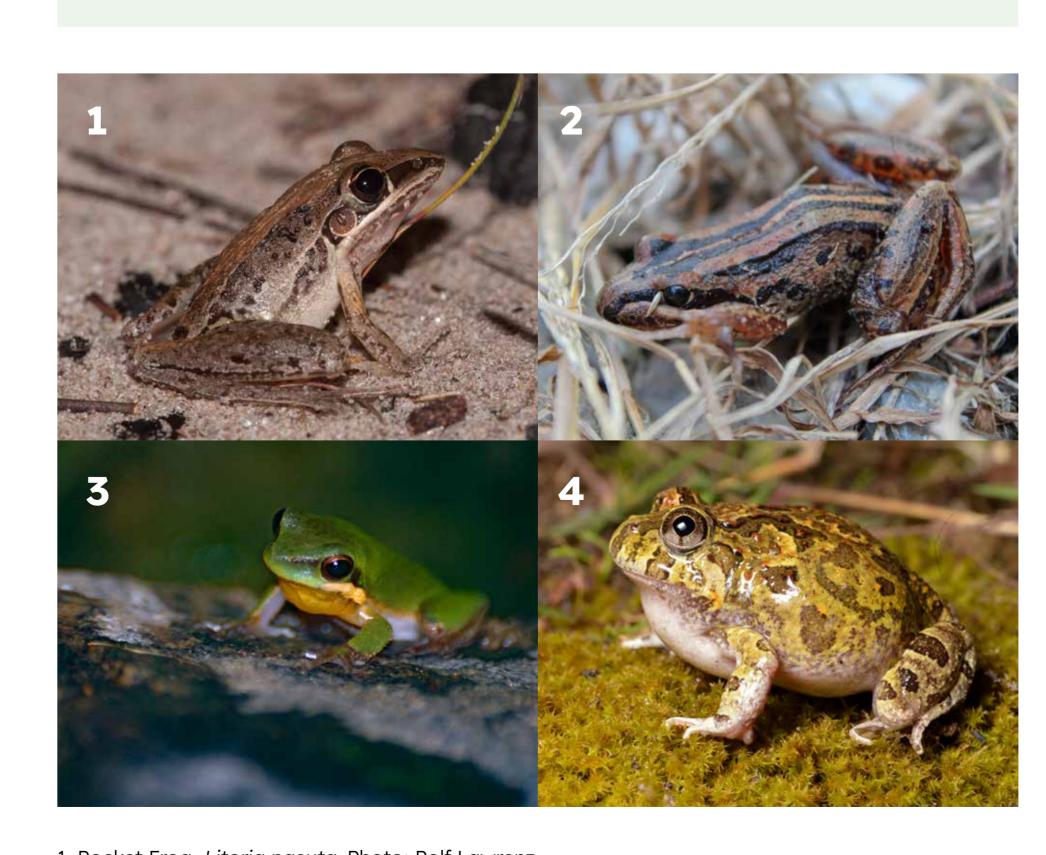
2014

Tweed Sands Quarry (NSW)

Amphibian colonisation of the artificial water body

Partner: Kate Stevenson

Exploring frog colonisation at Tweed Sands Lake. Despite quarry activity, seven native frog species were found. Recommendations included habitat improvements, monitoring and targeted revegetation to support amphibian diversity and mitigate threats like salinity and invasive species.



Rocket Frog, *Litoria nasuta*. Photo: Rolf Lawrenz
 Brown-striped Frog, *Limnodynastes peroni*. Photo: Graham Wise
 Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog, *Litoria fallax*. Photo: Bernard Dupont
 Ornate Burrowing Frog, *Platyplectrum ornatum*. Photo: Will Brown

2014

Tweed Sands Quarry (NSW)

Riparian vegetation management

Partner: Christopher Jones

Assessing riparian vegetation at Tweed Sands Quarry, focusing on Swamp Oak communities. Recommendations included enhancing biodiversity through targeted management, supplement planting and creating a new Lowland Rainforest vegetation type with community involvement.

2014

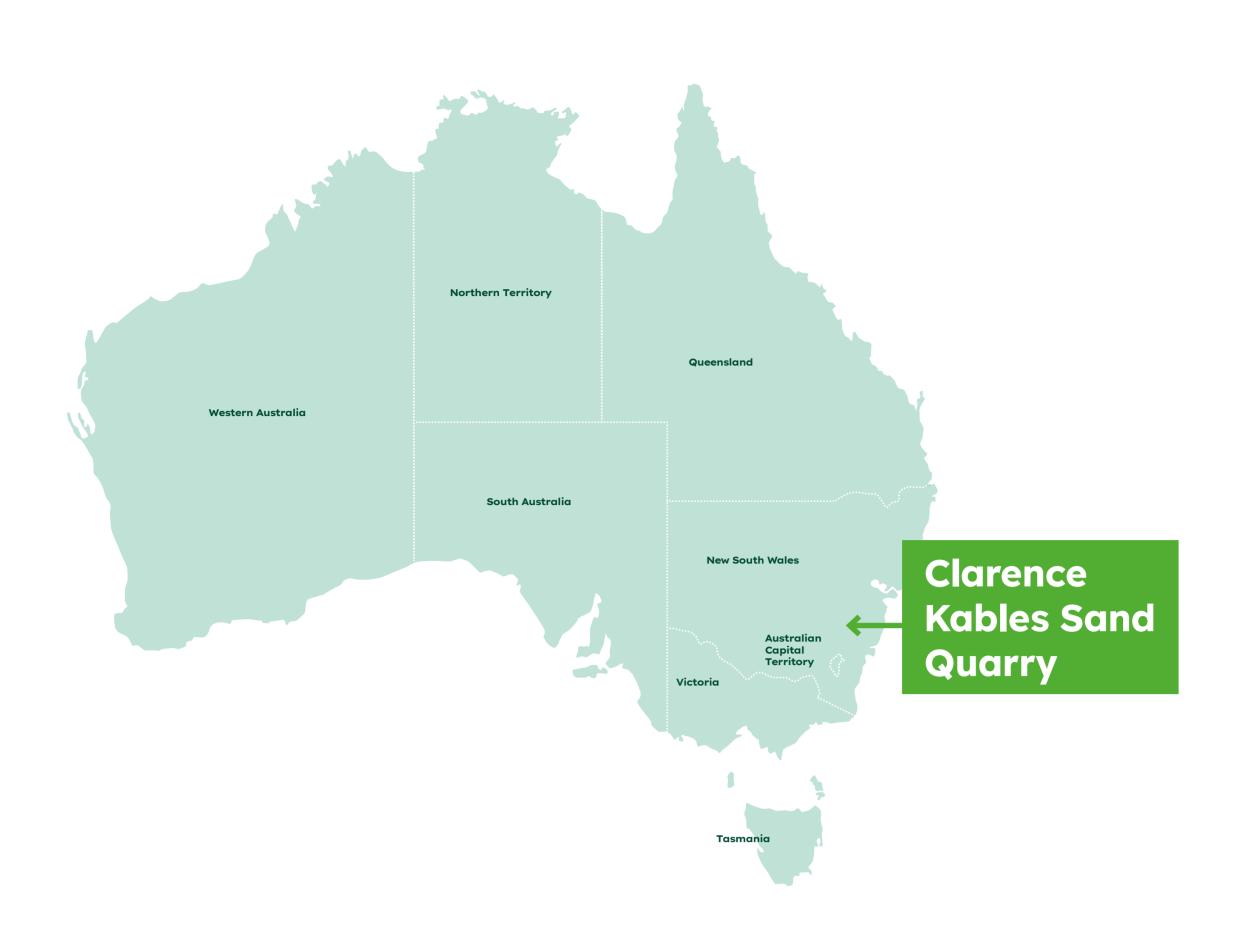
Tweed Sands Quarry (NSW)

Bird habitat creation

Partner: Thea Shell

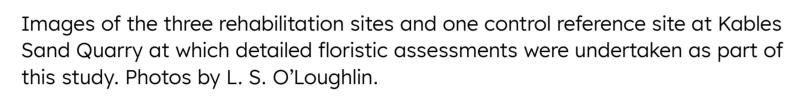
Investigating bird communities at
Tweed Sands Lake. While vegetation
and time since disturbance had limited
short-term effects, older vegetated
areas supported more diverse bird
species. Recommendations involved
continued revegetation to enhance
long-term avian biodiversity.

3rd Edition











2016

Clarence Kables Sand Quarry (NSW)

New methods for floristic species assessment

Partner: Luke S. O'Loughlin, Charles Sturt University/La Trobe University

Assessed plant species diversity at Kables Sands Quarry using rapid, scalable methods. Found rehabilitated sites had lower species richness than undisturbed areas. Recommendations to improve monitoring, denser planting and fire regimes to enhance biodiversity.

4th Edition

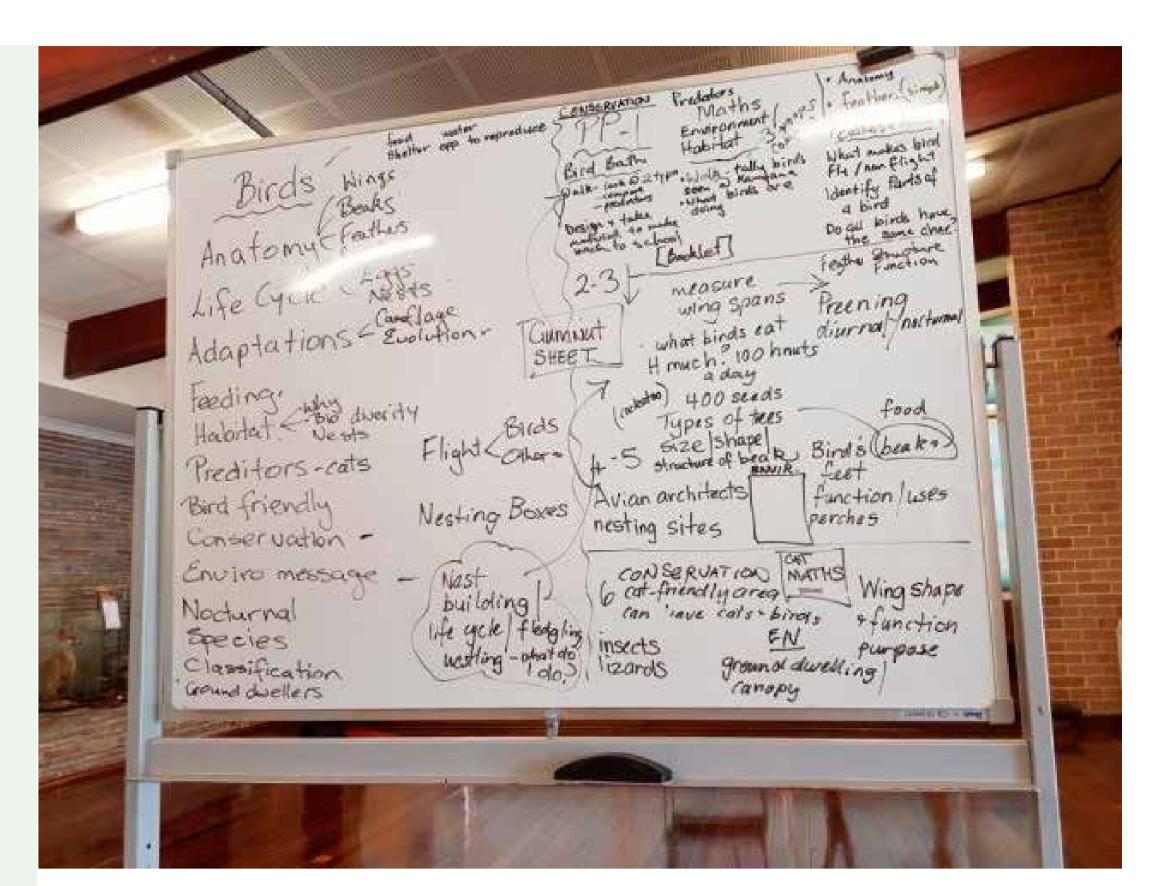


2018

Gaskell Sand Quarry (WA) Community Education

Partner: Helen Riley, Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Inc

Kanyana Wildlife Centre partnered with Gaskell Quarry to educate communities on biodiversity and mining rehabilitation, using citizen science and STEM outreach to promote environmental awareness and restoration practices.



STEM Working session

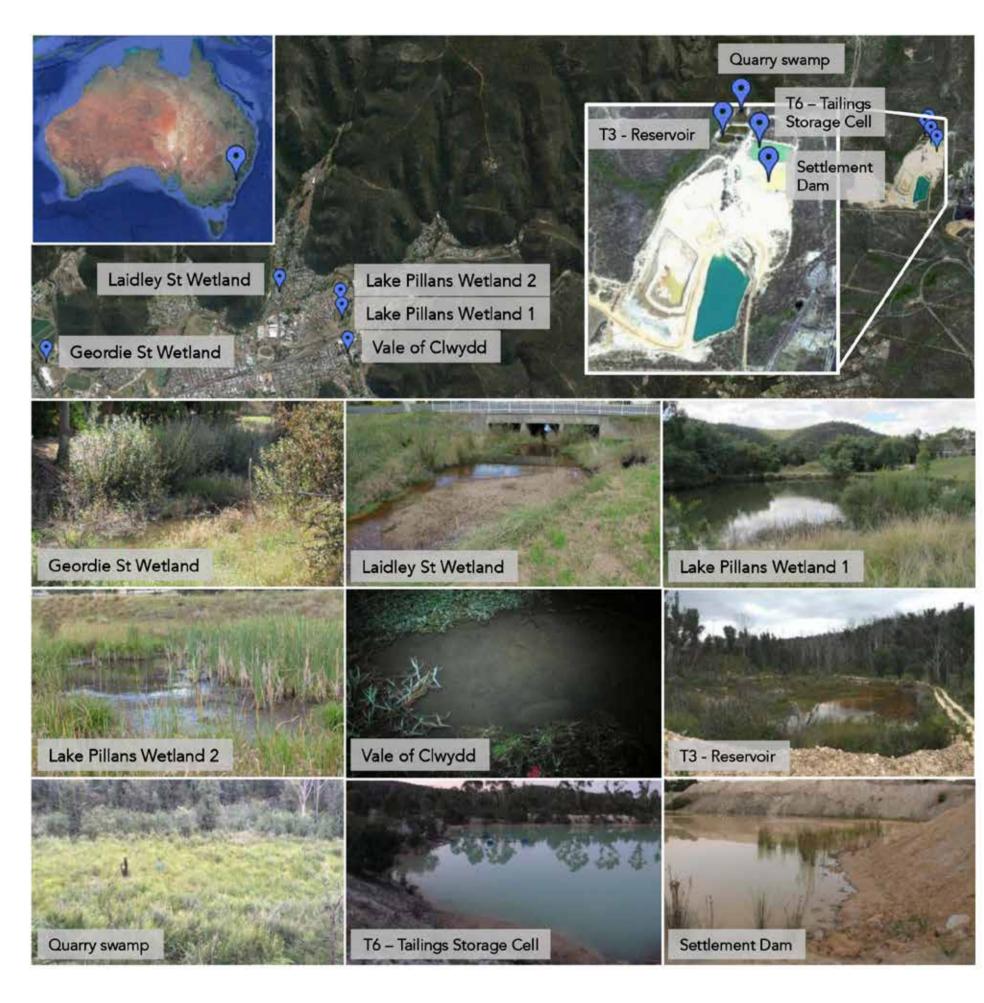
2016

Clarence Kables Sand Quarry (NSW)

Wetlands study – focus on amphibians

Partner: Michael Sievers PhD Student, University of Melbourne

Surveyed amphibians at Kables Sands Quarry and nearby wetlands. Quarry sites had more frog species and healthier individuals. Recommendations incuded enhancing wetland vegetation and connectivity. Created an educational guidebook shared with 35 local schools.



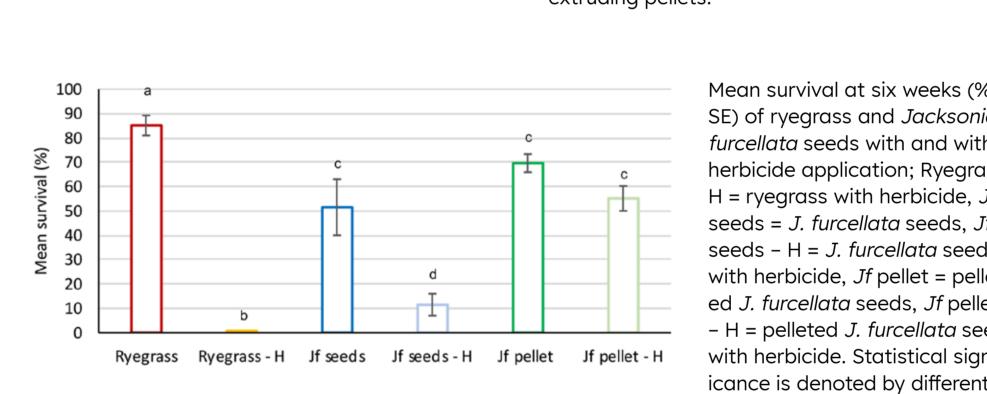


Left: Map of the study area (the suburbs of Lithgow and Clarence, New South ocation. Photographs of the nine wetlands surveyed for amphibian community Reservoir, Settlement Dam, T6 - Tailings Storage Cell and Quarry Swamp.





Photograph of dough materials.



H = ryegrass with herbicide, *Jf* seeds = *J. furcellata* seeds, *Jf* seeds – H = J. furcellata seeds

lower-case letters (P < 0.05).

(TR-75 Pasta Extruder, Rosito Bisani Imports Inc)

2018

Gaskell Sand Quarry (WA)

Seed enhancement technologies in the Banksia woodlands

Partner: Alison Ritchie, Kings Park Science, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

A proof-of-concept study tested activated carbon seed pellets to protect native Jacksonia furcellata from herbicide damage, improving emergence and survival in restoration of Banksia woodlands at Gaskell Quarry.



2016

Clarence Kables Sand Quarry (NSW)

Wild dogs and dingos

Partner: Michelle Ryan PhD Graduate, Western Sydney University

Studied wild dog activity at Clarence-Kable Sands Quarry using cameras and track surveys. Found dogs use the site for hunting and movement. Suggests wild dogs may help control invasive predators like foxes and cats, potentially benefiting native biodiversity.

2018

Gaskell Sand Quarry (WA)

Soil arthropods for successful reclamation

Partner: Astri Dwi Wulandari, Researcher Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Technology, Airlangga University, Indonesia

Research at Gaskell Quarry assessed soil arthropod diversity as indicators of successful reclamation. Selected sites showed higher biodiversity due to richer soil composition, supporting restoration efforts on the Gnangara water mound.









5th Edition









2021

Wollert Quarry (Victoria)

Growling Grass Frog habitat assessment and restoration

Partner: Danny Reddan, Darebin Creek Management Committee

Citizen scientists monitored endangered Growling Grass Frogs at HMA's Wollert Quarry, revealing key habitats and a regional population decline. The project recommends habitat restoration and annual surveys to support long-term conservation.



6th Edition





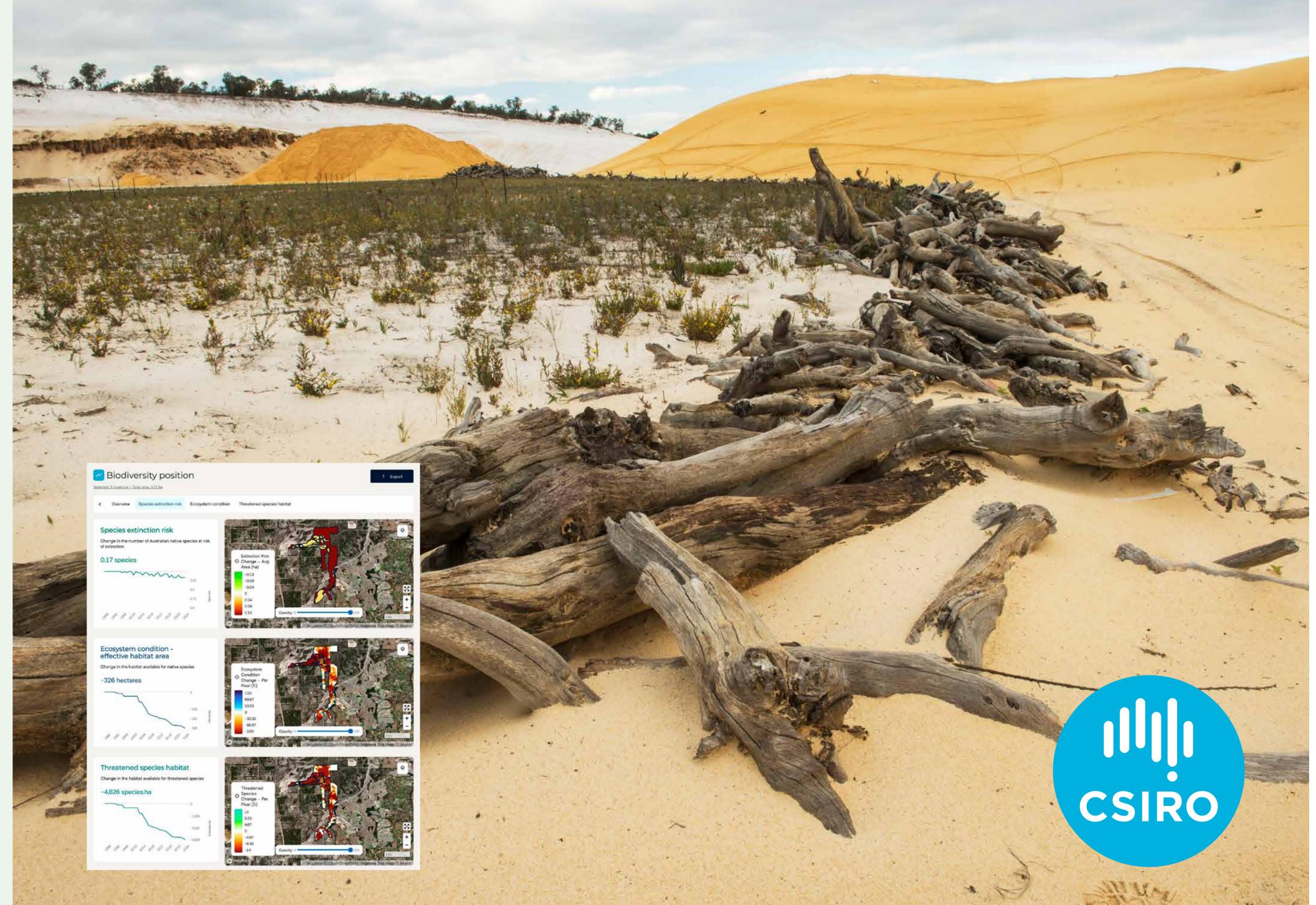
2024

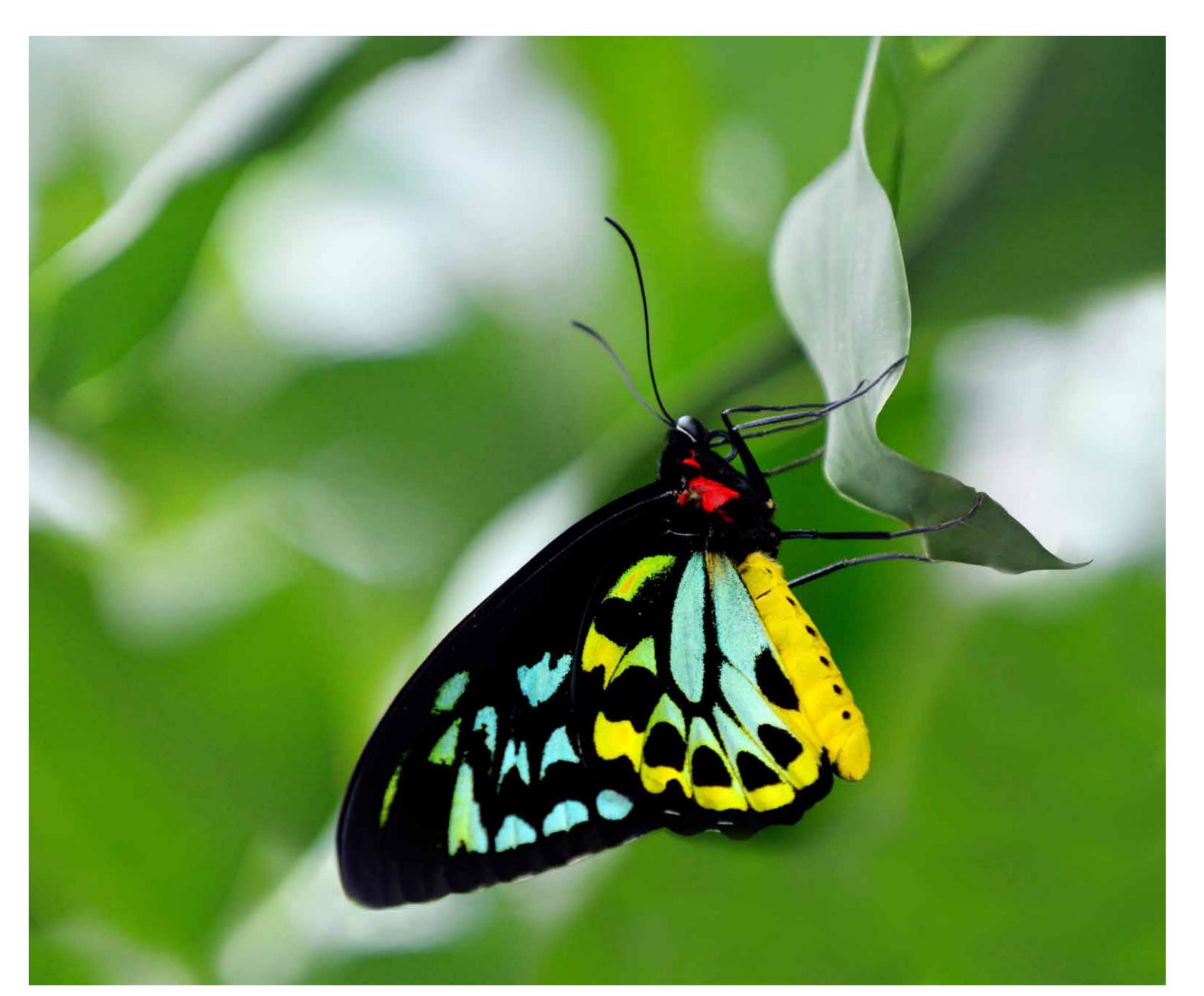
Gaskell Sand Quarry (WA)

Temporal and spatial analysis of biodiversity with Nature IQ

Partner: CSIRO

CSIRO's NatureIQ platform assessed biodiversity impacts at Gaskell Quarry providing a fast & convenient insight into multiple biodiversity factors such as habitat loss, increased extinction risk and many more. Simulating multiple future restoration scenarios allow corporates to act accordingly choose the best viable option within the desired timeframe. NatureIQ enables strategic, nature-positive planning from a single site to corporate level.





2024

Wolffdene and Nerang Quarry (Queensland)

Conserving the vulnerable Richmond Birdwing Butterfly

Partner: Matt Cecil, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Connecting habitats. 85 host vines were planted at two quarries to support the vulnerable Richmond birdwing butterfly. With 81% survival, the project shows quarry-based habitat restoration is viable and scalable for species recovery and community engagement.

