



City of
Ipswich

**IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

of the

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Held in the Council Chambers
2nd floor – Council Administration Building
45 Roderick Street
IPSWICH QLD 4305**

On Tuesday, 14 May 2019
At 11.30 am or 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Communities Committee
whichever is sooner.

<u>MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</u>	
Interim Administrator Greg Chemello (Chairperson)	

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

*11.30 am or 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Communities Committee whichever is sooner, on **Tuesday**, 14 May 2019*
Council Chambers

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NO. 5

14 MAY 2019

AGENDA

1. ENVIRONMENTAL WEED CONTROL REBATE UPDATE

With reference to a report concerning the Environmental Weed Control Rebate (EWCR). This report is proposing that Council cease providing the EWCR.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That the Environmental Weed Control Rebate be discontinued from the 1 July 2019 and that the Nature Conservation Grants program continue to provide funding support for landholders engaged in strategic conservation management in accordance with the *Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy*.

2. NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS REVIEW

With reference to a report concerning the Nature Conservation Grants Program Review. The Nature Conservation Grants (NCG) is one of the on-ground delivery mechanisms under the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015, Waterway Health Strategy 2009 and *Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy*.

A review of the Nature Conservation Grants program guidelines and assessment criteria has been undertaken to provide consistency with other Council grant programs and ensure applicants have access to a transparent and streamlined grant application process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That the review and update of the Nature Conservation Grant Guidelines and assessment criteria as outlined in the report by the Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 1 April 2019, are to take effect from 1 July 2019.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS ROUND 2 2018-2019.

With reference to a report concerning applications received under the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program, Round 2 of 2018-2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That Council provide funding of \$7,811.40 (incl GST) through the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant program to the applicants outlined in the report by the Partnerships Officer for Round 2 of the 2018-2019 program.

4. PROPOSED 2019 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

With reference to a report concerning proposed community environment and sustainability events to be held during the 2019 year. The events have been held in previous years and it is proposed to host the events again in 2019. The events include:

- EnviroForum
- Youth Sustainability Summit
- Sustainable Ipswich Week
- Ipswich Enviro Awards

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That the proposed EnviroForum, Youth Sustainability Summit, Sustainable Ipswich Week and Ipswich Enviro Awards community events outlined in the report by the Partnerships Officer dated 16 April 2019 be approved to proceed in 2019.

5. WATER SUPPLY (SAFETY AND RELIABILITY) ACT 2008 DELEGATION

With reference to a report concerning the delegation of Council's powers under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (the "Act")

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to section 257(1) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, Council's powers in its capacity as a local government under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and any subordinate legislation under that Act.

Conditions:

This delegation is subject to the following conditions:

Whenever this power is exercised, a record of the exercise of the power shall be made in writing at the time of exercising such power, and a copy thereof shall be kept in such format as determined from time to time by the CEO.

**** Item includes confidential papers**

and any other items as considered necessary.

Doc ID No: A5444109

1 April 2019

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
AUTHOR: PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)
SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL WEED CONTROL REBATE UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

This is a report concerning the Environmental Weed Control Rebate (EWCR). This report is proposing that Council cease providing the EWCR.

RELATED PARTIES

All landholders in the Ipswich City Council area, including residents, businesses and non-for profit organisations who have previously received the EWCR, or would potentially apply for the EWCR in the future.

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME LINKAGE

Caring for the environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Environmental Weed Control Program (the EWCR) was introduced in the late 1990's. Funded by the Ipswich Enviroplan Levy, the EWCR was introduced to support landholders across the city with removal of environmental weeds from their land that threaten the broader City's natural areas. The EWCR provides landholders with a rebate on weed removal, to the value of \$600 - \$1,000 per rates assessment number, per financial year. The rebate covers up to 50% of the cost of contractor works or herbicide purchase up to the eligible rebate amount.

Since its introduction, the EWCR has predominately provided support for residents with removal of large single trees (e.g. Chinese elms) located in urban areas. This often has poor alignment with the strategic objectives of the Nature Conservation Strategy and the outcomes of the Enviroplan Policy. Since July 2015, approximately \$316,500 in rebates have been distributed. The budget allocation over this period was \$120,000.

There are existing incentives that support landholders with weed removal activities within the Landholder Partnerships Program, including the Nature Conservation Grants. These incentives are available to Voluntary Conservation Agreement landholders who have a

demonstrated commitment to conservation on their property and reside in strategic areas as identified in the Nature Conservation Strategy.

Landholders can receive up to \$6,000 per financial year in grant funds to go towards conservation works, which includes weed removal activities. The Nature Conservation Grant supports best-practice land management to achieve a more holistic and sustainable approach to land management, in comparison to the EWCR. As landholders with Voluntary Conservation Agreements have a strong commitment to conservation on their property, Ipswich City Council's investment is secure and utilised in an efficient and effective manner.

It is proposed that Council discontinues the EWCR from the 1 July 2019. This will allow the funds identified in the 2019-2020 operational budget to be reallocated to the Nature Conservation Grants; increasing the funds available for landholders within strategic areas which will achieve improved ecological outcomes, and improved use of Enviroplan funds. This is in line with the *Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy* (Attachment 1.).

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The removal of the Environmental Weed Control Rebate will redirect Enviroplan funding into other conservation programs, therefore, there will be no net budget implications. The removal of the EWCR will reduce the workload of staff from the Applications team (Finance and Corporate Services Department) who assess the EWCR applications, and the Program Officers (Natural Environment) who are the program owners and provide advice and guidance on issues pertaining to Rebate applications. It has been estimated that the proposed change will result in additional staff time of 0.2FTE which support greater efficiency and effectiveness in delivering the Conservation Program.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As over 1000 applications for the EWCR have been received since the 2015-2016 Financial Year, the risk of implementing the recommendations proposed in this report is community concern and reputational damage. Various residents have utilised this rebate to fund their weed removal projects for a number of years and would potentially be dissatisfied with the decision to remove this incentive from the Landholder Partnerships Program. To mitigate this risk a factsheet will be developed and made available to the customer service centre to provide to customers explaining the amendments to the EWCR and other potential funding avenues through Council's Landholder Partnership Program. It will also detail the clear alignment required between Council grants and rebates and the *Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy*.

The risk of not implementing the recommendations proposed in the report is the risk of poor alignment with the relevant Policy and Nature Conservation Strategy, continued and unmitigated over-budget expenditure of the EWCR annual budget, and inefficient use of Enviroplan funds.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions: *Local Government Act 2009*

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION


Consultation occurred between the relevant officers within the Works, Parks and Recreation Department and the Applications Team on the proposed changes to the Landholder Partnership Program.

Some informal consultation has been undertaken between the Program Officers (Natural Environment) and the community through the Landholder Partnerships Program during meetings and site visits.

CONCLUSION

The Environmental Weed Control Rebate has distributed funds to landholders in non-strategic areas within Ipswich, which provides minimal ecological benefits at a large cost to Council. This report proposes that the EWCR is discontinued and funds for the EWCR are reinvested into other programs within the Landholder Partnerships Program, including the Nature Conservation Grants.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy 
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RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That the Environmental Weed Control Rebate be discontinued from the 1 July 2019 and that the Nature Conservation Grants program continue to provide funding support for landholders engaged in strategic conservation management in accordance with the *Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy*.

Danielle Andlemac

PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Bryce Hines

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Walker

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

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POLICY

IPSWICH ENVIROPLAN PROGRAM & LEVY POLICY

Document No: A5233708

1.1 Objectives:

1.1.2 Background

Ipswich supports a highly diverse range of vegetation communities that provide home for a wide number of native flora and fauna - all of which help support the lifestyle, liveability and livelihoods of the region.

To assist Council achieve its strategic goal to “*Care for our environment*”, the *Corporate Plan 2017-2022* identifies the organisation’s responsibility to ensure “*important areas of native vegetation and habitat are conserved*”.

Council’s seminal document for citywide natural environment management, its *Nature Conservation Strategy*, is used to inform investment and resource focus.

The environment levy (charge) is a key revenue source to assist in the implementation of Council’s terrestrial nature conservation – the Ipswich Enviroplan Program. The head of power for the levy comes from Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2009* that gives Council the ability to impose a separate charge on all rateable land in the city. In doing so, Council can only use funds raised via a separate charge for the specific purpose identified in the revenue statement adopted each year as part of Council’s annual budget process. All revenue raised through the levy is accounted for separately from Council’s general revenue and is not at any time available for expenditure as general revenue.

The intent of the Ipswich Enviroplan Program (Enviroplan) is to ensure terrestrial nature conservation values within the city are managed and maintained for future generations. Enviroplan aims to provide both strategic and locally based environmental initiatives to facilitate the retention and management of the natural resources within Ipswich City.

1.1.3 Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- inform allocation of revenue generated from the levy; and
- outline the management of funding through Enviroplan.

1.1.4 Policy Outcomes

The outcomes of the application of this policy are:

- support for Council to achieve its nature conservation vision;
- create a healthy and vibrant natural environment, highly valued by, and connected to the

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community;

- support development and implementation of nature conservation strategies/plans;
- acquisition of land with significant nature conservation values and protection in council's Natural Area Estate;
- preserve, manage and promote Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values within the Natural Area Estate;
- maintain and protect European cultural heritage values within the Natural Area Estate;
- embellishment and promotion of nature-based recreation within the Natural Area Estate while maintaining their nature conservation and cultural landscape values;
- effective nature conservation partnerships with a range of stakeholders;
- community nature conservation engagement and support initiatives;
- an increased level of awareness and engagement with regard to nature conservation issues.

1.2 Regulatory Authority:

- The implementation, application and governance of Enviroplan will give consideration to the following regulatory and policy instruments, as well as Council endorsed strategies and procedures:
 - Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy
 - Enviroplan Program & Levy Procedure
 - Conservation Estates and Reserves Management Policy
 - Financial Management Policy
 - *Local Government Act 2009*
 - *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
 - *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
 - *Land Title Act 1994*
 - *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
 - *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
 - *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
 - *Local Government Regulation 2012*

1.3 Policy Statement

- Council recognises that identifying, protecting and maintaining the health of vital ecosystems and natural environmental values as a priority in creating a sustainable and liveable community.
- The levy provides funding for Enviroplan projects and initiatives, associated with implementation of council's strategies/plans.
- These projects and initiatives directly address the protection and enhancement of Ipswich's natural environmental values including, but not limited to:
 - Significant habitat for flora & fauna
 - Vegetation communities

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- Aboriginal Cultural Landscape values and regional landscape corridors

1.4 Scope:

The policy:

- provides direction for the allocation of funds and management of the levy through Enviroplan's projects and initiatives that complement council's core environmental activities; and
- applies to all Council endorsed Enviroplan projects and initiatives, that are funded and supported, wholly or partly with revenue from the levy.

1.5 Guiding Principles:

This policy is guided by the following principles:

- Transparent, systematic and practical delivery;
- Conservation, improvement and adaptive management;
- Collaborative partnerships with stakeholders; and
- Council's Nature Conservation Strategy.

1.6 Distribution of Environment Levy Revenue to Enviroplan Program:

- The annual levy charge per rateable property is reviewed and determined by council as part of adopting its annual revenue statement.
- All revenue collected including any revenue raised through approved levy business activities is held and accounted for separately from Council's general revenue.
- In addition to revenue generated from property charges, levy funding may also be generated through approved levy business activities which may include grants, fund matching, fees, payments, penalty charges, donations and sponsorships.
- All revenue collected including any revenue raised through approved environment levy business activities is held and accounted for separately from Council's general revenue.
- Levy revenue should not be available at any time for expenditure as general revenue.
- Levy can be used in the development of the annual Ipswich Enviroplan Program.
- The levy can only be expended with the Ipswich local government area.
- The amount of environment levy revenue allocated to each of the four primary Ipswich Enviroplan Program funding themes is determined based on an assessment of annual priorities and emerging needs and endorsed by council.
- Expenditure of the levy for enhancing core environmental values is guided by the Nature Conservation Strategy which is developed based on evidence based research and studies using qualified independent specialists, and reviewed every 5 years.
- Any unspent funds associated with each of the four funding themes is returned to the Enviroplan Levy fund.



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1.6.1 Enviroplan Program

- The Enviroplan Program (the program) consists of projects and initiatives within four strategic themes that deliver outcomes to protect and enhance the health of Ipswich's natural environment:
 - Acquisition of significant nature conservation land
 - Community nature conservation partnerships and support
 - Nature conservation planning
 - Embellishment, capital and operational management investment within the Natural Area Estate

1.6.2 Enviroplan Program Funding Themes

- The program is developed and reviewed annually, in consultation with Council, preceding budget preparations.
- The four program funding themes are:

(A): Acquisition of significant nature conservation land

- Protect and enhance the city's and region's environmental values and ecological processes by expanding nature conservation areas through a strategic approach to acquiring land.

(B): Community nature conservation partnerships and support

- Protect, manage and enhance nature conservation through building community capacity and effective partnerships with stakeholders.

(C): Nature Conservation Planning

- Create a resilient natural environment and lessen the impact of detrimental processes through city-wide systematic planning, management and research activities/projects.

(D): Embellishment, Capital and Operational Management Investment Within the Natural Area Estate

- Protect, manage and enhance the Natural Area Estate (the Estate) through the application of sound environmental management principles – consistent with the Conservation Estates and Reserves Management Policy.
- Funding supports Council's nominated environmental operational management activities within the Estate in accordance with their strategies, plans and service levels.

1.6.3 Enviroplan Program and levy reporting:

- A report is tabled with Council on an annual basis to report on financial year performance/achievements on program delivery.
- Core environmental values are monitored and measurement on a 5-year basis using independent qualified scientists.



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1.6.4 Enviroplan Review

The Enviroplan levy will be reviewed after 3 years and after assessing the balance of acquisitions and enhancements.

The review will be done in consultation with the Environment Committee.

1.7 Roles and responsibilities:

- Council will review the environment levy charge, Policy and Program annually.
- The implementation of the Enviroplan Program and Policy is integrated across the business area of Works Parks and Recreation Department, and the following key roles are responsible for specific aspects:

Role	Responsibility
Chief Operating Officer (Works Parks and Recreation)	For the overall coordination of the Enviroplan Program and levy including policy guidance to Council, coordination of corporate and other reporting requirements, the preparation of a five year program. Coordinates decision making and recommends the Nature Conservation Strategy and other studies to Council. Ensure consultation with the Environment Committee is undertaken as part of the review of the Enviroplan levy.
Sport, Recreation and Natural Resources Manager	Ensure that the Enviroplan Program and associated projects are delivered in accordance with the policy and funds are applied accordingly. Ensure the delivery of the Nature Conservation Strategy.
City Maintenance Manager	Ensure that delivery of maintenance and management within the Natural Area Estate is delivered in accordance with the policy and funds applied accordingly
Business Accounting and Asset Manager	Support with the provision of financial reporting and models.

1.8 Definitions:

- **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:** is anything that is (in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*) –
 - (a) a significant Aboriginal area in Queensland; or
 - (b) a significant Aboriginal object; or



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(c) evidence, of archaeological or historic significance, of Aboriginal occupation of an area of Queensland.

- **Aboriginal Cultural Landscape Feature:** is a feature valued by an Aboriginal group (or groups) because of their long and complex relationship with that land. Features include, but are not limited to rock outcrops, caves, areas of biogeographical significance, waterholes, springs, particular types of vegetation and some hill and mound formations. Aboriginal cultural landscape emphasises the landscape-scale of history and the connectivity between people, places and heritage items. It recognises that the present landscape is the product of long-term and complex relationships between people and the environment.
- **Embellishment:** Additions added to improve the visitor experience or management within Natural Area Estates.
- **Environment Levy:** refers to a levy (charge) raised by Ipswich City Council (in accordance with the Queensland *Local Government Act 2009*), on all rateable properties within its jurisdiction, in order to assist with environmental protection and management.
- **Natural Area Estate:** Collection of Council's public open space lands comprising Conservation Estates and Conservation Reserves (excluding local bushland reserves) that are specifically managed by Council for their nature conservation values and ecological importance.
- **Nature-Based Recreation:** Activities that are dependent on the natural environment; have an appreciation of nature as a motivational factor; do not require substantial modification to the natural environment; and are environmentally sustainable.
- **Nature Conservation Values:** A tool used to classify prioritise conservation efforts for ecosystems, habitat and their constituent parts such as plant and animal species.
- **Operational Management:** Activity concerned with planning, organising and delivering habitat restoration works.
- **Significant Nature Conservation Land:** Defined areas that contain ecosystems and habitat of highest priority for protection and maintenance efforts.
- **Terrestrial:** relating to land based aspects rather than water and air

1.9 Policy Author: Project Officer (Strategic Conservation Planning)

Date of Council Resolution: 4 December 2018

Committee Reference and Date: Environment Committee No. 2018(02) of 27 November 2018

No. of Resolution: 01

Date to be reviewed: 4 December 2020

Doc ID No: A5451070

5 April 2019

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
AUTHOR: PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)
SUBJECT: NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This is a report concerning the Nature Conservation Grants Program Review. The Nature Conservation Grants (NCG) is one of the on-ground delivery mechanisms under the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015, Waterway Health Strategy 2009 and *Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy*.

A review of the Nature Conservation Grants program guidelines and assessment criteria has been undertaken to provide consistency with other Council grant programs and ensure applicants have access to a transparent and streamlined grant application process.

RELATED PARTIES

Private landholders registered with a Voluntary Conservation Agreement who are eligible to apply for the NCG are the major stakeholders.

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME LINKAGE

Caring for the environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Nature Conservation Grants Program is funded via Council's EnviroPlan Levy to assist landowners who have a Voluntary Conservation or Partnering Agreement registered with Council for their property. It is an extension of the Conservation Partnerships Program aiming to provide financial support for projects with direct short and long term environmental benefits on private land.

On-ground activities that are supported include the rehabilitation of degraded conservation landscapes, protection and improvement of habitat and biodiversity, and improvement of climate resilience of Ipswich's natural environment.

Objectives of the Nature Conservation Grants are to:

- Build a resilient natural environment

- Improve and maintain biodiversity
- Invest in nature conservation, and
- Promote community participation and capacity building.

A review of the grants program revealed a number of areas to be improved to support the on-going success of the program. These included:

- improvements to the availability and clarity of the grant guidelines
- removing Program Officers from the assessment process to allow them to provide up-front support to landholders with applications
- providing separate assessment criteria for terrestrial and waterway projects to give them an equal platform for assessment, as the previous criteria were heavily weighted towards terrestrial projects
- improved scoring and weighting of the assessment criteria

Identified issues and proposed solutions are referred to in table 1.

Table 1 Identified issues and proposed solutions

Issues and solutions identified in the review process	
Issue	Solution
<i>Transparency of grant process</i>	
The assessment criteria is not clearly available to applicants and applicants are unable to address specific criteria.	Include specific criteria in the guidelines that need to be addressed in the application. Refer to Attachment 1.
Program Officers are unable to support landholders throughout the Grant application process as a result of their position with assessing applications.	Program Officers remain separate from the assessment of applications and the assessment panel members should have an impartial relationship with applicants.
<i>Separation of terrestrial and waterway assessment criteria</i>	
Criteria currently uses broad environmental values and is biased towards terrestrial outcomes with limited consideration for waterway values. This conflicts with community desires for the program, as a large proportion of grant applications are of a waterway nature.	<p>Establish two separate assessment criteria categories based on project outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 – sustainable natural resource management with primarily terrestrial outcomes; and • Outcome 2 – sustainable natural resource management with primarily waterway outcomes. <p>Criteria addressed in either category is informed by the NCG objectives.</p> <p>Outcome 1 has direct linkage to the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 with the intent to assess terrestrial outcomes.</p> <p>Outcome 2 has linkages with the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 and the Waterway Health Strategy 2009 with the</p>

	<p>intent to capture waterway values.</p> <p>Part A assesses strategic alignment with Council strategies</p> <p>Part B assesses the value for money of the project. Refer to Attachment 2 in the Attachment section of this report.</p>
Scoring and weighting of assessment criteria	
Scoring of assessment criteria is not weighted efficiently	Implement a percentage scoring method using presence and absence of specific environmental values. This is a tested method where some assessment criteria has higher weighting, depending on priorities defined in Council's strategies. If applicants score below 50% in both Part A and Part B, based on this method, the application will be deemed unsuccessful.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2018–2019 budget was underspent by \$56,741 as a result of criteria with limited consideration for waterway values. Based on the potential solutions, the risk of underspending funds is low as all applicants will be given a fair assessment.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The risks associated with not approving the recommendations will have implications on the transparency of grant criteria and landholder expectations as well as meeting Council's obligations to support the extension delivery of the Conservation Partnerships Program. Separating assessment criteria to capture waterway values reduces inconsistency associated with grant assessments. The proposed scoring and weighting method provides rigour around a process of elimination as a result of budget constraints or project quality.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Act 2009

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Voluntary Conservation Agreement partners have been consulted with during the review process and have been made aware of future changes to the NCG. This consultation has occurred via the monthly Partnerships update and through personal communications.

Relevant staff have been consulted with for strategic and subject matter guidance.





CONCLUSION

The Nature Conservation Grants program has been reviewed to ensure a more transparent and streamlined process, and alignment with Council's relevant strategies and policy

outcomes. The review identified solutions which will enable a more efficient approach and provide accountability for Grant applicants and assessors.

The assessment criteria will be made visible to conservation partners to allow for an easier assessment of applications and fair justification or feedback to applicants. The separation of assessment criteria will ensure equal opportunities for all applicants applying for different project outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Nature Conservation Grant Guidelines  
2.	Nature Conservation Grant Assessment Criteria  

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That the review and update of the Nature Conservation Grant Guidelines and assessment criteria as outlined in the report by the Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 1 April 2019, are to take effect from 1 July 2019.

Stephani Macarthur

PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Walker

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Bryce Hines

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

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Nature Conservation Grants

To support tangible conservation outcomes on private land

Applicant Guidelines

Rose Robin, Chris, Pine Mountain.

ipswich.qld.gov.au





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Guidelines

Grants program overview

The Nature Conservation Grants Program (NCG) aims to support tangible conservation outcomes on private land. The NCG is funded by Ipswich City Council's (Council) EnviroPlan to assist landowners who have an existing Voluntary Conservation or Historical Agreement registered on their property. The NCG provides partnering landowners with an opportunity to undertake on-ground activities to rehabilitate degraded landscapes, protect and improve habitat and biodiversity and improve the climate resilience of Ipswich's natural environment.

Objectives

- Build a resilient natural environment
- Improve and maintain biodiversity
- Invest in nature conservation
- Promote community participation and capacity building

Timeframe

Applications will open on 1 July and close on 31 July each year. Applications must be received by close of business on the identified closure date.

Recipients

This is a competitive grant category open to landowners who have Voluntary Conservation Agreement on their properties whose project meets the eligibility criteria and does not fall within any of the exclusions.

Funding Range

Applicants are eligible to apply for a maximum of up to \$6,000 (excluding GST) per project per funding round.

Funding Available

The total funding available for the Nature Conservation Grants each year is subject to variation, depending on Council's annual budget allocation.

Applicants may apply under one of the following categories;

Outcome 1– sustainable natural resource management with primarily terrestrial outcomes.
Outcome 2 – sustainable natural resource management with primarily waterway outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding under the NCG, landholders must:

- ✓ have a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) which includes: Bushland Conservation Agreement (BCA), Nature Conservation Agreement (NCA), Koala Conservation Agreement (KCA) or Waterway Conservation Agreement (WCA)
- OR
- ✓ have an historical conservation agreement including a Partnering Agreement (PA), Vegetation Retention Agreement (VRA), Rural Conservation Agreement (RCA) or Nature Corridors Conservation Agreement (NCC)

Two or more eligible landholders can work in partnership on a single project to undertake on-ground activities across two or more properties. Partnership applications must be of a joint nature, where one applicant submits the application with a letter of commitment from the second landholder.

A representative acting on behalf of an eligible applicant may submit an application with a letter of approval from the eligible applicant.

Eligible Projects/Activities Examples

Projects which have an environmental benefit include but are not limited to;

Outcome 1 - Terrestrial projects/activities

- ✓ control invasive plants
- ✓ control pest animals
- ✓ install fauna-friendly fencing to restrict stock access to ecologically significant areas
- ✓ modify existing fencing to upgrade it to be more wildlife friendly
- ✓ increase the area and connectivity of native vegetation by planting native plant species (revegetation) and allowing plants to naturally grow (regeneration)
- ✓ use of fire for ecological purposes
- ✓ native fauna monitoring

Outcome 2 - Waterway projects/activities

- ✓ install off-stream watering points to restrict stock access to significant waterways
- ✓ control invasive plants
- ✓ control erosion and minimises sediment runoff
- ✓ riparian restoration by planting native plant species along waterways to enhance the riparian buffer

Note:

Other projects/activities may be considered eligible after consultation with your Program Officer. Applicants should consider discussing proposed projects with their Program Officer prior to submission. A site visit may be arranged to discuss these activities with the landholder.

Exclusions

The following will not be funded:

- ✗ a landholder who does not have an existing VCA or Historical Conservation agreement
- ✗ an applicant who has not satisfactorily acquitted a previous NCG
- ✗ projects that do not have a primary aim of improving environmental values of an area (e.g. landscaping and planting of ornamental plants)
- ✗ activities that require planning approval
- ✗ activities that contravene any local, state or commonwealth legislation or policy
- ✗ natural resource management activities in orchards and crops
- ✗ natural resource management in the following domestic areas; gardens, lawns and around dwellings. Such activities include; enclosure for animals, property rates payments, approval fees, upgrades, maintenance or repairs to property infrastructure such as dams, weirs, drains, driveways, roads, boardwalks and formal paths and control of pest plant species that landholders are legally required to report to an appropriate authorised officer
- ✗ hard engineering solutions for waterway restoration

Grant Funding Principles

Ipswich City Council applies the following principles when providing support through its Nature Conservation Grants Program:

- Encouraging best practices conserving natural resources on private land
- Improving and maintaining the condition and status of national, state and local matters of environmental significance
- Recognising nature conservation as a major feature of good governance for the City
- Providing continuous communication and engagement with the Ipswich community in regards to nature conservation and environmental values in Ipswich
- Valuing local collaborations and partnerships
- Valuing the social, economic and environmental sustainability of our City

In addition, Council is committed to the efficient and effective delivery of the Nature Conservation Grants Program and transparency and accountability in decision making.

Grant Funding Priorities

Ipswich City Council's Nature Conservation Grants Program support projects that:

Native vegetation

- Protect or enhance native vegetation cover
- Protect or enhance iconic species habitat
- Improve ecosystem resilience
- Enhance climate change refugia areas
- Reduce threats to biodiversity

Ipswich Habitat Network – Connectivity

- Improve and enhance ecological connectivity within identified corridors

Waterway Quality Improvement

- Reduce the risks of sediment loss and improve waterway stability
- Improve the quality of stormwater run-off and reduce nutrient levels

Riparian Corridor Management

- Protect and/or enhance riparian buffers
- Protect and improve the quality of natural wetlands

Grant Funding Process

Demonstration of how the project addresses the criteria in Outcome 1 or Outcome 2 for Part A

Outcome 1 – sustainable natural resource management with primarily terrestrial outcomes

Part A Assessment Criteria	
Criteria	Consideration
Native Vegetation	
Native Vegetation Cover You can download pre-clearing and remnant Regional Ecosystem maps of your property here https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/map-request/re-broad-veg-group/	Will your project enhance native vegetation cover? Is the project maintaining an existing Regional Ecosystem? Is the project aiming to restore a pre-clearing regional ecosystem? Is there a Threatened Ecological Community within your project site?
Significant Habitat for Native Flora and Fauna You can check if you have EVNT species here http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl Essential Habitat Mapping https://spp.dsdip.esriaustraliaonline.com.au/geoviewer/map/planmaking	Is there an Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Threatened species recorded within 1km of your project site? Is the project site mapped as essential habitat?
Ipswich Iconic Species found here https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_ipswich/environment/wildlife/iconic-species	Are there recorded sightings of Ipswich iconic species or does your project enhance iconic species habitat?
Climate Change Refugia	Does your project-site or property, border an area identified to support high climate change refugia? White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation Estate Flinders Goolman Conservation Estate Little Liverpool Range Sapling Pocket
Ipswich Habitat Network – Connectivity	
Priority Zones Can be found in figure 7, pp. 31 https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/43083/nature_conservation_strategy.pdf	Is your project site within a priority conservation zone? Is your project site within a priority rehabilitation zone? Is your project site within an; Urban Corridor Mt Walker Corridor Rosewood Corridor Project site is not within an identified corridor

Outcome 2 – sustainable natural resource management with primarily waterway outcomes.

Part A Assessment Criteria	
Criteria	Consideration
Water Quality Improvement	
Sediment	Does your project reduce sediment loss by bank stabilisation through planting and small scale erosion control
Nutrient (Primarily Bremer and Lower Brisbane River estuaries)	Does your project reduce the risk of run-off from storm water, irrigation, herbicides or pesticides
Riparian Corridor Management	
Riparian Buffer can be found in table 6 & 7 pp.53 in the Waterway Health Strategy 2009 https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_council/corporate_publications/waterway_health_strategy	Is your project meeting the minimum riparian corridor widths of the waterway? Or Is it your project's objective to restore the riparian buffer to meet the minimum standards? How are you reducing biodiversity threats?
Native Vegetation Cover you can download pre-clearing and remnant Regional Ecosystem maps of your property here https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/map-request/re-broad-veg-group/	Will your project enhance native vegetation cover? Is the project maintaining an existing Regional Ecosystem? Is the project aiming to restore a pre-clearing regional ecosystem? Is there a Threatened Ecological Community within your project site?
Significant Habitat for Native Flora and Fauna You can check if you have EVNT species here http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl Essential habitat mapping https://spp.dsdip.esriaustraliaonline.com.au/geoviewer/map/planmaking	Is there an Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Threatened species recorded within 1km of your project site? Is the project site mapped as essential habitat under the VMA 1999?
Ipswich Iconic Species found here https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_ipswich/environment/wildlife/iconic-species	Are there recorded sightings of Ipswich iconic species or does your project enhance iconic species habitat?

Assessment Criteria – Part B

Demonstration of how the project addresses the criteria in Part B. Projects for Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 need to ALSO address the criteria in Part B

Part B Assessment Criteria	
On-ground value	Assessment Criteria
Value for money and landholder commitment	
Landholder contribution	Your project contributes greater than 50% to the project costs Your project contributes 50% to the project costs Your project contributes less than 50%
Cost effectiveness	Effective budget breakdown and total budget costs Effective use of funds across all expenditure items. Are your expenditure items related to project objectives and eligible for Council funding? Appropriate use of contractors which meets the guidelines Appropriate submission of two quotes
Landholder commitment to delivery	Will your project be completed by end of financial year? *a detailed action plan will be useful to submit with your application
Landholder commitment to maintenance	Description of on-ground monitoring e.g. photo monitoring at different times of year How will you balance the monitoring for any previously funded projects?

Best practice methods SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework – Manual can be found here https://hlw.org.au/resources/seqecologicalrestorationframework/	<i>Some may not be applicable to your project</i> Appropriate application techniques for weed control Appropriate chemical use for weed control Use of fauna friendly fencing Appropriate fire management techniques Suitable plant species and technique for planting As close to Regional Ecosystems on property as possible Works undertaken demonstrate minimal negative environmental impact
Catchment Wide Benefits	Will your project have any catchment wide benefits or collaboration with other landholders?
Landholder understanding waterway health?	Does your project demonstrate understanding and knowledge about issues affecting waterway management? Does your project demonstrate decision making and ownership over activities?
Community Participation	Are you a Landcare, Catchment, bush care or environmental education group in the greater Ipswich region?

Ethics Framework

Ipswich City Council will not support any activities, entities, or individuals associated with entities, that are considered to:

- Discriminate, or encourage discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, religion, sex and/or sexual orientation
- Contribute to, or advocate for, the infringement of human rights
- Demonstrate behaviour that does not align to Council's strategic intent for the City and community of Ipswich
- Pollute land, air or water, or otherwise damage the natural environment
- Market, promote or advertise products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner
- Produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community
- Entice people into financial over-commitment
- Exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions
- Represent a reputational risk for Ipswich City Council to partner with or support, or be seen to partner with or support

Grant Funding Approval Process

Final decisions and approval of successful applications are made by Council at a designated Council meeting.

All applications will be assessed in two parts and is reflective of the category chosen to apply for. Part A assesses the strategic alignment of the project / activity and is a desktop assessment completed by Council Officers in SRNR.

Part B assesses the value of the project. Both Parts are assessed by an assessment panel made up of at least three (3) Council Officers with expertise in natural area management or similar.

Terms and Conditions That Apply to Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will receive the approved funding from Council subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The applicants proposed project must be completed within 12 months
- The applicant will be required to enter into a funding agreement which details all grant conditions and agreed outcomes. This must be signed before grant funds are issued
- Applicants are required to complete an acquittal at the completion of the funding period. If Council grant funds are not spent, all remaining funds must be returned to Council
- Council may make funding conditional on other specific conditions being met

Grant Acquittal

To ensure appropriate accountability by grant recipients, all funding provided by Council will require a report and financial acquittal, outlining the use of the funds (including proof of expenditure) and the achieved outcomes of the project/activity.

Landowners who have not satisfactorily acquitted Council funds within the appropriate timeframe agreed by Council will be deemed ineligible for Council funding or in-kind assistance for 12 months from the acquittal due date.

All applicants must:

- ✓ answer all application questions on the online SmartyGrants form
- ✓ clearly demonstrate how the project outcomes address the selection criteria in Part A for Outcome 1 or Outcome 2 and Part B for both Outcome 1 and Outcome 2.

Please note: Co-contribution is your contribution to the project. This can either be your own financial or labour contribution. The current wage rate for volunteers in Queensland is \$40.35. Your labour can be charged at this rate. (<https://volunteeringqld.org.au/volunteers>)

Application process

Applications must be made using the appropriate online application forms. Additional information can be attached as required.

Applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their application.

Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. This includes applications without essential documentation.

Please contact Council on (07) 3810 6666 if you have any questions regarding the Sport and Recreation Grants Program.

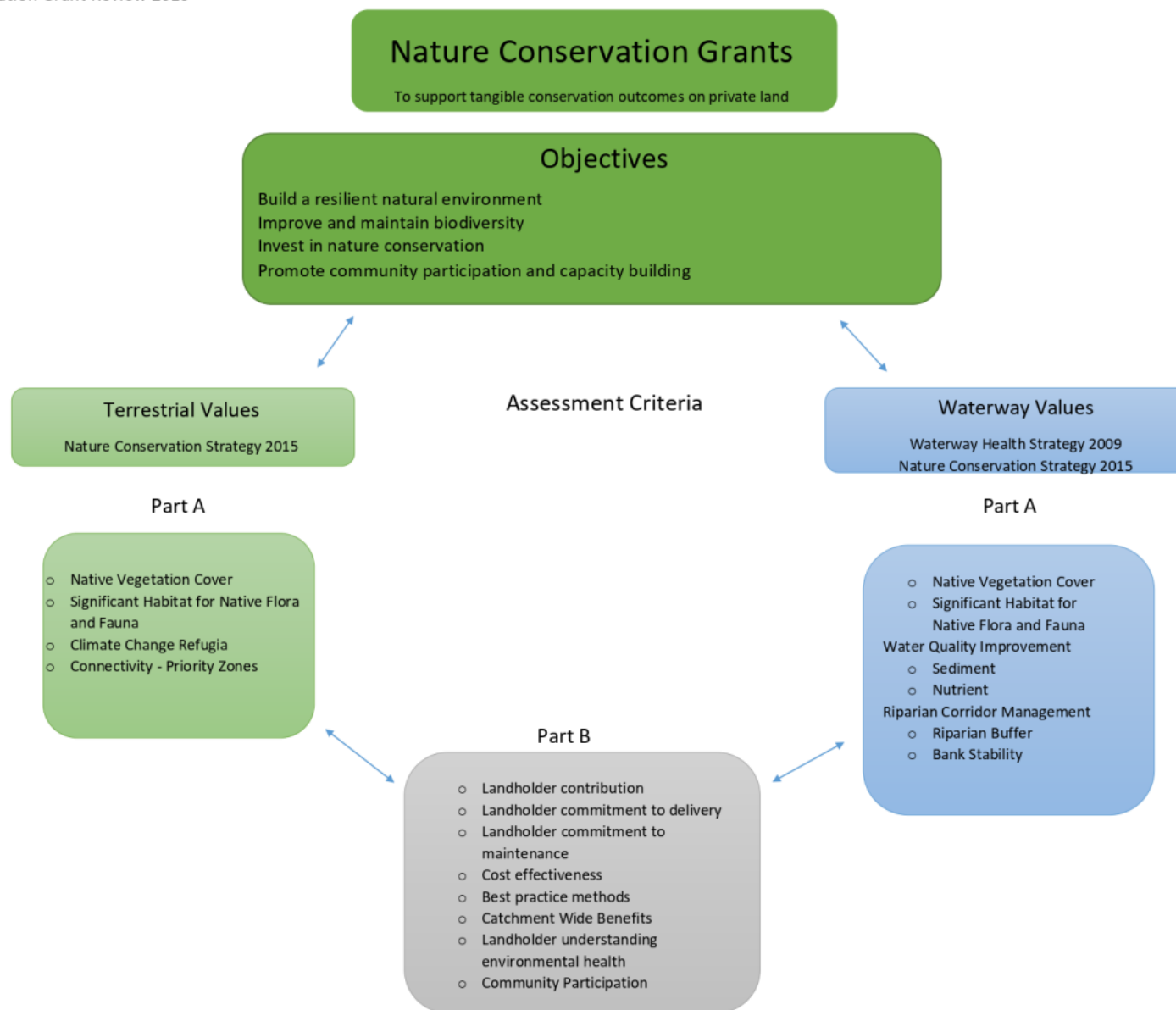
Funding applications must be submitted via the online application form

Once submitted you will receive an electronic confirmation notice.

Join us online:



Nature Conservation Grant Framework
Nature Conservation Grant Review 2019



Nature Conservation Grant Framework

Nature Conservation Grant Review 2019

Assessment Criteria to be used by assessors

PART A Strategic Alignment

Category 1 – Terrestrial

Demonstration of how the project supports the NCS 2015 vision; 'Ipswich supports a healthy and vibrant natural environment highly valued by, and connected to the community' by addressing the following criteria;

Part A Assessment Criteria Category 1		
Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 Objectives	Assessment Criteria Applicant needs to Address	Score
Native Vegetation		
Native Vegetation Cover	Will the project enhance native vegetation cover?	Y 100% N 0 %
	Section A Is the project maintaining an existing Regional Ecosystem? Y/N if N skip this section and use Section B to assess application Endangered dominant regional ecosystem Endangered sub dominant, of concern dominant regional ecosystems Of concern sub dominant Other regional ecosystem No Regional Ecosystem status	100% 75% 50% 25% 0%
(VMA 1999)	Section B Is the project aiming to restore a pre-clearing regional ecosystem? Endangered dominant regional ecosystem Endangered sub dominant, of concern dominant regional ecosystems Of concern sub dominant Other regional ecosystem No Regional Ecosystem status	Y 100% N 0 % 100% 75% 50% 25% 0%
(EPBCA 1999)	Is there a Threatened Ecological Community within the project site	Y 100% N 0%
Significant Habitat for Native Flora and Fauna	Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Threatened species (NCA 1992) recorded within 1km of project site?	Y 100% N 0%
	Is the project site mapped as essential habitat under the VMA 1999?	Y 100% N 0%
	Are there recorded sightings of Ipswich iconic species Y/N or does the project enhance iconic species habitat?	Y 100% N 0 %
Climate Change Refugia PP 56 of background report for map	Does the project-site or property, border an area identified to support high climate change refugia? White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation Estate Flinders Goolman Conservation Estate Little Liverpool Range Sapling Pocket	Y 100% N 0 %
Ipswich Habitat Network – Connectivity		
Priority Zones Priority zones capture Koala SPP values and regional corridors PP 31 & 32 of the NCS	Is the project site within a priority conservation zone?	100%
	Is the project site within a priority rehabilitation zone?	75%
	Is the project site within any; Urban Corridor Mt Walker Corridor Rosewood Corridor	50%
	No mapped corridors	0%

Category 2 – Waterways

Demonstration of how the project supports the NCS 2015 vision; 'Ipswich supports a healthy and vibrant natural environment highly valued by, and connected to the community' by addressing the following criteria;

Part A Assessment Criteria Category 2		
Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 Broad Objectives	Assessment Criteria Applicant needs to Address	Score
Water Quality Improvement		
Sediment	Reduce sediment loss by bank stabilisation through planting and small scale erosion control	Y 100% N 0%
Nutrient (Primarily Bremer and Lower Brisbane River estuaries)	Reduced risk of run-off from storm water, irrigation, herbicides or pesticides	Y 100% N 0%
Riparian Corridor Management		
Riparian Buffer (refer to table 6 & 7 pp.53 in the WHS)	Does the project site meet the minimum riparian corridor widths of the waterway? OR Is it the project's objective to restore the riparian buffer to meet the minimum standards?	Y100% N 0% NA Y100% N 0% NA
	Does the project contribute to bank stabilisation? *hard engineering solutions are not eligible	Y 100% N 0%
	Project reduces threats to biodiversity i.e. weed management	Y 100% N 0 %

Nature Conservation Grant Framework

Nature Conservation Grant Review 2019

Native Vegetation Cover	Will the project enhance native vegetation cover?	Y 100% N 0 %
(VMA 1999)	<p>Section A Is there an existing Regional Ecosystem within their project site? Y/N if N skip this section and use Section B to asses application</p> <p>Endangered dominant regional ecosystem Endangered sub dominant, of concern dominant regional ecosystems Of concern sub dominant Other regional ecosystem No Regional Ecosystem status</p>	<p>100% 75% 50% 25% 0%</p>
(EPBCA 1999)	<p>Section B Is the project aiming to restore a pre-clearing regional ecosystem?</p> <p>Endangered dominant regional ecosystem Endangered sub dominant, of concern dominant regional ecosystems Of concern sub dominant Other regional ecosystem No Regional Ecosystem status</p> <p>Is there a Threatened Ecological Community within the project site</p>	<p>Y 100% N 0 % 100% 75% 50% 25% 0%</p> <p>Y 100% N 0%</p>
Significant Habitat for Native Flora and Fauna	<p>Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Threatened species (NCA 1992) recorded within 1km of project site?</p> <p>Are there recorded sightings of Ipswich iconic species Y/N or does the project enhance iconic species habitat?</p>	<p>Y 100% N 0%</p> <p>Y 100% N 0 %</p>

Nature Conservation Grant Framework

Nature Conservation Grant Review 2019

PART B Value for money

Category 1 and Category 2 Assessment Criteria

Part B Assessment Criteria for Category 1 and Category 2		
On-ground value	Criteria used to assess application	Score
Value for money and landholder commitment		
Landholder contribution	Landholder contributes greater than 50% to the project costs Landholder contributes 50% to the project costs Landholder contributes less than 50%	100% 50% 0%
Landholder commitment to delivery	Has it been demonstrated that the project can be completed by end of financial year? Does the application have a detailed action plan - what they will be doing, when and for how long e.g. a weed control and revegetation project should show the time of year they will be controlling the weeds and what species that will be controlled first	Y 100% N 0%
Landholder commitment to maintenance	Has the applicant described any monitoring that will occur e.g. photo monitoring at different times of year Yes No evidence of maintenance or monitoring NA Maintaining previous projects funded by the NCG Has the landholder demonstrated how previously funded projects will maintained?	100% 0% NA Y 100% N 0%
Cost effectiveness	Does the project application include a budget breakdown and total budget cost? Budget demonstrates effective use of funds across all expenditure items? Are expenditure items related to project objectives and eligible for Council funding? Use of contractors meets the guidelines Appropriate submission of two quotes	Y 100% N 0% Y 100% N 0% Y 100% N 0% NA Y 100% N 0% NA
Project Practicality		
Best practice methods (refer to the SEQ Ecological Restoration Framework – Manual)	Appropriate application techniques for weed control Appropriate chemical use for weed control Use of fauna friendly fencing Appropriate fire management techniques Suitable plant species and technique for planting As close to Regional Ecosystems on property as possible Works undertaken demonstrate minimal negative environmental impact	Y 100% N 0% NA Y 100% N 0% NA Y 100% N 0% NA Y 100% N 0% NA Y 100% N 0% NA Y 100% N 0%
Community Engagement		
Catchment Wide Benefits	Catchment wide benefits are clearly explained Evidence of collaboration with neighbouring properties Evidence or know of communication with neighbours i.e. propagating plants together, technical advice, joint projects	Y 100% N 0%
Landholder understanding of Environmental Values	Does the project demonstrate understanding and knowledge about issues affecting the environment? Are project objectives clear, well researched and explained? Is there background provided and does their project address issues relating to waterway management? Does the project demonstrate decision making and ownership over activities? Did the applicant strictly rely on technical advice to submit their application?	Y 100% N 0% Y 100% N 0%
Community Participation	Is the landholder a member of a Landcare, Catchment, bush care or environmental education group in the greater Ipswich region?	Y 100% N 0%

Doc ID No: A5463884

12 April 2019

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AUTHOR: PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS ROUND 2 2018–2019

INTRODUCTION

This is a report concerning applications received under the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program, Round 2 of 2018-2019.

RELATED PARTIES

Applicant Organisation	Related Party
Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	Anita Gabbett – Grant Applicant Judith Seery – School Principal
Ipswich Girls Grammar School	Trisha Hansen – Grant Applicant Peter Britton – School Principal
Queensland Pathways State College	Natalie Willcocks – Grant Applicant Kelly Houston – Head of Department
Bellbird Park State Secondary College	Jana Major – Grant Applicant Michael West - Principal
Birdlife Australia	Robert Clemens - BSQ Branch Project Officer

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME LINKAGE

Caring for the environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program provides funding assistance for community led projects that contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment within the Ipswich City Council area. Overall, environmental and liveability benefits will be achieved.

Community groups, schools and child care centres are able to apply for grant funding up to \$2,000.00 including GST. Individual wildlife carers are able to apply for grant funding up to \$1,000.00 including GST. Each successful applicant must contribute at least 50% of the total project cost.

Council received five eligible applications and one ineligible application. Eligible applications are detailed in the table below. The ineligible application was deemed ineligible as the application's budget was not succinct for the amount of funding requested which is a requirement of the eligibility criteria.

Applicant	Project	Funding Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Funding Amount Recommended
Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	An ongoing generation of sustainable gardeners	\$1,999.00	\$5,804.00	\$1,000.00
Ipswich Girls Grammar School	Grammar Greenies - Operation Goose (Growing our own sustainable environment)	\$1,994.00	\$5,858.00	\$1,994.00
Queensland Pathways State College	Sustainable Garden	\$932.00	\$1,864.00	\$932.00
Bellbird Park State Secondary College	Start up Recycling and Sustainability Program	\$2,000.00	\$4,480.00	\$2,000.00
Birdlife Australia	Powerful Owl Project Southeast Queensland	\$1,885.40	\$21,385.00	\$1885.40
Total		\$10,810.40	\$39,391.00	\$7,811.40

Applications were assessed against the set assessment criteria to determine the recommended funding amount. An overview of the applications, extracted from Smarty Grants, can be seen in Attachment 1.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A total of \$10,000.00 in funding is available for the second round of 2018–2019 applications. A total of \$20,000.00 is available for the grant program within the Sport, Recreation and Natural Resources 2018–2019 financial year budget. The total recommended funding amount for Round 2 of 2018–2019 is \$7,811.40 which is within the allocation.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION



Community consultation was undertaken in the development of the Environment and Sustainability Grant program. For each round which is available to the community for

funding, information on the grants and Grant Guidelines are provided to the community to assist them in submitting applications.

CONCLUSION

Round 2 of Council's 2018–2019 Environment and Sustainability Grant program has been completed with five eligible applications received and assessed. It is recommended to provide grant funding to these applications in support of environment and sustainable activities across the city for community benefit.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Application and Assessment Overview  
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RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That Council provide funding of \$7,811.40 (incl GST) through the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant program to the applicants outlined in the report by the Partnerships Officer for Round 2 of the 2018–2019 program.

Vada Hoger

PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Marnie Dunne

SPORT AND RECREATION OFFICER (PHYSICAL ACTIVITY)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Bryce Hines

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

"Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community"

Environment and Sustainability Grant Program Assessment Review

Round 2 2018/19

Application ID	ESC18/19-R205
Grant Round	Environment and Sustainability Community Grant 2018/19 - Round 2
Organisation Name	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School
Project Title	An ongoing Generation of Sustainable Gardeners
Brief Project Description	In 2019 we are building on the foundation of sustainable gardening work done in 2018. The goal is to provide continuing education to our students around sustainable gardening and native habitats. This year, as well as our "garden to the plate" approach (with fresh produce to be used in our kitchen lessons), we would like to add several established native trees to supply shade and encourage native animals.
Project Start Date	01/04/2019
Project End Date	30/11/2019
Total Project Cost	5,804.00
Total Amount Requested	1,999.00
Weighted Score (out of 29)	15.66
No. of Assessing Officers Approved	3
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,000.00

Item 3 / Attachment 1.

Application ID	ESC18/19-R206
Grant Round	Environment and Sustainability Community Grant 2018/19 - Round 2
Organisation Name	Ipswich Girls' Grammar School
Project Title	Grammar Greenies - Operation GOOSE (Growing Our Own Sustainable Environment)
Brief Project Description	<p>Grammar Greenies - Operation GOOSE is an initiative driven by students in Years 7, 8 and 9, supported by the full school community. The formation of the Grammar Greenies group was inspired by their attendance at the Annual Ipswich Sustainability Summit in 2018. Attending students brought lessons learnt back to the school, and demanded immediate action to reduce the schools footprint on the environment.</p> <p>Operation GOOSE will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitate the central middle school area - correct the soil consistency and re-establish garden beds - Re-vegetate - with native bush foods, native wildlife/bird/insect attracting flowers and edible plants - Re-educate - the school community (students, staff and families) on responsible, sustainable environmental practices and growing healthy organic product.
Project Start Date	22/04/2019
Project End Date	20/06/2019
Total Project Cost	5,858.00
Total Amount Requested	1,994.00
Weighted Score (out of 29)	20.66
No, of Assessing Officers Approved	3
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1,994.00

Item 3 / Attachment 1.

Application ID	ESC18/19-R207
Grant Round	Environment and Sustainability Community Grant 2018/19 - Round 2
Organisation Name	Queensland Pathways State College
Project Title	Paddock to Plate for students
Brief Project Description	As we teach our students to flourish beyond school, we also give them knowledge to maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle. We teach them abilities to survive in the real world, which includes cooking; basic meals with minimum ingredients. Being able to teach our students how to cook using food they have grown in the backyard would provide more skills to grow their own food and then cook their own meals using the Paddock to Plate motto.
Project Start Date	23/04/2019
Project End Date	06/12/2019
Total Project Cost	1,864.00
Total Amount Requested	932.00
Weighted Score (out of 29)	17.33
No, of Assessing Officers Approved	3
Funding Amount Recommended	\$932.00

Item 3 / Attachment 1.

Application ID	ESC18/19-R209
Grant Round	Environment and Sustainability Community Grant 2018/19 - Round 2
Organisation Name	Bellbird Park State Secondary College
Project Title	Start-up Recycling and Sustainability Program
Brief Project Description	<p>The Student Council of Bellbird Park State Secondary College is seeking to initiate a recycling and sustainability program at BPSSC, in conjunction with school staff and our Parents and Citizen's Association. The primary purpose of our project is to commence a school-wide recycling program for students, which we currently do not have. As Bellbird Park SSC is a new school with only years 7, 8 and 9 students, it is important we build in recycling and sustainability projects to set expectations for the future as the school grows.</p> <p>We are seeking support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purchase new lids to create recycling-specific rubbish bins to begin a recycling program; - purchase new lids for general waste rubbish bins with closable flaps to promote use of bins as an alternative to littering.
Project Start Date	11/02/2019
Project End Date	13/12/2019
Total Project Cost	4,480.00
Total Amount Requested	2,000.00
Weighted Score (out of 29)	25
No. of Assessing Officers Approved	3
Funding Amount Recommended	\$2000.00

Item 3 / Attachment 1.

Application ID	ESC18/19-R211
Grant Round	Environment and Sustainability Community Grant 2018/19 - Round 2
Organisation Name	BirdLife Australia Ltd
Project Title	Powerful Owl Project - Southeast Queensland
Brief Project Description	<p>Our Purchase request is for the reprinting of 600 Nocturnal Birds Pocket ID booklets. These have been designed by the Powerful Owl project in Sydney, and are something we would like to give to citizen science volunteers. The nocturnal booklet is similar to this woodland bird booklet:</p> <p>http://www.birdlife.org.au/documents/WL_-_Woodland_ID_booklet_v7_web_1.pdf</p> <p>The Powerful Owl project, a excellent project at engaging the public, started in southern Queensland in 2018, and we held our first workshop in Ipswich on the 2nd of March. The project engages and trains citizen science volunteers to find breeding Powerful Owls so those locations can be passed onto land managers.</p>
Project Start Date	15/07/2019
Project End Date	29/06/2020
Total Project Cost	21,385.00
Total Amount Requested	1,885.40
Weighted Score (out of 29)	25.66
No, of Assessing Officers Approved	3
Funding Amount Recommended	\$1885.40

Doc ID No: A5471088

16 April 2019

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
AUTHOR: PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER
SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2019 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

INTRODUCTION

This is a report concerning proposed community environment and sustainability events to be held during the 2019 year. The events have been held in previous years and it is proposed to host the events again in 2019. The events include:

- EnviroForum
- Youth Sustainability Summit
- Sustainable Ipswich Week
- Ipswich Enviro Awards

RELATED PARTIES

Wildlife Queensland Representative, Matt Cecil – Speaker at EnviroForum
EnviroDNA Representative, Josh Griffiths (TBC) – Speaker at EnviroForum
Local Environment Groups – Invited to attend EnviroForum
SEQ Council Representatives – Invited to attend EnviroForum
Costa Georgiadis – Guest Speaker at Youth Sustainability Summit
Arlian Ecker (Plastic Free Boy) – Guest Speaker at Youth Sustainability Summit
Reverse Garbage Facilitators – Session Facilitator at Youth Sustainability Summit
Ipswich Youth Advisory Council – Session Facilitator at Youth Sustainability Summit
All Ipswich Schools – Invited to attend Youth Sustainability Summit
Multiple local Ipswich businesses – local Ipswich businesses will be invited to be involved with Sustainable Ipswich Week

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME LINKAGE

Caring for the environment
Caring for the community

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The proposed environment and sustainability events provide an avenue to assist with increasing community engagement, capacity and connectivity with the natural environment in accordance with the Nature Conservation Strategy and achieving Pathway 1 within the Sustainability Strategy – *‘promotion of city wide sustainability through education, awareness and community involvement’*. The events will offer residents, local businesses and visitors the opportunity to participate in multiple activities which have educational, informative and social benefits.

The events have been held previously in Ipswich and are further outlined below.

EnviroForum

- Is an environmental forum attracting between 100 – 150 attendees and has been held annually since 2014
- Aims to increase awareness of current and emerging environmental projects and trends
- Aims to strengthen the environmental network by bringing like-minded individuals/groups together to exchange information, innovative ideas and experiences
- Has a number of speakers presenting on the yearly theme

2019 Proposal

- Theme to be based on “wildlife and land management – preservation and discovery”
- To be held on 22 August at the Ipswich Civic Centre
- To invite a number of speakers to present on the theme
- To include invitations to Ipswich high schools for student representatives to attend

Youth Sustainability Summit

- Provides an informative and interactive excursion for Ipswich School students to attend and learn about living sustainably
- Has been held annually since 2017
- Has reached the target outlined in Council’s Sustainability Strategy of 20 schools attending the Summit

2019 Proposal

- Theme to be “zero waste”
- To be held on 21 August at the Ipswich Civic Centre
- A number of guest speakers and session facilitators to be invited to present on the zero waste theme
- Students in years 4 and 5 at Ipswich schools to be invited to attend

Sustainable Ipswich Week

- The inaugural Sustainable Ipswich Week was held in 2018
- Daily sustainable themes and activities were promoted to encourage the Ipswich community to learn about and undertake sustainable living practices
- Residents, businesses and local groups participated in the weekly activities

2019 Proposal

- To be held from Monday, 19 August to Sunday 25 August
- The EnviroForum and Youth Sustainability Summit events to be included during the week
- To invite local businesses and groups to host an event or activity during the week
- To have a social media campaign encouraging the community to implement sustainable living practices

Ipswich Enviro Awards

- The Environment and Sustainability award categories were previously included as part of the Planning and Development Heritage and Design Awards for Excellence
- Individuals, schools, groups and organisations could nominate to be considered for an award and were recognised at the awards ceremony
- These awards aim to recognise those in the community who have contributed to improve environment and sustainable outcomes for the city

2019 Proposal

- The environment and sustainability categories under the Heritage and Design Awards for Excellence will now be the Ipswich Enviro Awards
- Award categories to be
 - Environmental Hero Award – Individual and/or organisation
 - Nominees in this category have undertaken action to improve or enhance the natural environment
 - Sustainable Leadership Award – Individual and/or organisation
 - Nominees in this category have actioned new and creative solutions taking a holistic view of sustainability to reduce the communities environmental footprint
 - Young Enviro Champion Award
 - Individuals under the age of 25 who have made an outstanding contribution to the protection of the environment or have committed to action a sustainability initiative can be nominated for this award
 - Enviro Organisation Award
 - Open to businesses, groups or schools which have implemented activities to improve and protect the natural environment or improve sustainability through actions or design
- That the awards presentations be undertaken on 22 August 2019 as part of the EnviroForum event

With the new award categories for 2019, an outline of the nomination and assessment criteria of the awards is provided in Attachment 1.

A concept of the above proposed environmental and sustainable events, activities and themes are outlined in Attachment 2.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Budget for the proposed events has been included in Council's 2019/2020 budget submission. It is proposed that the events will require the below budgets:

Youth Sustainability Summit	\$15,000
EnviroForum	\$10,000
Sustainable Ipswich Week	\$5,000
Ipswich Enviro Awards	\$5,000
Total Budget	\$35,000

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A site risk assessment will need to be completed for Council hosted events prior to the events proceeding.

These events provide an opportunity for Council to engage with the community regarding environment and sustainability initiatives. Previously, at completion of these events, a review has been undertaken on the success of the events in achieving set objectives. At this stage, the events have been deemed to be successful and worth undertaking in 2019, therefore there may be a risk in not undertaking the events. This would reduce Council's opportunity to educate and engage with the community on environment and sustainability initiatives.

After the 2019 events, another review will be undertaken to ensure that the events are still providing the best alternative to engage with the community on environment and sustainability initiatives.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Local Government Act 2009

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Community consultation has been undertaken as part of the annual review process for these events. This consultation has included:

- Attendees/Participants – through face-to-face communications at the events, post event surveys to gain feedback on the individual events and general feedback through social media
- Speakers/Facilitators – through face-to-face communications at the events and post event surveys to gain feedback on the Youth Sustainability Summit and EnviroForum
- Internal – all relevant departments within Council have been consulted on the continuation of the events and direction of the events to continue meeting set objectives. Specifically,

- Health, Security and Regulatory who coordinated the Youth Sustainability Summit in 2017 and 2018
- Economic Development and Marketing in regards to marketing plans and event management plans
- Ipswich Waste in regards to waste resourcing objectives
- Planning and Development in the review of the Ipswich Enviro Awards and Heritage and Design Awards for Excellence

CONCLUSION

Council aims to increase education and awareness of environment and sustainability initiatives in the community through a number of proposed community events and activities in 2019, the Youth Sustainability Summit, EnviroForum, Sustainable Ipswich Week and the Ipswich Enviro Awards. These events will provide a number of activities for the community to participate in, recognise those in the community who are working towards improving our environment and encourage behaviour change to enhance the liveability of Ipswich.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Ipswich Enviro Awards Outline  
2.	2019 Environment and Sustainability Events Concept  

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

That the proposed EnviroForum, Youth Sustainability Summit, Sustainable Ipswich Week and Ipswich Enviro Awards community events outlined in the report by the Partnerships Officer dated 16 April 2019 be approved to proceed in 2019.

Vada Hoger

PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Marnie Dunne

SPORT AND RECREATION OFFICER (PHYSICAL ACTIVITY)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Bryce Hines

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

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2019 Ipswich Enviro Awards

The Ipswich Enviro Awards will aim to recognise those in the community who have contributed to improve environmental and sustainable outcomes for the city. Categories include:

- Environmental Hero Award – Individual and/or organisation
 - Nominees in this category have undertaken action to improve or enhance the natural environment
- Sustainable Leadership Award – Individual and/or organisation
 - Nominees in this category have actioned new and creative solutions taking a holistic view of sustainability to reduce the communities environmental footprint
- Young Enviro Champion Award
 - Individuals under the age of 25 who have made an outstanding contribution to the protection of the environment or have committed to action a sustainability initiative can be nominated for this award
- Enviro Organisation Award
 - Open to organisations which have implemented activities to improve and protect the natural environment or improve sustainability through actions or design

Examples of initiatives under the Ipswich Enviro Awards include:

- Community greening activities/conservation works (tree plantings, clean ups, natural area rehabilitation)
- Environmental and sustainability educational events and/or community advocacy
- Individual greening activities benefiting the community
- Corporate environmental initiatives above best practice operations
- Sustainable initiatives that encourage increased sustainable living practices within the community
- Volunteering activities which assist with environmental protection or increased sustainable living practices

Nomination process

Nominations from the community will be requested to be submitted for the award categories. Members of the public, organisations, schools and not-for-profit groups can submit a nomination for any environmental or sustainability activities that they have undertaken during the previous year. The Smarty Grants program will be used to receive nominations and will request relevant information for the assessment of the nomination.

Nominations will need to include:

- Objectives of the initiative undertaken
- Complete details of the initiative undertaken including achievements, partners and community involvement
- Outcomes of the initiative undertaken

Assessment

Once nominations are received, a panel of judges will assess the nominations and select a winner in each category and any nominations that deserve a special mention. The winners will receive a trophy and certificate, while special mention nominees will receive a certificate at the awards ceremony following the EnviroForum.

Assessment criteria has been established for each category.

Category	Assessment	Scoring (1 – 5)
Environmental Hero Award	Extent to which initiative contributes to the improvement, enhancement and/or protection of the natural environment	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	Extent to which the community was involved in the initiative	1 (limited involvement) – 5 (extensive involvement)
	Extent to which the initiative addresses local and regional environmental issues	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	The involvement of partners in undertaking the initiative	1 (limited partners) – 5 (many partners)
	How innovative the initiative was	1 (no innovation) – 5 (very innovative)
	Initiative is within the Ipswich local government area	Requirement
	Nominee is an organisation, not-for-profit group or individual	Requirement
Sustainable Leadership Award	Extent to which initiative contributes to increased sustainability actions	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	Extent to which the community was involved in the initiative	1 (limited involvement) – 5 (extensive involvement)
	Extent to which the initiative addresses local and regional sustainability issues	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	The involvement of partners in undertaking the initiative	1 (limited partners) – 5 (many partners)
	How innovative the initiative was	1 (no innovation) – 5 (very innovative)
	Initiative is within the Ipswich local government area	Requirement
	Nominee is an organisation, not-for-profit group or individual	Requirement
Young Enviro Champion Award	Extent to which initiative contributes to increased environmental protection or sustainability actions	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	Extent to which the community was involved in the initiative	1 (limited involvement) – 5 (extensive involvement)
	Extent to which the initiative addresses local and regional environmental and sustainability issues	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	The involvement of partners in undertaking the initiative	1 (limited partners) – 5 (many partners)
	Initiative is within the Ipswich local government area	Requirement
	Individual under the age of 25	Requirement

Item 4 / Attachment 1.

Enviro Organisation Award	Extent to which initiative contributes to increased environmental protection or sustainability actions	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	Extent to which the community was involved in the initiative	1 (limited involvement) – 5 (extensive involvement)
	Extent to which the initiative addresses local and regional environmental and sustainability issues	1 (limited contribution) – 5 (extensive contribution)
	The involvement of partners in undertaking the initiative	1 (limited partners) – 5 (many partners)
	Initiative is within the Ipswich local government area	Requirement
	Nominee is a business, not-for-profit group or school	Requirement

2019 Environmental and Sustainable Events Proposal Ideas

Event	Ideas	Target	Monday 19/8	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Youth Sustainability Summit	Sustainability speakers/sessions Theme: Zero Waste	Children between 8 - 15 Schools - students, teachers and parents			Primary Schools			
EnviroForum	Forum and networking Theme: Our wildlife neighbours - preservation and discovery	Professionals, technical, activists, environmental groups. Include high school students				1.15pm - 5.30pm		
Ipswich Enviro Awards & Guest Speaker	Awards to follow enviroforum networking	Community - environmentally conscious, activist and/or unconverted Business -				5.30pm - 6.45pm		
Community Group events	Tree plantings, forums, volunteer nights, conservation estate community events/Kids go Wild type event. Organised by external organisations or included in our existing programs	Multiple - broken down per event Community groups - get involved, increase membership	Forum at QPEEC 6 - 9 pm (TBC)	Env Group Event (TBC)	Business event (TBC)			Community Tree Planting (TBC)
Sustainable Ipswich Activities	Daily theme	Multiple - broken down per day Business - get involved Community groups - get involved, increase membership/consideration	BYO Coffee Cup Day	Nude Food Day	Recycle/Upcycle	Be local, buy local	Carbon Reduction Day	Trees for the Weekend

SIW Activities	Theme	Target	#	Generic #
BYO Coffee Cup Day	BYO Coffee Cup	Yuppies, local workers and coffee shops	#byocupipswich	#Sustainableipswich
Nude Lunch Day	No plastic with lunches	Young families	#nudefoodipswich	#Sustainableipswich
Recycle/Upcycle	Recycle 4 tie in, upcycle something	Women,	#upcycleipswich	#Sustainableipswich
Be local, buy local	Buying local produce	Young families, singles with disposable income	#ipswichproduce	#Sustainableipswich
Carbon reduction day	Reducing carbon footprint	Women - middle age mothers and singles	#nocarbonipswich	#Sustainableipswich
Trees for the Weekend	Free plant program, get planting on the weekend, Pollinator Link gardens	Young families	#ipswichfreetrees	#Sustainableipswich

Doc ID No: A5474575

ITEM: 5
SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY (SAFETY AND RELIABILITY) ACT 2008 DELEGATION
AUTHOR: PRINCIPAL OFFICER (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)
DATE: 18 APRIL 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the delegation of Council's powers under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (the "Act").

RECOMMENDATION/S

That pursuant to section 257(1) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council delegate to the Chief Executive Officer, Council's powers in its capacity as a local government under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and any subordinate legislation under that Act.

Conditions:

This delegation is subject to the following conditions:

Whenever this power is exercised, a record of the exercise of the power shall be made in writing at the time of exercising such power, and a copy thereof shall be kept in such format as determined from time to time by the CEO.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no identified related parties.

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME LINKAGE

Listening, leading and financial management

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* provides that the owner of a referable dam must have an approved Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and that the owner of the dam must give a copy of the EAP to each local government before giving it to the Chief Executive of the Act.

Section 352HB of the Act states that if a local government is given a copy of an EAP, the local government must assess it for consistency with its disaster management plan. Further the local government must provide a formal '*notice response*' within 30 days and may provide a written response.

In light of Council's renewed focus on governance, legal advice was sought to determine an approach to issuance of this notice. Based on this advice and the principles of good governance it is determined that a formal delegation be sought in order to issue the formal notice.

Under section 257(1) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a local government may, by resolution, delegate powers under the Local Government Act or another Act or to the Chief Executive Officer. To enable Council to continue exercising powers relating to the assessment of an EAP for consistency with its disaster management plan and providing a formal notice and/or written response, it is requested that these powers be delegated to the CEO.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risks associated with not approving the recommendation include Council being unlikely to meet the legislated obligations in a timely and meaningful manner.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008
Section 257(1) of the Local Government Act 2009

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Community consultation has not been undertaken.

CONCLUSION

For reasons of operational efficiency, Council should delegate to the CEO the powers under *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*. It is recommended that Council consider and adopt the delegation to the CEO outlined in the recommendations.

Matthew Pinder

PRINCIPAL OFFICER (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Bryce Hines

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

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