



City of Ipswich

**IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

of the

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

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

**On Thursday, 11 March 2021
At 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry Development
Committee**

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Russell Milligan (**Chairperson**)
Councillor Andrew Fechner
(Deputy Chairperson)

Mayor Teresa Harding
Councillor Jacob Madsen
Councillor Kate Kunzelmann

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA
*10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry
Development Committee on Thursday, 11 March 2021*
Council Chambers

Item No.	Item Title	Page No.
	Declarations of Interest	
	Business Outstanding	
	Confirmation of Minutes	
1	Report - Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2021(01) of 11 February 2021	7
	Officers' Reports	
2	Proposal for Resilient Rivers Bremer River Catchment Officer Hosted as a Partnership between Scenic Rim and Ipswich City Council	10
3	**Assessment of 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park for Enviroplan Acquisition	50
4	Cherish the Environment Foundation	54
	Notices of Motion	
	Matters Arising	

** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2

11 MARCH 2021

AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **REPORT - ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(01) OF 11 FEBRUARY 2021**

This is the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2021(01) of 11 February 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2021 be received and noted.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **PROPOSAL FOR RESILIENT RIVERS BREMER RIVER CATCHMENT OFFICER HOSTED AS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCENIC RIM AND IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL**

This is a report concerning a formal partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council and the South East Queensland Council of Mayors CoMSEQ through the Resilient Rivers Initiative (RRI), to financially support the establishment of a *Bremer River Catchment Management Officer* role.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council provide financial support of \$30,000 for the establishment of the Bremer River Catchment Management Officer role in partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council.
 - B. That Council enter into a partnership agreement with Scenic Rim Regional Council and South East Queensland Council of Mayors (CoMSEQ), outlining the terms and desired outcomes of the funding arrangement.
-

3. ****ASSESSMENT OF 12-26 EUGENE STREET, BELLBIRD PARK FOR ENVIROPLAN ACQUISITION**

This is a report concerning a desktop assessment of 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park (Lots 901 & 902 RP909175) for consideration of acquisition under the *Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Policy* and *Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Procedure*.

Recognising the intent of the Enviroplan Program and Levy, Council takes a strategic, priority based and financially prudent approach when it comes to considering land for acquisition as part of this program.

It is acknowledged that 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park contains a number of natural and ecological values, and has a value to the local community. However, it is recommended that purchasing 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through the Ipswich Enviroplan Levy does not represent a strategically sound investment and as such, Council should not pursue further assessment to secure the property through this mechanism.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council not pursue the acquisition of the property identified as 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through Enviroplan Levy based upon findings of an initial desktop assessment and an independent kerbside evaluation of the land; instead the protection or acquisition of land adjacent to Woogaroo creek will be considered under the planning process as part of any future development proposal.

4. **CHERISH THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION**

This is a report concerning Council's future involvement and membership of Cherish the Environment Foundation Limited.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council develop an exit strategy from Cherish the Environment Foundation Limited, and that the exit strategy be developed in partnership with the Cherish the Environment Foundation Directors.
 - B. That Council source the required legal and governance advice to develop the exit strategy and to provide guidance to Council and Cherish the Environment Foundation through the transition phase.
-

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(01)

11 FEBRUARY 2021

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE: Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson); Mayor Teresa Harding, Councillors Andrew Fechner, Jacob Madsen and Kate Kunzelmann

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES: Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer (David Farmer), Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment (Sean Madigan), General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development (Ben Pole), Manager, Economic and Community Development (Cat Matson), Natural Environment and Land Manager (Phil A Smith), Media and Communications Manager (Darrell Giles) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

OTHER ATTENDANCE: Advisor to the Minister (Steve Greenwood)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **REPORT - ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05) OF 3 DECEMBER 2020**

This is the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Mayor Teresa Harding:
Seconded by Councillor Andrew Fechner:

That the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020 be received and noted.

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
Councillors:	Councillors:
Milligan	Nil
Fechner	
Harding	
Madsen	
Kunzelmann	

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICER'S REPORT

2. **QUEENSLAND FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**

This is a report concerning the ongoing annual financial contribution to, and partnership with, the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC) (Previously South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC)), for the 2020-2021 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:
Seconded by Mayor Teresa Harding:

That Council resolve to provide a financial contribution of \$7,874 (excl. GST), as detailed in the partnership letter from the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium outlined in Attachment 1, to be funded through the 2020-2021 Enviroplan budget.

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
Councillors:	Councillors:
Milligan	Nil
Fechner	
Harding	
Madsen	
Kunzelmann	

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 11.41 am.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

Doc ID No: A6745996

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR RESILIENT RIVERS BREMER RIVER CATCHMENT OFFICER
HOSTED AS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCENIC RIM AND IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

AUTHOR: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGER

DATE: 25 JANUARY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning a formal partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council and the South East Queensland Council of Mayors CoMSEQ through the Resilient Rivers Initiative (RRI), to financially support the establishment of a *Bremer River Catchment Management Officer* role.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That Council provide financial support of \$30,000 for the establishment of the Bremer River Catchment Management Officer role in partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council.
- B. That Council enter into a partnership agreement with Scenic Rim Regional Council and South East Queensland Council of Mayors (CoMSEQ), outlining the terms and desired outcomes of the funding arrangement.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts in relation to this report.

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME

Caring for the environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The *Resilient Rivers Initiative (RRI)* was developed by CoMSEQ in response to the large scale environmental and water quality impacts of the 2011, 2013 and 2015 flood events. These events saw extensive damage to local rivers and waterways, loss of productive agriculture land, and sediment impacts to the main water supply for Brisbane, Ipswich and surrounds.

Under the Resilient Rivers Initiative (RRI), a number of *Catchment Action Plans (CAPs)* were developed across South East Queensland, including the Bremer River CAP (Attachment 1).

The objective of the CAP is to facilitate whole of the catchment planning; collaborative working arrangements; list strategic projects and programs; and ultimately to protect and improve waterway stability and resilience in the Bremer River Catchment. Many of the catchments in South East Queensland, including the Bremer River, cross multiple local authority boundaries and as such require whole of catchment management collaboration and partnerships.

A priority action within the Bremer River CAP is the establishment of a Bremer River Catchment Management Officer.

FUNDING FOR A CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Funding for the Bremer River Catchment Management officer is proposed to be funded across the two partner councils and through the Resilient Rivers Initiative. Similar Catchment Management Offices are operating in this way, such as the Logan and Albert catchment officer (Logan City and Scenic Rim Regional Council) with great success.

The proposed contribution for Ipswich City Council is:

- \$30,000 to cover operational costs (approx. 30% of total FTE costs), and
- desk space and computer / ICT access for one to two days per week for an officer

The position will in turn look to deliver a further \$75,000 worth of improvements within the Bremer River Catchment using funding committed under the RRI. There is also opportunity for the officer to seek additional funding through external grants leveraged against the core RRI funding.

The officer will play a part in strategically aligning communications, planning and projects within the catchment to allow for cooperative and effective collaboration and to encourage and facilitate knowledge sharing through a network of government and community organisations and stakeholders.

Should this position and proposal be supported a specific partnership contract or Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between the parties to stipulate the terms and outcomes of the partnership.

The position description is provided in Attachment 2.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council endorsed the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan in 2018 and actions within the document include the development of a catchment wide partnership and a project management role to manage project delivery.

Council's recently adopted Waterway Health Strategy looks at ways and means to protect and enhance its major catchments including the Bremer River as a strategic priority. The Ipswich local government area covers approx. one third (1/3) of the catchment area and as such in order to assist and improve the management of the majority of the catchment area strong partnerships and innovative working arrangements are required. In not perusing this partnership Council will potential miss out on the management and implementation of \$75,000 of improvement funds this year as well as the chance to foster and improve relationships across the catchment with land owners, Scenic Rim Regional Council and CoMSEQ.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

\$30,000 of budgeted funding (Waterway funding in the Natural Areas and Land Management budget) is proposed to be contributed to the partnership via Scenic Rim Regional Council to be used as a contribution towards the wages and on costs for the Catchment Management Officer role. This funding can be found via savings within the operational budget.

CoMSEQ has committed a total of \$190,000 for the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan to Scenic Rim Regional Council. This funding is to be split between funding the employment of the Catchment Management Officer, support of planning and projects, and a stipulation that \$75,000 to be expended on on-ground improvement works within the Bremer River Catchment.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The development of the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan, which will guide this process and the projects to be delivered, was compiled collaboratively through a series of 3 workshops where active input was received from Ipswich City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, CoMSEQ, and multiple community stakeholders including the Bremer Catchment Association, the Bremer River Network, West Moreton Land Care, Boonah Land Care, and Native Plants Queensland.

State Government through the Department of Environment and Science also provided input through the workshop process and subsequently commenting on drafts of the plan.

The position description for the Catchment Management Officer was drafted jointly between officers from Scenic Rim Regional Council and Ipswich City Council and approved by Officers representing CoMSEQ.

CONCLUSION





An opportunity has been presented to Council to partner with Scenic Rim Regional Council in the delivery of the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan through the joint recruitment of a Catchment Management Officer.

Council's proposed contribution to this partnership is \$30,000 plus in-kind support through the provision of a desk and office space for up to 2 days a week for 12 months from the recruitment into the position.

The contribution will go to Scenic Rim Regional Council who will administer the wages of Catchment Management Officer. The officer will work across the entire Bremer Catchment to implement, oversee and facilitate catchment and waterway improvement projects in line with the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan and the Council of Mayors Resilient Rivers Initiative.

The Resilient Rivers Initiative through the Council of Mayors has already committed \$190,000 to the Bremer Catchment to support the development and recruitment into this role and the delivery of waterway and catchment improvement projects managed by that officer.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Bremer River Catchment Action Management Plan 2018  
2.	Position Description - Bremer Catchment Management Officer Position Description  

Phil Smith

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Sean Madigan

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

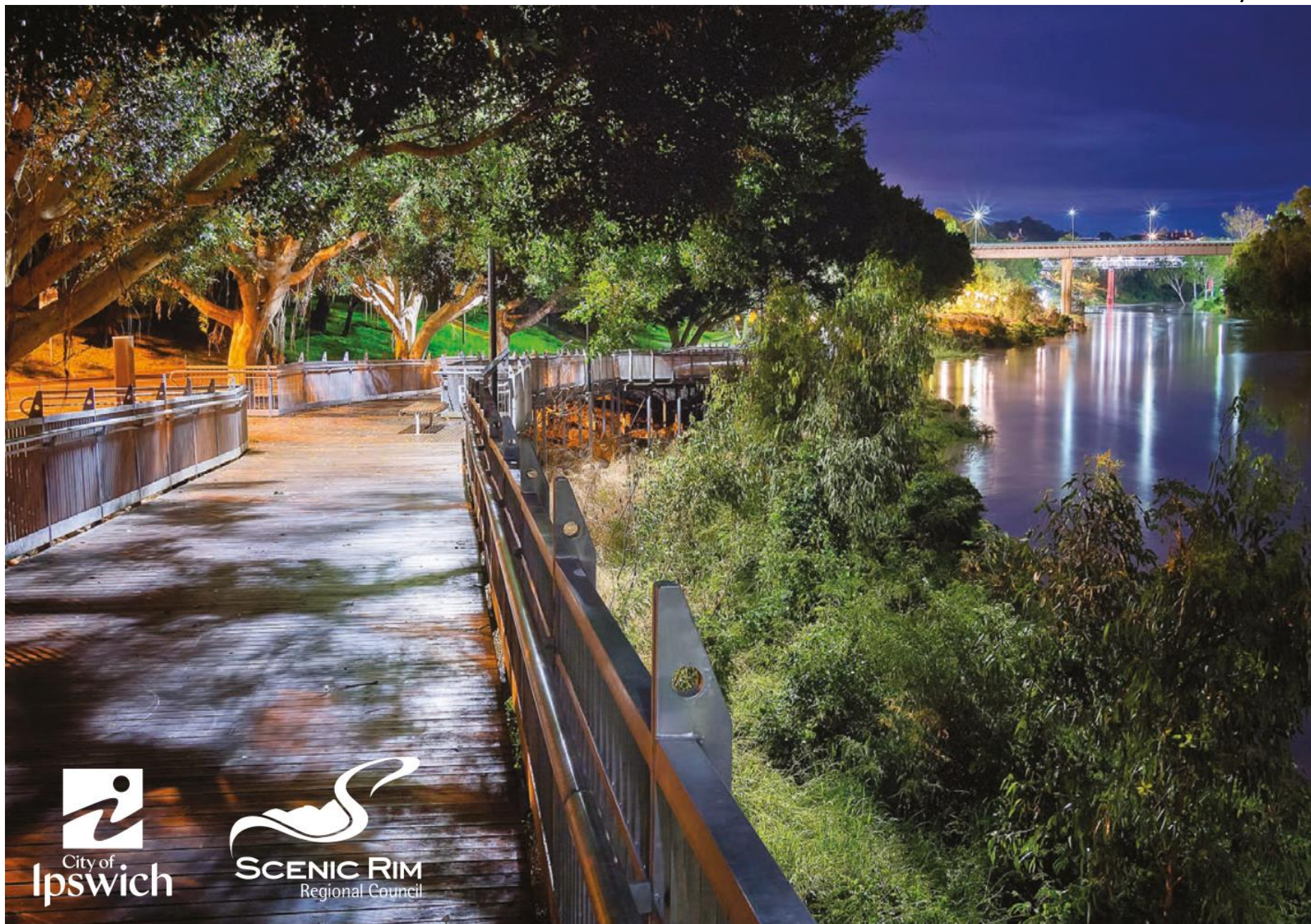
Bremer River Catchment Action Plan 2018-2021

May 2018

Resilient Rivers Initiative



Item 1 / Attachment 1.



City of
Ipswich



SCENIC RIM
Regional Council

Contents

Executive Summary 4

About this action plan..... 6

- Scope and purpose 6
- Intended use 7
- Relationship with other plans 7
- Development of the plan 8

The Bremer River Catchment..... 9

- Rationale for regional investment in the Bremer River Catchment 9
- Catchment Overview 11
- Key catchment assets and threats 12

Catchment Action Plan 15

- Assets and investment map 21
- Review of progress 22

Attachment 1 - Previous studies and planning activities 23

Attachment 2 - Priority Action Investment Prospectus 26



Executive summary

The Resilient Rivers Initiative vision is “By 2045, the catchments of South East Queensland (SEQ) will support a resilient, productive, liveable and growing region.” The development of the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan has been identified as a priority as part of the Resilient Rivers Regional Strategy (2015-2025) to achieve this vision.

The primary focus of the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan (CAP) is to address the very high risk of flooding, erosion, sediment and pollutant movement through the catchment and its impact on downstream creeks, the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay.

The catchment is approximately 2032 km² and flows through Scenic Rim Regional Council and Ipswich City Council areas. It contains regionally important assets including water supply infrastructure, high value agricultural and horticultural lands, Ipswich Central Business District (CBD), RAAF Base Amberley and high value recreation spaces and bushlands. It will also undergo significant change due to large areas of urban development in the lower catchment including the

Ripley Valley Priority Development Area, Ebenezer and Citiswich industrial areas.

Water connects all of these assets as it flows through the catchment as surface run-off, groundwater and river flows supporting aquatic ecosystems, drinking water and irrigation requirements.

Currently the Bremer River is the worst performing catchment in SEQ according to the 2017 Healthy Land and Water report card and requires strategic, coordinated investment across multiple stakeholder groups to improve its condition.

The Bremer River CAP has been developed by the Project Team with input from stakeholders through a series of meetings and workshops. The CAP has been endorsed by the relevant councils and presents a prioritised list of actions which will help to deliver the goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative. Table 1 outlines the recommended actions to be undertaken between 2018-2021.



Table 1: Bremer River Catchment Action Plan (CAP) 2018-2021 priority actions.

On-Ground Actions	Measures of Success
Deliver at least six co-ordinated rural partnership projects to improve waterway health in priority locations (see Table 3 and Figure 3).	Minimum of eleven on-ground works completed
Improve erosion and sediment control compliance in new developments with increased on-ground auditing of sites.	
Implement collaborative weed control and revegetation in priority locations (see Table 3 and Figure 3).	
Deliver at least two bed and bank stabilisation projects in priority locations (see Table 3 and Figure 3).	
Revegetate and re-engage at least three priority floodplain/wetlands and riparian locations in the upper catchment reaches to provide multiple benefits in priority locations (see Table 3 and Figure 3).	
Restore fish habitat and remove barriers to fish passage in three priority locations (see Table 3 and Figure 3).	
Develop a Bremer River education and engagement program to build understanding of its history, values and flood resilience.	
Research, Planning and Policy Actions	Measures of Success
Formalise a rural partnerships network with the potential creation of a new central coordinator role to assist in the coordinated delivery of on-ground works.	To be determined as part of reporting framework
Improve the current understanding of sediment and nutrient sources and transport across the Bremer Catchment.	
Refine and apply regional water quality models to help prioritise waterway works and measure potential benefits.	
Co-ordinate floodplain management strategies and Southern Freight Rail planning to investigate the potential for catchment works to improve flood resilience of RAAF Base Amberley, Ipswich CBD and other areas containing critical infrastructure and understand broader regional flood response.	
Investigate the impact of altered hydrology from new urban areas on bank stability, geomorphology and flooding and identify required development outcomes to address this.	
Determine the value/services provided by floodplains and wetlands in terms of flood mitigation, nutrient cycling, urban cooling, habitat, recreation to provide a business case for the preservation of corridors.	
Develop precinct or corridor scale plans to inform stormwater, flood and waterway management projects.	
Identify flow requirements to improve Bremer Estuary water quality and compare this to current Moreton Plan water allocations and water usage.	
Co-ordinate planning of road upgrades near the RAAF Base Amberley to ensure works extend to local access roads to address flooding, traffic and fauna connectivity.	

About this action plan

Scope and purpose

The Bremer River Catchment Action Plan (CAP) 2018-2021 has been prepared as part of the Resilient Rivers Initiative which has the following vision:

“By 2045, the catchments of South East Queensland will support a resilient, productive, liveable and growing region.”

This vision is documented in the Resilient Rivers Regional Strategy (2015-2025) which also has the following supporting goals:

- Keep soil on our land and out of our waterways to support agricultural productivity and improve water quality.
- Help protect our region’s water security so it can support the current and future population of SEQ.
- Improve the climate resilience of our region.
- Promote partnerships with strong leadership to deliver a coordinated approach to catchment management in SEQ.

The purpose of the Bremer River CAP is to:

- Succinctly present the issues and opportunities across the Bremer River Catchment based on the best of our knowledge and understanding and reflecting the values of the community.
- Identify catchment-wide actions to mitigate risks within the context of the Resilient Rivers Initiative to achieve the vision and supporting four goals.
- Provide a single strategic framework and rationale for coordinated investment by stakeholders based on agreed prioritised actions.
- Align with and inform other plans including the Ipswich City Council Waterway Health Strategy (currently being updated), the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Strategy (2018) and the Bremer River Floodplain Management Strategy (under development) (see ‘Relationship with other Plans’ and Figure 2 for more details).

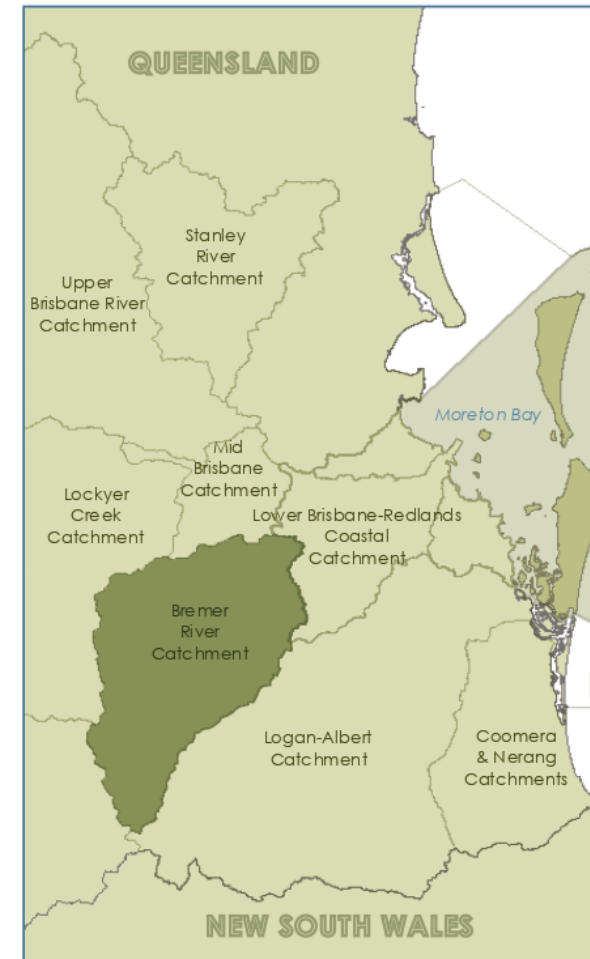


Figure 1: Bremer River Catchment location

Intended use

The Bremer River CAP has been developed as a succinct, high level document for use by:

- Resilient Rivers Taskforce - presents rationale for investment in the Bremer Catchment and priority actions.
- Project stakeholders - provides direction and basis for detailed project planning and further conversations between stakeholders.

Relationship with other Plans

A vast amount of work has been, and is currently being, undertaken across the Bremer River Catchment. The Bremer River CAP builds on this work to present actions which require collaborative implementation and investment to achieve the Resilient Rivers Initiative Vision and goals. Figure 2 presents the relationship between the Bremer River CAP and these other plans and strategies. A summary of the key documents used in the development of the plan is provided in Attachment 1.

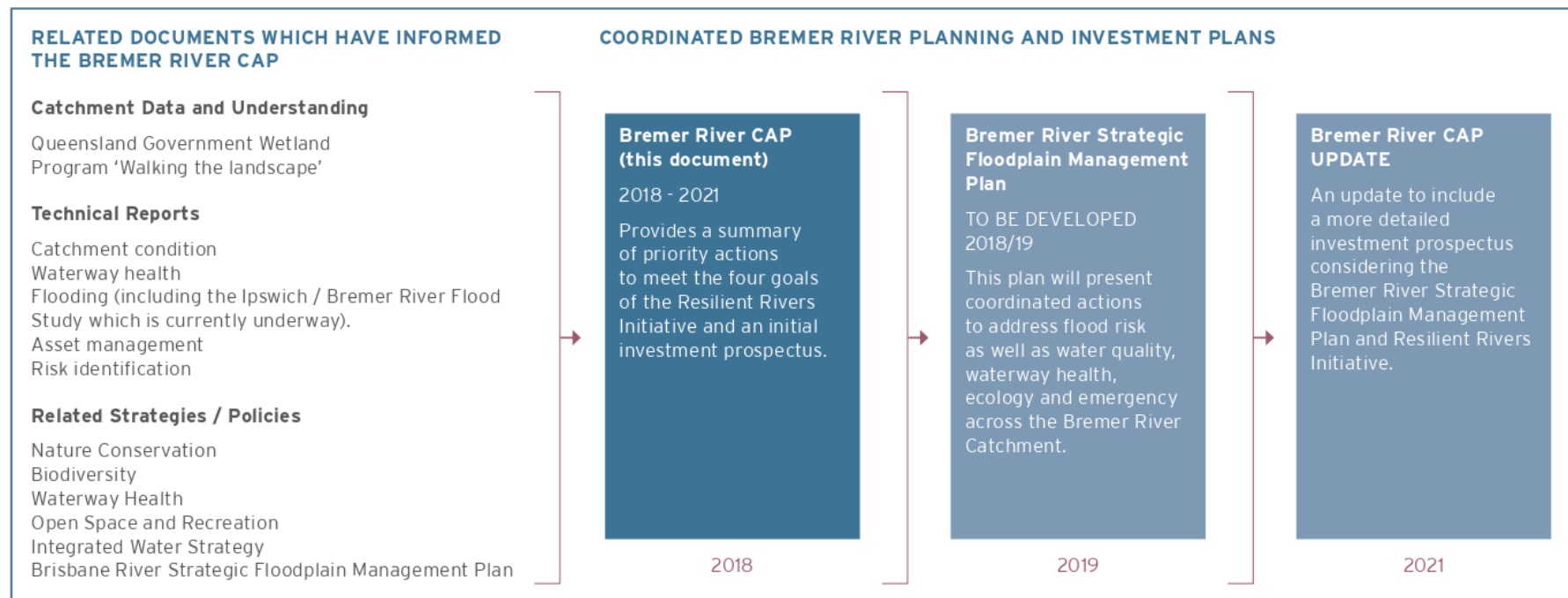


Figure 2: Bremer CAP relationship with other plans.

Development of the Bremer River CAP

Development of the Bremer River CAP occurred during the period September 2017 - June 2018 and was overseen by a project team consisting of representatives from Council of Mayors (SEQ), Ipswich City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Seqwater, Healthy Land and Water, Queensland Urban Utilities, Queensland Government Departments of Environment and Science, Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Resilient Rivers Taskforce reviewed aspects of the Plan as it proceeded. The Taskforce was supported by the executive level Catchment Action Plans Working Group, which nominated the representatives for the project team.

Ipswich City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council provided funding, coordination and project management capacity on behalf of the project team. E2Designlab was contracted to provide technical assistance to the project team throughout the development of the Bremer River CAP.

A broader stakeholder group was established with representatives from the project team in addition to representatives from community, industry and primary producer groups that represented the diverse interests across the catchment.

The collaborative process was undertaken to develop the Bremer River CAP following the five step process provided by the Resilient Rivers Taskforce.

STEP 1: CATCHMENT DESCRIPTION

Literature review and meetings with project team to build understanding of catchment condition. A key input was the use of the 'Walking the Landscape - Bremer Catchment Story'.

STEP 2: CATCHMENT VALUES AND ISSUES

Identification of assets and threats via workshop with broader stakeholder group.

STEP 3: RISKS AND TREATMENT ACTIONS

Identification of risks to assets and preferred treatments via stakeholder engagement.

STEP 4: PRIORITISATION OF ACTIONS

Investigation of the feasibility and likelihood of success via workshop with broader stakeholder group.

STEP 5: PUBLISHING

Finalisation the action plan document and seek endorsement from collaborators.

A risk approach was taken in the development of the Bremer River CAP, testing a detailed Risk Treatment Plan which was developed for the Lower Brisbane-Redlands Coastal Catchment Action Plan 2018-2021.

Project stakeholders were consulted at all stages of Plan development through a series of meetings and workshops and the time and effort they provided is greatly appreciated.



Image: Wordcloud summarising the key catchment aspirations identified by stakeholders at workshop one.

The Bremer River Catchment

Rationale for regional investment in the Bremer River catchment

THE BREMER RIVER CATCHMENT IS A PRIORITY FOR THE REGION AS IT:

- Is the worst performing catchment in South East Queensland according to the 2017 Healthy Land and Water Report Card with very poor riparian cover and estuarine water quality.
- Provides water supply for numerous towns and irrigation for horticultural and agricultural lands.
- Is located across two local government areas.
- Contains high value agricultural and horticultural land, with a large area of irrigated agriculture in the Fassifern Valley.
- Contains high ecological and conservation values, with large areas of bushland especially in Scenic Rim.
- Contains economically and socially significant including the City of Ipswich where flooding is a concern in some locations.
- Contains the RAAF Base Amberley which is the Australian Air Force's largest base.
- Is a major contributor of flows and pollutants to the Lower Brisbane River and Moreton Bay environments.

VALUE IN PROTECTING CATCHMENT ASSETS

The Bremer Catchment contains many valuable assets which require protection including:

- Agriculture is the top industry of employment in the Scenic Rim, generating 1885 local jobs in 2015/16, and valued at \$187 million in 2010/11¹. This accounts for around 16% of the total value of agriculture in SEQ which was estimated to be more than \$1.16 billion². A decline of 2% in primary production would cost the sector almost half a billion dollars over the next 20 years³.
- The City of Ipswich Gross Regional Product was \$8.96 billion in 2015/16 and the majority of local employment is within the manufacturing industry⁴. New major industrial areas are also planned in Ebenezer, Swanbank and Citiswich.
- The Bremer River is valued and used by the community for walking, running, cycling, picnics, fishing and generally enjoying nature⁵.
- The contribution of the RAAF Base Amberley to the Greater Brisbane Economy was estimated to be \$583 million in 2015/16 with potential to grow to \$1.2 billion by 2019-22. This regional activity would be lost without the Base's presence and operations⁶.

WHOLE OF CATCHMENT APPROACH REQUIRED

Water management is a catchment issue as freshwater flows generated in the upper catchment flow down to the estuary. The Bremer Estuary is also influenced by the tidal connections with the Brisbane River.

The 2017 Healthy Land and Water Report card identifies that the failing grade for the Bremer River Catchment is largely due to the poor condition of the estuary section, especially the elevated levels for turbidity and total nitrogen. The health of the freshwater section is recognised as fair, but with a very poor riparian condition along the whole waterway.

Even though the condition of the freshwater sections are currently scoring fair, previous research by Jon Olley⁷ has estimated high volumes of sediments are generated by gully erosion in these upper reaches and therefore works to address this (e.g. channel stabilisation and riparian revegetation) can improve the condition of downstream environments, such as the Bremer Estuary. These improvements will require a coordinated effort across the catchment to improve current practices.

NEED FOR COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

The management and use of assets within the Bremer River Catchment is complicated due to the number of stakeholders and requires coordination and collaboration.

The key organisations involved are:

In-stream environments

The Queensland Government sets Water Quality Objectives and Environmental Values for waterways and regulate in-stream works and Environmentally Relevant Activities (such as Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) which may impact on water quality and fish passage.

10

Land management

Land use planning and approvals of new development and pollution of waters on private lands is mainly controlled by local governments. State Government largely administers control over the removal of vegetation, extraction of surface and ground waters and weed control.

Water supply

Water supply and irrigation water is administered by the state government with drinking water, recycled water and irrigation scheme water managed by Seqwater. Owners of private land adjacent to waterways have a statutory riparian right to take water for stock or domestic purposes.

Other key infrastructure

New roads and rail corridors are delivered by a combination of federal, state and local governments. Wastewater infrastructure is owned and operated by Queensland Urban Utilities. Stormwater networks are managed by local governments. Open space and conservation zones are owned and managed by both state and local governments.

Other catchment stakeholders

There has been a lot of work undertaken across the Bremer River Catchment by landholders, community, Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, river improvement trusts and industry representative groups to improve waterway health including the adoption of on-ground Best Management Practices (BMPs), weed management, riparian restoration and waterway stabilisation.

- ¹ <https://statistics.qgso.qld.gov.au/qld-regional-profiles>
- ² ShapingSEQ - South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017
- ³ The South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Plan - Update 2014 Report
- ⁴ <https://economy.id.com.au/ipswich/>
- ⁵ <http://hlw.org.au/reportcard/#/zone/1259/2017/condition>
- ⁶ Economic Contribution of RAAF Base Amberley, A report for the Department of Defence - 17 March 2017, KPMG
- ⁷ Healthy Country Science & Planning Final Report Prepared for Healthy Waterways by Olwyn Crimp, 2011



Catchment overview

The Bremer River Catchment is approximately 2032 km² and flows 82 km through Scenic Rim Regional Council and Ipswich City Council areas to its confluence with the Brisbane River at Riverview. The tidal limit of the Bremer River is approximately 19 km upstream of the confluence. The major tributaries of the Bremer River include Warrill Creek, Western Creek, Franklin Vale Creek, Reynolds Creek, Purga Creek and Bundamba Creek.

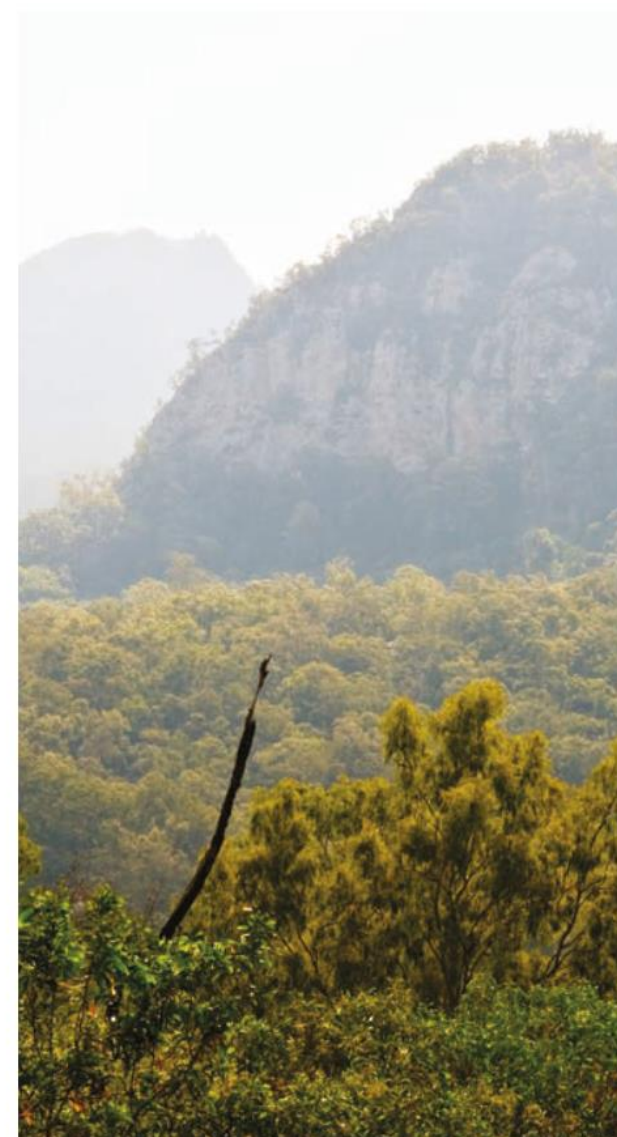
The catchment supports a diverse range of land uses including grazing, crop production, bushland, industry, rural residential, urban development and commerce. The lower parts of the catchment are mostly urbanised while the upper parts of the catchment are predominantly rural.

The steep slopes of the catchment contain areas of highly permeable basalt and the lower parts contain large areas of alluvium which readily store and transmit groundwater.

The catchment has been severely impacted by past land practices including vegetation removal and

channel modifications which have led to issues such as loss of biodiversity and habitat, erosion, salinity outbreaks, weed encroachment and declining water quality. The majority of the catchment has been cleared of vegetation, however areas of threatened vegetation communities (such as the endangered Swamp Tea-tree Forest) still exist. The Bremer River Catchment contains dispersive soils which are highly vulnerable to erosion. Hillslope and gully erosion are key issues for the catchment and generate significant volumes of sediment. Other channel modifications have also occurred across the catchment including straightening and inclusion of levees and weirs as well as the conversion of lower order streams into piped stormwater networks in urban areas.

The engagement of floodplains is a natural process which has many benefits. However, flooding in parts of the Bremer River Catchment also creates a risk for the community in low lying areas and puts some high value infrastructure such as the Ipswich CBD and RAAF Base Amberley at risk.



Key catchment assets and threats

The catchment includes a number of key natural and built assets which were identified as being of regional significance and which are at threat in the context of the four goals of the Resilient Rivers Regional Strategy. A summary of these assets and threats are provided below.

Table 2: Bremer River Catchment Assets and Threats

Assets	Services provided	Related RRI Goals	Threats to asset	Source of threat
<p>Natural assets</p> <p>Parklands and recreation (especially waterside parks and linear parks)</p> <p>Recreational fisheries</p> <p>Waterways (upper Bremer River, Bremer Estuary)</p> <p>Floodplains and wetlands</p> <p>Terrestrial ecosystems (riparian and native remnant vegetation)</p> <p>Significant and protected fauna</p> <p>Receiving aquatic environments (Brisbane River and Moreton Bay)</p>	<p>Tourism</p> <p>Recreation</p> <p>Habitat</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Connectivity</p> <p>Amenity</p> <p>Ecosystem services including nutrient cycling supporting clean air and water</p>	<p>Climate resilience</p> <p>Keeping soil on land</p>	<p>Extreme weather (drought and flood) impacts to natural and built assets</p> <p>Bed and bank erosion resulting in soil loss and impacting ecosystems services and habitats</p>	<p>Flood flows and inundation damaging built parkland infrastructure, creating public health and safety risks and increasing risk of bed and bank erosion.</p> <p>Droughts and floods impacting fauna and habitat quality through loss of vegetation cover, fragmentation, declining water quality, sedimentation, erosion and scour, altering hydrology.</p> <p>Soil loss from bed and bank erosion resulting from loss of vegetation cover and increased flow velocities.</p> <p>Waterways vulnerable to disturbance due to historic degradation (erosion, removal of vegetation, altered flows etc).</p>
<p>Productive lands</p> <p>Grazing land and soils</p> <p>Horticultural land and soils</p> <p>Intensive agriculture (feedlots, dairy, piggeries)</p> <p>Agroforestry (native hardwood forestry and planted forestry)</p>	<p>Jobs</p> <p>Local food production</p>	<p>Keeping soil on land</p> <p>Climate resilience</p>	<p>Loss of high value soil and land due to hillslope and gully erosion</p> <p>Flood damage to infrastructure</p>	<p>Hillslope and gully erosion resulting in loss of highly productive soils and land can be caused by overstocking or drought which reduces pasture cover, removal of vegetation, lack of crop cover.</p> <p>Flood flows and inundation resulting in loss of soil, fences, pumps and other infrastructure.</p> <p>Drought resulting in lack of water availability, loss of crops and pasture cover which impacts productivity and increases risk of soil loss.</p>

Assets	Services provided	Related RRI Goals	Threats to asset	Source of threat
Water supply and infrastructure Drinking water supply (Lake Moogerah, Reynolds Creek) Water treatment plants Farm dams Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme Other surface water extraction Groundwater Recycled water supply (Bundamba Advanced water treatment plant)	Drinking water for local towns Water for domestic stock watering and irrigation Water for industry and indirect potable (future)	Water security Climate resilience	Water availability and poor water quality impact on water security Extreme weather events (drought and flood) impact on water supply availability and water quality and damage to infrastructure	Pathogens, sediment, hazardous chemicals, nutrients and salinity impacting water quality and treatment processes. Climate variability, reduced catchment runoff, over extraction impacting water availability. Accessibility to water supplies impacted by riparian weeds or bank erosion. Flood inundation impacting treatment processes and damaging assets.
Wastewater infrastructure Sewerage treatment plants / pump stations	Wastewater treatment and disposal	Climate resilience	Flood damage to infrastructure	Flood inundation impacting treatment processes and damaging assets.
Stormwater and associated infrastructure Stormwater network infrastructure Levees	Stormwater conveyance Stormwater treatment Urban cooling Flood mitigation	Climate resilience	Flood damage to infrastructure	Flood risk especially in older areas (e.g. CBD) where infrastructure is under capacity. Levees can also shift flood risks to other areas. Impact on green stormwater assets from sediment due to poor erosion and sediment control and poor design which can impact urban cooling potential.
Transport and critical infrastructure Key access rail, roads, bridges and rail RAAF Base Amberley	Connectivity to critical services Trade/commerce Transport Food security and national security	Climate resilience	Disconnection of critical access routes and flood damage to infrastructure	Flood inundation and damage to critical transport networks preventing access to critical services and impacting RAAF Base Amberley operations.

14

Assets	Services provided	Related RRI Goals	Threats to asset	Source of threat
<p>Economic hubs</p> <p>Ipswich CBD</p> <p>Urban growth areas (Ripley Valley Priority Development Area, other future urban areas)</p> <p>Existing and new business and industrial areas (Citiswich Industrial Park, Ebenzer Regional Industrial Area)</p>	<p>Jobs</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Trade</p> <p>Commerce</p>	<p>Keeping soil on land</p> <p>Climate resilience</p>	<p>Soil loss associated with new development</p> <p>Extreme weather events (drought and flood) impacts to infrastructure and human health</p>	<p>Soil loss associated with new developments (especially during construction and building phases).</p> <p>Flood flows and inundation damaging infrastructure, impacting accessibility and creating public health and safety risks.</p> <p>Unmitigated hydrology change and associated gully erosion impacting infrastructure and public health and safety (especially in areas with highly erodible soils).</p> <p>Extreme heat events resulting in human health impacts.</p>
<p>Cultural and Social assets</p> <p>Indigenous and European heritage</p>	<p>Cultural and spiritual values and well-being</p>	<p>Climate resilience</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Flood damage to assets</p>	<p>Flood flows and inundation resulting in loss or damage to cultural heritage assets.</p>

Catchment Action Plan

The following have been identified as high priority actions to be undertaken across the Bremer River Catchment during this first catchment action plan cycle (2018-2021). Estimated budget and timeframes are detailed in the Priority Action Investment Prospectus (Attachment 2).

Table 3: Catchment Action Plan - actions, implementation pathways, costs, benefits, locations, timeframes and stakeholders.

Action #	Actions / Treatments	Risk/s addressed (RRI focused)	Possible implementation pathway / staging	Costs	Benefits	Priority locations	Approx timeframe	Stakeholders
On-Ground Actions								
1	Deliver at least six co-ordinated rural partnership projects to improve waterway health in priority locations	Water security - water availability and water quality Climate resilience - resilience during flood events Keeping soil on land - hillslope, gully, bed and bank erosion Partnerships - engaged community	Continuation of working with rural landholders to deliver on-farm projects such as waterway stabilisation, fencing, off-stream watering points, weed control and revegetation, contour banks, strip tillage, precision technologies and use of treatment systems such as high efficiency sediment basins, bioreactors and constructed wetlands. Potential to use existing Best Management Practice benchmarking to inform and monitor on-ground works. Identification of alternative funding mechanisms should also be investigated as part of this action. This work should be undertaken as part of the rural partnerships network (see Action #8).	High	Shared resources, knowledge and coordinated delivery of planned works	Moogerah Dam and Reynolds Creek catchments (to protect drinking water supply) Franklin Vale and Western Creek (to address channel instabilities) Upper Bremer River (Rosevale) (to continue previous Healthy Country work)	2018 - ongoing	BRN DAF Seqwater Growcom Agforce QFF BCA Landcare ICC / SRRC Landcare DES / DNRME HLW
2	Improve erosion and sediment control compliance in new developments with increased on-ground auditing of sites	Keeping soil on land - bed and bank erosion Partnerships - engaged community	Regionally consistent approach and political support for erosion and sediment control through: • Capacity building • Compliance	Low	Reduced erosion and sediment entering waterways and improved water health	New development areas such as Ripley Valley	2018 - ongoing	ICC / SRRC DES / EDQ HLW MBA HIA

16

Action #	Actions / Treatments	Risk/s addressed (RRI focused)	Possible implementation pathway / staging	Costs	Benefits	Priority locations	Approx timeframe	Stakeholders
3	Implement collaborative weed control and revegetation in priority locations	Water security - water quality Keeping soil on land - bed and bank erosion Climate resilience - resilience during flood events Partnerships - engaged community	Collaborative approach to the removal of weeds in combination with revegetation of native plants along the riparian corridor.	High	Water quality improvement, bed and bank stability and biodiversity	Moogerah Dam and Reynolds Creek catchments Additional priority locations may also be identified as an outcome of Actions #9/10	2018 - 2020	SRRIT / IRIT SRRRC Seqwater BRN BCA Landcare Growcom Agforce QFF
4	Deliver at least two bed and bank stabilisation projects in priority locations	Keeping soil on land - bed and bank erosion Climate resilience - resilience during flood events	Undertake bed and bank stability works in priority locations.	High	Reduced sediment transport and erosion risk to infrastructure and improved waterway health	Ironpot Creek and Bundamba Creek Additional priority locations may also be identified as an outcome of Actions #9/10	2019 - 2021	ICC DES
5	Revegetate and re-engage at least three priority floodplain/wetlands and riparian locations in the upper catchment reaches to provide multiple benefits in priority locations	Keeping soil on land - bed and bank erosion Climate resilience - improved flooding and catchment cooling	Revegetation of upper catchment floodplain and tributaries to align with future flood risk management plans and planned habitat corridors to provide multiple benefits (slow flows, provide habitat, nutrient and sediment cycling and groundwater recharge). Potential to use environmental offsets or Australian Carbon Credit Units as a delivery/ funding mechanism.	High	Water quality improvement, flood mitigation, increased groundwater recharge and improved biodiversity	Priority locations to be determined in Bremer Floodplain Management Strategy. Additional priority locations may also be identified as an outcome of Actions #9/10	2019 - 2021	SRRRC / ICC QRA BRN BCA Landcare DAF / DES / DNRME
6	Restore fish habitat and remove barriers to fish passage in three priority locations	Climate resilience - resilience during drought and flood events	Removal of fish barriers and restoration of fish passage and habitats at three priority locations. Fish barrier removal sites have been identified within Greater Brisbane Fish Barrier prioritisation study (2018). Fish habitats and refugia also need to be considered in waterway improvement works.	Med / High	Improved fish connectivity and resilience which supports healthy recreation fisheries and ecotourism	Warrill Creek Bremer River Bundamba Creek	2019 - 2021	ICC/SRRRC DAF

Action #	Actions / Treatments	Risk/s addressed (RRI focused)	Possible implementation pathway / staging	Costs	Benefits	Priority locations	Approx timeframe	Stakeholders
7	Develop a Bremer River education and engagement program to build understanding of its history, values and flood resilience	Climate resilience - resilience during flood events Partnerships - engaged community	Creation of a community education and engagement program to improve understanding of the Bremer River history, its values and its flooding characteristics to help build appreciation for the River and flood resilience.	Low	Improved flood resilience, community understanding and appreciation of the Bremer River	Catchment wide with a focus on communities which experience flooding	2019 - 2021	ICC / SRRC Traditional owners BRN QRA
Research, planning and policy actions								
8	Formalise rural partnerships network with the potential creation of a new central coordinator role to assist in the coordinated delivery of on-ground works	Partnerships - ensure coordination of resources	<p>1. Develop a network of partners to communicate current activities and programs.</p> <p>2. Undertake a scoping exercise to see what other programs exist and what has been successful in terms of cost and long term change.</p> <p>3. Establish a dedicated coordinator of works program based on outcomes of scoping exercise.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Low</p> <p>Med / High</p>	<p>Communication and potential shared funding of planned on-ground actions between active stakeholders</p> <p>Identification of cost effective designated program to support coordinated delivered of on-ground works</p> <p>Designated resource responsible for planning of coordinated on-ground actions, providing rural landholders with a central point of contact.</p>	<p>Moogerah Dam and Reynolds Creek catchments (to protect drinking water supply)</p> <p>Franklin Vale and Western Creek (to address channel instabilities)</p> <p>Upper Bremer (Rosevale) (to continue previous Healthy Country work)</p>	<p>2018 - ongoing</p> <p>2019</p> <p>2019 - ongoing</p>	<p>BRN Seqwater ICC/SRRC DAF Growcom Agforce QFF BCA Landcare DES HLW</p>
9	Improve the current understanding of sediment and nutrient sources and transport across the Bremer Catchment	Keeping soil on land - hillslope, gully, bed and bank erosion	<p>1. Collate existing data and identify data gaps and best options for addressing gaps.</p> <p>2. Undertake project to address gaps (identified in step 1) and identify priority locations to manage sediment (e.g. geomorphic assessment / sediment tracking / transect project).</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>Med (TBD)</p>	Improved understand of priority erosion hotspots, bed and bank stabilisation	Warrill catchment	<p>2018</p> <p>2019 - 2020</p>	<p>ICC / SRRC HLW ARI Seqwater</p>

18

Action #	Actions / Treatments	Risk/s addressed (RRI focused)	Possible implementation pathway / staging	Costs	Benefits	Priority locations	Approx timeframe	Stakeholders
10	Refine and apply regional water quality models to help prioritise waterway works and measure potential benefits	Keeping soil on land - hillslope, gully, bed and bank erosion Climate resilience - resilience during flood events	Refine the Healthy Land and Water regional water quality model to provide improved understanding of freshwater vs estuary environments (potential sub catchment breakdown) to inform prioritisation and selection of on-ground works.	Med	Tool to test scenarios to identify priority locations for on-ground works, bed and bank stabilisation	Focus on model being able to separate freshwater and estuarine areas	2018 - ongoing	ICC / SRRC HLW Seqwater DES
11	Co-ordinate floodplain management strategies and Southern Freight Rail planning to investigate the potential for catchment works to improve flood resilience of RAAF Base Amberley, Ipswich CBD and other critical infrastructure and understand broader regional flood response	Climate resilience - flood management	Coordination between Southern Freight Rail planning (current), Brisbane River floodplain management strategy (being finalised) and Bremer River floodplain management strategy (to be done 2018) to ensure opportunities for infrastructure to deliver catchment flood improvements are included in planning and design phases.	Low	Coordination of infrastructure design to provide multiple benefits, alignment of investment in flood studies and infrastructure planning, flood mitigation for critical infrastructure	Focus on design of Southern Freight Rail to provide flood improvements for downstream areas	2018	Qld Gov QRA ICC / SRRC ARTC RAAF Base Amberley Seqwater
12	Investigate the impact of altered hydrology from new urban areas on bank stability, geomorphology and flooding and identify required development outcomes to address this	Keeping soil on land - bed and bank erosion Climate resilience - improved flooding and city cooling	Undertake a study to determine if and how Bremer waterways are impacted by altered hydrology from new urban areas (e.g. bank stability, geomorphology and flooding). Determine appropriate development responses to address these impacts (e.g. waterway stability objectives, inclusion of rainwater tanks or green infrastructure).	Med	Improved understanding and communication of need to provide flow management in developments which can reduced bed and bank erosion and provide flood mitigation, urban cooling, improved amenity, green links and multiple use public open spaces	Focus on areas with newly planned development (e.g. North Ipswich / open space planning precinct) or areas with existing issues (e.g. Ipswich CBD (retrofit))	2019 - 2020	ICC EDQ Stormwater QLD HLW DES DSDMIP

Action #	Actions / Treatments	Risk/s addressed (RRI focused)	Possible implementation pathway / staging	Costs	Benefits	Priority locations	Approx timeframe	Stakeholders
13	Determine the value/ services provided by floodplains and wetlands in terms of flood mitigation, nutrient cycling, urban cooling, habitat, recreation to provide the business case for the preservation of corridors.	Keeping soil on land - sediment capture Climate resilience - improved flooding and catchment cooling	Undertake a study which can identify the services provided by floodplains and wetlands and assign the environmental, social and economic benefits provided by floodplains and wetlands to help justify their preservation. Potential for work to inform new Planning Scheme.	Med	Improved understanding and communication of need to protect wetlands and floodplains, protection of high value ecosystems	Focus in new development areas and upper catchment areas	2019	ICC / SRRC DES HLW
14	Develop precinct or corridor scale plans to inform stormwater, flood and waterway management projects.	Keeping soil on land - bed and bank erosion Climate resilience - improved flood management	1. Development of precinct integrated water management plan along the Western growth corridor to identify suitable regional solutions for waterway, stormwater and/or flood management. 2. Proposed discussions to understand how infrastructure charging could support stormwater planning in the future.	Med Low	Holistic approach to waterway stormwater and flood management to provide multiple benefits and provide direction to developers Adequate resources allocated to enable community infrastructure and stormwater upgrades to both be delivered.	Western growth corridor (new infrastructure) Ipswich CBD (address existing flood issues through upgrades)	2019 - 2020 2020	ICC Qld Gov (DSDMIP, EDQ, DES)
15	Identify flow requirements to improve Bremer Estuary water quality and compare this to current Moreton Plan water allocations and water usage	Water security - water availability	Study to determine the flow required to improve the water quality of the Bremer Estuary and compare this to the current water allocations and water usage across the Moreton Water Resource Plan area.	Med	Improved understanding of flow requirements and current water use, improved estuarine condition	Warrill catchment	2020	ICC / SRRC Seqwater DNRME / DES HLW DAF QFF DAF Growcom Agforce

20

Action #	Actions / Treatments	Risk/s addressed (RRI focused)	Possible implementation pathway / staging	Costs	Benefits	Priority locations	Approx timeframe	Stakeholders
16	Co-ordinate planning of road upgrades near the RAAF Base Amberley to ensure works extend to local access roads to address flooding, traffic and fauna connectivity	Climate resilience - flood management	Stakeholder involvement in planning and design of Cunningham Highway upgrades (Ipswich bypass) to ensure local access roads flooding and traffic implications are considered as well as ensure fish passage / terrestrial underpass.	Low	Coordination of infrastructure design to provide multiple benefits, flood mitigation for critical infrastructure	Focus on design of Western Ipswich Bypass and Cunningham Highway upgrades to consider local RAAF base Amberley access roads	Unknown	Qld Gov (DTMR) QRA ICC RAAF Base Amberley

STAKEHOLDER ACRONYM LIST

DAF - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

DES - Department of Environment and Science

DNRME - Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

DSDMIP - Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

EDQ - Economic Development Queensland (Part of DSDMIP)

HLW - Healthy Land and Water

ICC - Ipswich City Council

SRRC - Scenic Rim Regional Council

QFF - Queensland Farmers Federation

BRN - Bremer River Network

BCA - Bremer Catchment Association

SRRIT - Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust

IRIT - Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust

QRA - Queensland Reconstruction Authority

ARTC - Australian Rail Track Corporation

MBA - Master Builders Queensland

HIA - Housing Industry Association (QLD)

ARI - Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University

Assets and investment map

Figure 3 provides a spatial representation of key assets of the catchment and priority investment areas. This visual guide complements the actions in Table 3.

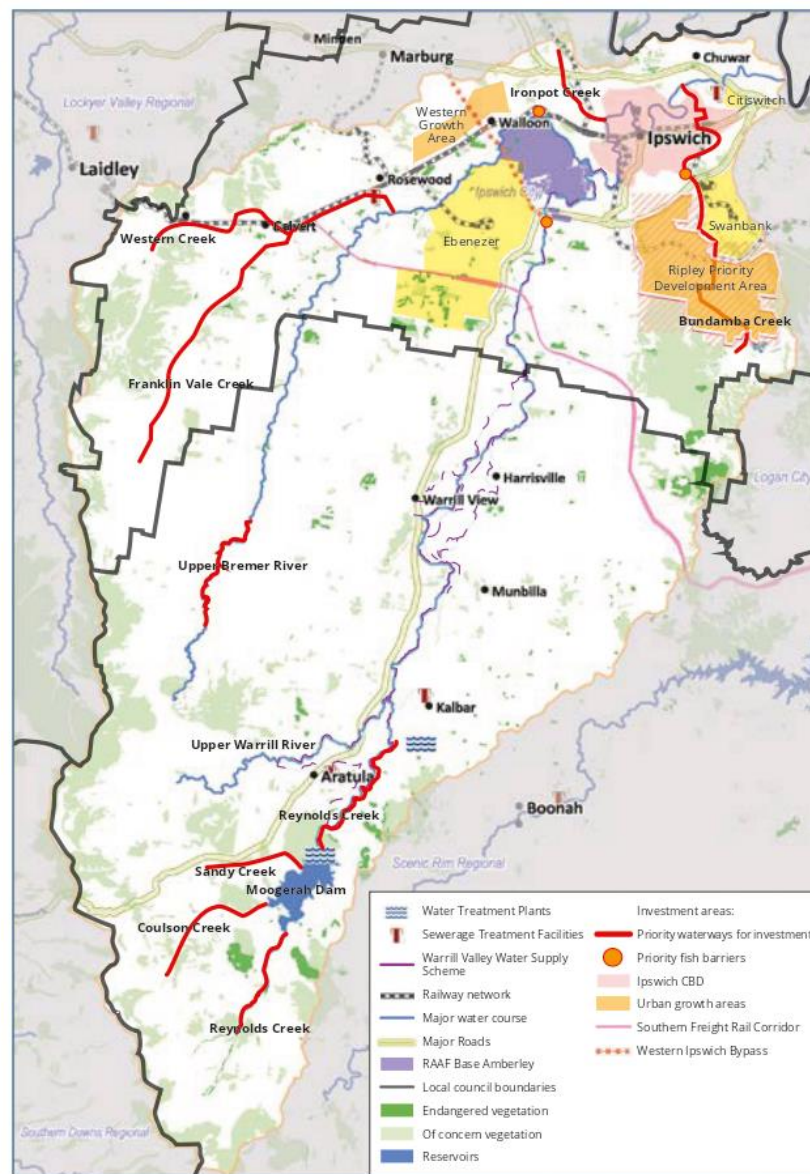


Figure 3: Bremer River Catchment key assets and on-ground priority action locations

Review of progress

EMERGING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

There are a number of key projects which are currently underway which will identify actions which should be considered in the future review of the Bremer River CAP including:

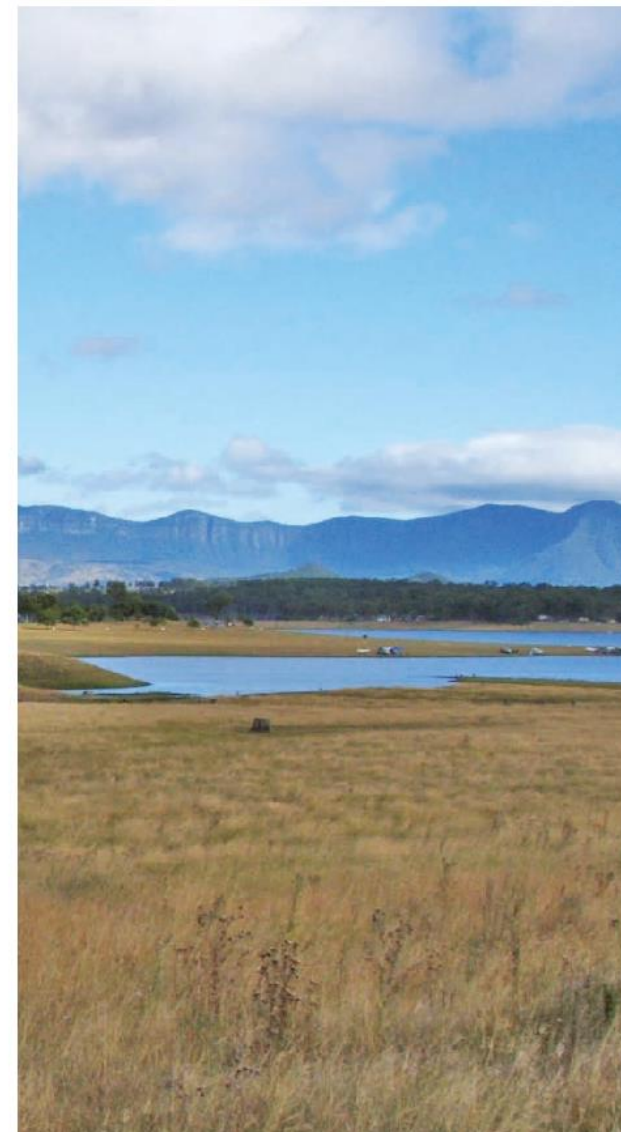
- The Draft Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan which has recently been released, provides a number of flood mitigation recommendations relevant to this catchment area to protect regionally important assets.
- Bremer River Flood Model is currently being developed for the whole catchment which will provide an improved understanding of flood extent and risk.
- The Bremer River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan will commence preparation in 2018 and is likely to identify a range of flood mitigation and waterway health improvement actions to protect assets in the catchment.

MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Progress on action implementation will be monitored through the reporting framework to be established under the Resilient Rivers Initiative, including an evaluation to be conducted in 2019. The reporting framework will incorporate the Healthy Land and Water Report Card (water quality) and other key information sets.

There are a number of priority actions presented in this CAP which can be used to further inform actions and monitor progress (e.g. sediment tracking and use of models). A review of the CAP would be beneficial at the completion of these priority actions.

This CAP and supporting documents is due to be updated by June 2021 with relevant information that arises.



Attachment 1 - Previous studies and planning activities

Document title	Prepared by	Description
SEQ Regional Plan 2017 (Shaping SEQ)	Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, 2017	Sets out the strategic framework for the environmentally sustainable management of regional growth, including population change and economic development. The Plan operates in conjunction with other statutory planning tools, including state planning policies, local government planning schemes, regulatory requirements and development assessment processes.
Local Government Planning Scheme Policies	Ipswich City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council	Present Council's future plan and provides detailed direction on land use, development, infrastructure and protection of assets in the local Council area.
Waterway Health Strategy	Ipswich City Council (update currently being undertaken)	Presents the vision for Ipswich waterways, summarises catchment condition and identifies actions to improve waterway health.
Integrated Water Strategy	Ipswich City Council, 2015	Long-term planning document for all elements of the water cycle.
Nature Conservation Strategy	Ipswich City Council, 2015	Strategic vision and objectives supported by key actions for achieving nature conservation outcomes across Ipswich.
Biodiversity Strategy	Scenic Rim Regional Council,	Strategic vision, objectives, strategies and actions to protect and enhance Scenic Rim's biodiversity.
SEQ NRM Plan Update	SEQ Catchments, 2016	Regional assessment and mapping of natural asset condition, identification of risks and target setting.
Walking the landscape - Bremer Catchment Story	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland Government	Systematic and transparent synthesis process that integrates existing data with expert knowledge to present a common and robust whole-of-landscape understanding of environmental processes.
Healthy Waterways and Catchments Report Card	Healthy Land and Water, 2016	Scores for water quality, habitat, riparian condition and community benefits presented for monitored locations along waterways in the Bremer River catchment. Actions are also provided to address catchment pressures.
Healthy Country - Biophysical characteristics: Lockyer, Bremer and Albert-Logan Catchments	SEQ Catchments, 2009	Review of the biophysical characteristics of the Lockyer, Bremer and Logan-Albert Catchments.
Healthy Country Program 2007-2011 Report	SEQ Catchments, 2011	Reports presenting the development and trial of efficient and cost-effective participatory community and science-based approaches to reducing exports of rural diffuse sources of sediment and nutrients and to improving waterway health through stabilizing and rehabilitating degraded waterways and facilitating land stewardship. Upper Bremer was one of the focus areas.

24

Document title	Prepared by	Description
Healthy Country Program 2012-2015 - Implementation and Monitoring of Targeted Works in the Upper Warrill	SEQ Catchments, 2012	Presents summary of actions undertaken in the Upper Warrill area to demonstrate current best management practices.
The Greater Brisbane Urban Fish Barrier prioritisation study	Catchment Solutions, 2018	Presents the top 50 priority ranked fish barriers.
Bremer River and Warrill Creek Fish Barrier Assessment Report	Catchment Solutions, 2018	Presents outcomes of assessment of barriers upstream of Berry's Weir and recommendations to further improve fish passage in the Bremer River Catchment.
Bremer River Catchment Management Strategy - Stage 2	WBM for Bremer Catchment Association, 1999	Presents a series of actions required to help maintain and improve Bremer River environmental values at a sub catchment level.
Bremer River Water Quality Improvement Plan - Receiving Water Quality Modelling	WBM for Healthy Waterways, 2006	Tested various management strategies with respect to improvement of ambient water quality in the Bremer River.
Bremer River Water Quality Monitoring Program Report	Bremer Catchment Association, 2005	Presents data from BCA water quality monitoring program.
Assessing values and condition of waterways in Ipswich City Council Local Government Area	Alluvium, 2014	Presents condition of all Ipswich waterways based on a synthesis of existing data and waterway condition assessment.
Ipswich City Council geomorphology and vegetation assessment of waterways	Alluvium, 2014	Presents geomorphic condition of all Ipswich waterways based on high level desktop and field-based assessment.
Soils of Ipswich Field Guide	Ipswich City Council, AECOM	Identifies soils at risk of erosion so that appropriate ESC measures can be planned and implemented when undertaking activities in ICC.
Ipswich City Council Stormwater quality Offsets Implementation Plan 2015	Ipswich City Council, BMT WBM 2015	Developed to assist Council determine the most appropriate and cost-effective use of 'Voluntary Water Quality Offset payments' accepted by Council as an alternative to on-site compliance with load-based stormwater quality pollutant load reduction objectives listed in Council's planning scheme, in response to the SPP Water Quality State Interest.
Creek Corridor Plans for Bundamba Creek, Ironpot Creek and Deebing Creek	Ipswich City Council (2015 -2017)	Holistic planning of creek corridor identifying condition, pressures and identification of actions.
Upper Black Snake Creek Improvement Plan	Ipswich City Council, 2014	Investment strategy for the improvement of the Upper Black Snake Creek based on a total water cycle management approach.

Document title	Prepared by	Description
Bremer River Estuary and Catchment Audit (Dry-Weather) Technical Report	CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management, 2003	Understanding pollutant sources to the Bremer River and management strategies required to improve the health of the river.
Riparian Condition Assessment of the Waterways of Ipswich	Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust 2009	Outcomes of riparian environmental weed survey and recommended weed control strategies.
Natural Asset Management Plan - Moogerah Dam and Reynolds Creek	Seqwater 2012	Natural asset management plan for water supply catchments.
Seqwater Watershed, In-Storage and In-River Risk Assessment and Priority Area Plan for Water Quality Southern Region - Lake Moogerah and Reynolds Creek	Seqwater 2011/2012	Risk assessment of water supply catchments.
Protecting Moreton Bay: How can we reduce sediment and nutrients loads by 50	Olley et al	Summary of studies generating sediment and nutrient budgets and potential actions.
The Provenance of Sediment in Three Rural Catchments in SEQ	Lacey, Patrick	Thesis on the Healthy Land and Country project and presents sediment and nutrient properties for three focal areas including Upper Bremer

Attachment 2 - Priority Action Investment Prospectus

This attachment presents a high level description of the context and proposed pathways for the actions within the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan, including estimated budgets and timeframes. Note that some actions have been combined in this section where they are linked.

Rural Partnerships - rural partner network and coordinated on-ground works

2018-ongoing

Action #8 Rural partnerships network - Informal meetings (in-kind time only) and/or development of dedicated coordination role (BRN could provide this but may require additional time in this part-time position to resource this role)

Action #1 Co-ordinated on-ground works - Delivery of six projects in priority locations (\$75k-\$100k estimated per project but will depend on scope of project)

The predominant land uses across the Bremer Catchment area are private rural lands and therefore catchment improvement works will need to deliver on these lands to improve the health and resilience of the Bremer River.

There are a number of organisations conducting on-ground works with rural landholders in the Bremer Catchment including:

- ICC will be working with landholders in the Franklin Vale catchment
- Growcom is currently supporting the use of the Hort 360 Program in the Bremer
- DAF is working on a number of projects which will demonstrate a range of precision agricultural technologies

- Seqwater will be investing in multiple projects in the water supply catchment (within 5km of the intakes at Boonah/Kalbar and Moogerah Dam)
- HLW has on-ground works in the Upper Warrill Creek (Healthy Country Project funded by DES)
- Works being undertaken by community-led environment groups including the BCA, West Moreton Landcare Group, Boonah and District Landcare and various un-incorporated bushcare groups
- The Bremer River Network is an umbrella organisation that currently supports, and plan to support, any groups who have an interest in the health of the Bremer River via funds from the Bremer River Fund.

There is a strong opportunity for these works to be coordinated, allowing resources, knowledge and existing relationships to be shared. A central coordinator role will also present rural landholders with a point of contact and clarity on actions being undertaken across the catchment.

The following steps are recommended to assist in continued delivery of coordinated on-ground works in the Bremer River Catchment:

1. Informal coordination of interested stakeholders - e.g. bi-monthly meetings could be organised where stakeholders come together to discuss planned works and identify potential for collaboration.
2. Undertake a scoping exercise to see what other programs exist and what has been successful in terms

of cost and long term change.

3. Development of designated central coordination role based on outcomes of scoping exercise - e.g. Bremer River Network could undertake this role with coordinated funding through the Bremer River Fund.

At least six projects should be delivered on-ground and works should be targeted in the following locations:

- Moogerah Dam and Reynolds Creek catchments (to protect drinking water supply)
- Franklin Vale and Western Creek (to address channel instabilities)
- Upper Bremer River (Rosevale) (to continue the work undertaken by Healthy Country).

There is potential to use existing BMP benchmarking tools to inform and monitor the on-ground works. The development of case studies could also be useful as communication products to be used within extension programs.

New research and models to prioritise works - Sediment tracking and waterway health modelling to prioritise works and monitor progress

2018 - ongoing

Action #9 Address current information gaps to improve understanding of sediment sources and transport through the Bremer Catchment (Understand data gaps \$25k, sediment tracking study budget to be determined)

Action #10 Refinement and use of HLW model to help prioritise waterway works and measure potential benefits (estimated \$50k to refine model)

It is proposed that a two stage approach is undertaken to provide an updated understanding of the sediment sources and movement in the Bremer Catchment (with a focus on the Warrill Creek Catchment):

1. Ensure the new work builds on previous work by collating existing information to identify data gaps and then assess best options for addressing gaps
2. Address information gaps by undertaking sediment tracking or similar project (e.g. a geomorphic assessment of sediment risk from riparian areas based on classification of stream banks could inform sediment tracking assessments).

The outcomes of the geomorphic assessment / sediment tracking project could be used to inform a broader catchment model which addresses other elements of waterway health such as water quality, habitat and connectivity which can be used to identify priority locations and track progress.

It is understood that Healthy Land and Water have catchment models which are used to inform the Report

Card scoring. At the moment this is done on a whole of catchment scale. It is proposed that this model is refined to allow for assessment of freshwater vs estuary environments as well as the input from critical sub catchments such as Deebing Creek and Bundamba Creek. This level of detail will assist in the identification of priority on-ground works and allow for analysis and reporting of progress, eg. via the Healthy Waterways Report Card, at a finer scale. This should build on previous work already undertaken on the catchment and it is also recommended that this project is promoted across the stakeholders in the Bremer for broader use and co-ordination.

Bed and bank stabilisation projects

Action #4 Stabilise two priority waterway reaches 2019-2021 (3 years), \$200-\$500k estimated

Channel stabilisation has already been identified as a priority action for a number of Ipswich waterways including Iron Pot Creek and Bundamba Creek. This prioritisation is based on outcomes from a previous waterway condition assessment. Outcomes of Actions #9/10 can also be used to inform priority locations based on erosion and sediment transport risk.

This program of works aims to rehabilitate at least two priority waterway reaches to reduce bed and bank erosion. The work will include scoping, design and delivery of channel stabilisation works which address existing bed and bank erosion and re-establish in-stream habitats.

Floodplain and riparian revegetation

Action #3 Collaborative weed control and revegetation 2018-2020 (3 years), \$200k estimated

Seqwater is currently planning to undertake Cats Claw management along Reynolds Creek and in the tributaries discharging into the Moogerah Dam. There is an opportunity to combine these works with the Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust program and also revegetation projects by the local Council and local catchment groups to combine native revegetation with weed management.

The Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust is also about to commence weed control works in the Franklin Vale Creek catchment. There is potential for this to be coordinated with Ipswich City Council's Franklin Vale Initiative.

Revegetation works should aim to re-establish native species which can stabilise banks and reflect the local Regional Ecosystems. It is understood that the Queensland Government are preparing a Riparian Guideline which may be able to inform these works in the future.

Outcomes of Actions #9/10 can also be used to inform priority locations for riparian revegetation based on erosion and sediment transport risk.

Action #5 Upper catchment floodplain and riparian rehabilitation

2019-2021 (3 years), \$300k estimated

The Brisbane River Floodplain Management Strategy highlighted the importance of revegetating upper catchment floodplains and riparian zones to provide catchment flood mitigation. The Bremer River will likely investigate this further to identify priority locations for replanting. This investigation is likely to include the assessment of the the impact existing levees have on floodplain engagement. Location of works should also align with habitat corridors and look for opportunities to recreate threatened vegetation communities such as Blue Gum on alluvial plains and *Melaleuca Irbyana* where possible to provide multiple benefits.

Outcomes of Actions #9/10 can also be used to inform priority locations for riparian revegetation and floodplain restoration based on erosion and sediment transport risk.

Erosion and sediment control

Action #2 Improved erosion and sediment control on development sites

2018-ongoing, Low cost due to existing programs/funding

State Government regulation and guidance is currently in place to ensure new urban development provides best practice erosion and sediment control during construction and building phases. This includes a new stormwater management design objective for sediment control on construction sites in the State Planning Policy 2017 which is now performance based. The Queensland Government also has a \$2M program aimed at reducing the amount of sediment washing off building and construction sites flowing into Moreton Bay and the Great Barrier Reef.⁹ Part of this funding is supporting Erosion Sediment Control capacity building for Local Governments and the construction and building industries which are being developed by the Department of Environment and Science (DES), Healthy Land and Water (HLW), the Local Government Association of Queensland, Master Builders Queensland and the Housing Industry Association (Qld). It is recommended that this training is undertaken in key growth areas in the Bremer Catchment.

Compliance is also an important component to ensure best practice erosion and sediment control is being delivered. Tools exist to assist Local Government compliance officers (who have delegation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*).

⁹ https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/water/policy/urban-stormwater.html#erosion_and_sediment_control_esc

Fish passage and habitat

Action #6 Restore habitat and fish passage at three priority locations

2019-ongoing, \$250-\$300k estimated

Structures such as culverts, pipes, road crossings, dams and weirs can prevent the movement of native fish, impacting breeding and fish populations. The design of any new structures should be completed with an understanding of their requirements for fish passage. The removal or adaption of these structures can re-instate this movement and support native fish communities. Ipswich City Council and partners have already constructed the longest fish ladder in Queensland at Berry's Lagoon which has been very successful with a five-day monitoring program showing an average of 690 fish used the ladder at each day and 10 'new' fish species which have not been recorded in the Bremer River catchment in over 14 years including lungfish, yellow-finned bream, and forked tail catfish.

It is recommended that a further three sites are retrofitted at priority locations to improve fish movement and fish habitat. The Greater Brisbane Urban Fish Barrier prioritisation study identified a number of priority sites for the removal of fish barriers in the Bremer Catchment including:

- 'Runnymede' Sheet pile and gabion basket weir on Warrill Creek upstream of Cunningham Highway (#15 priority)
- DNRME V notch weir upstream of 'Runnymede' weir on Bremer River (#12 priority)
- DNRME V notch weir at Walloon on Warrill Creek (and 2 additional barriers upstream)
- Rock weir at Worley Park on Bundamba Creek

The Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy identifies the platypus as an iconic species which is present

in Ipswich waterways and is currently under threat from loss of habitat as well as declining water quality and pollution. A Fish Biodiversity Survey and Habitat Assessment Study could identify additional locations for the restoration of habitats to support the protection of threatened species in the Bremer.

Community education and engagement with the Bremer River

Action #7 Development of a Bremer River education and engagement program to build understanding of history, values and flood resilience

2019-2021, Less than \$50k to scope and outline community engagement and education program

The Bremer River has a rich history and provides a range of values for the community including recreation and amenity. It is also understood that waterways are important cultural assets for the local Traditional Owners. There are many areas in the upstream sections which are not visited by the community and are therefore not understood in terms of their history and ecological value.

It is recommended that a community education and engagement program is scoped which focuses on building the communities understanding of the Bremer River in terms of its history, cultural values, ecological and recreational values and flooding characteristics. Key steps many include:

1. Identifying resources available (e.g. history of Bremer River, current signage and factsheets, flood notifications and alerts).
2. Determine materials required to address information gaps (e.g. signage, factsheets, books etc).
3. Collect stories and information to develop new materials to build awareness of cultural, ecological

and social significance of the Bremer River waterways.

Coordinated infrastructure planning for regional flood improvements

Action #11 Co-ordinated floodplain management strategies and Southern Freight Rail planning to improve flood resilience of critical downstream assets
2018 (In-kind time required)

The Southern Freight Rail Corridor will serve as a major freight link between Melbourne and Brisbane. The route identified for the corridor includes a link between Rosewood and Undullah which crosses the Bremer Catchment upstream of Ebenezer, RAAF Base Amberley and the Ipswich CBD. The Brisbane River Floodplain Management Strategy identifies this a priority opportunity to provide regional flood mitigation and is likely to be a focus in the Bremer Floodplain Management Strategy. The location of the rail corridor upstream of key assets such as RAAF Base Amberley and the Ipswich CBD could result in flood mitigation in these flood prone areas. This could also change the regional flooding response characteristics. It is understood that planning and design of the Southern Freight Rail is currently being undertaken.

It is proposed that meetings are held in the near future between stakeholders to ensure that the planning and design of the Southern Freight Rail Corridor can consider and include regional flood improvements identified in the flood management strategies.

Action #16 Co-ordinated road upgrades to improve flood resilience of RAAF Base Amberley
Timing unknown (In-kind time required)

RAAF Base Amberley currently experiences significant

flooding impacts which result in parts of the base (including the runway) being flooded and access roads being cut off (except parts of Cunningham Highway and Rosewood Road). The Western Ipswich Bypass will connect the Warrego Highway at Haigslea and the Cunningham Highway at Willowbank. This work will include an upgrade of a section of the Cunningham Highway near the RAAF Base Amberley.

It is proposed that meetings are held between stakeholders to ensure that the planning and design of the Cunningham Highway upgrades also consider opportunities to improve the flood immunity of local access roads and also address traffic implications for the biggest RAAF base in Australia. Designs should also consider terrestrial and aquatic passage. Note that the flooding requirements may change if flood levels are altered due to regional flood management solutions.

Urban hydrology management

Action #12 Investigate the impact of altered hydrology from new urban areas on bank stability, geomorphology and flooding and identify required development outcomes to address this

2019/2020, \$90k estimated for study

Urban environments can be highly impervious and therefore can pose a flood risk (due to increased runoff volumes), channel erosion risk (due to increased flows) as well as heat exposure risk (due to urban heat island effect).

New urban development must meet the requirements of the State Planning Policy 2017 and the Local Council Planning Scheme in terms of flooding, waterway stability and design. The Planning scheme requires no worsening for flooding (ensure the drainage capacity is ok) and also mentions shade awnings and street trees in the design of buildings in the CBD. Ipswich City Council also undertakes precinct plans to inform the planning and design of open spaces across the city.

The State Planning Policy 2017 includes a design objective for waterway stability which applies 'if development drains to an unlined waterway within or downstream of the site where a risk of increased erosion exists due to changes in hydrology.'¹⁰

It is understood that this detention is not always required for developments in Ipswich as it is contested whether it is necessary based on the condition of the receiving environment.

It is proposed that a study be undertaken which determines if and how Bremer waterways are impacted by altered hydrology and identifies suitable solutions for the local area. For example:

- Waterway stability objectives and appropriate solutions for new urban developments which are suitable to address impacts in the Bremer waterways
- Feasibility of using smart rainwater tanks or green infrastructure in new developments or retrofits (including open space precinct plans) to reduce nuisance flooding or urban heat risks.

¹⁰ <https://dilgpprd.blob.core.windows.net/general/spp-july-2017.pdf>

Floodplain / wetland management

Action #13 Determine the value / services of floodplains and wetlands to help justify protection
2019 (\$75k estimated for study)

Currently floodplains and wetlands are preserved in flood prone land but there are limited requirements for the preservation of these values outside of the current flood regulation line for new urban development.

It is proposed that a study which identifies the services provided by these areas and can assign the environmental, social and economic benefits provided by floodplains and wetlands would be beneficial to help

justify why they need to be protected on rural lands and in new urban development areas. This will also help to support the Ipswich Waterway Health Strategy which has a number of actions focused on the protection of wetlands and floodplains.

Precinct or corridor stormwater, flood and / or waterway management strategies

Action #14 Develop precinct integrated water management plans for key growth areas 2019-2020 (\$75k estimated per study)

Currently stormwater management plans and flood management plans are submitted for individual development sites which makes it difficult to understand how the proposed solution fits within a regional solution.

It is proposed that integrated water management plans are developed for the urban development areas along Western Growth Corridor to identify suitable regional solutions for waterway, stormwater and/or flood management which can be used in negotiations with developers to ensure that the solutions delivered address regional waterway and flooding outcomes.

Creek Corridor Plans have been developed in the past by Ipswich City Council which could be used as a template for this work.

Currently Ipswich is one of the only Councils in South East Queensland which does not have a Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) for stormwater (quantity or quality) to inform how infrastructure charges can be spent on stormwater projects.

It is proposed that discussions are held to understand how infrastructure charging could support stormwater planning in the future.

Bremer Flows

Action #15 Identify flow requirement to improve Bremer Estuary water quality and compare this to current Moreton Plan water allocations and water usage 2020 (Estimated \$90k to undertake study)

A previous study by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management identified that the provision of environmental flows could improve the condition of the Bremer Estuary. Currently the poor water quality in the estuary is a key factor in the poor Healthy Land and Water report card score.

The Moreton Resources Operation Plan regulates the use of water in the Bremer Catchment for irrigation purposes and sets allocations for licenced users. Landholders adjacent to waterways are also able to extract water from the catchment without a licence for stock or domestic watering purposed. No new licences for groundwater or surface water extraction are available for the Moreton region.

It is proposed that an investigation is undertaken to re-investigate the required environmental flow to improve the condition of the Bremer Estuary. This study should compare this environmental flow volume to the total flows in the Bremer catchment and water that is currently allocated and currently used in the catchment to understand where trade-offs might need to occur.



Scenic Rim Regional Council



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Catchment Management Officer	Portfolio:	Customer and Regional Prosperity
Position Number:	215030	Business Unit:	Health Building and Environment
Position Reports to:	Team Leader Environmental Policy	Team:	Environment and Policy
Classification Level:	5	Status:	Maximum Term Full time
Agreement:	Scenic Rim Regional Council Enterprise Bargaining Certified Agreement 2012-2014		
Award:	Queensland Local Government Industry (Stream A) Award – State 2017		
Position Objective:	<p>This position leads the delivery of projects and programs under the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan to perform a pivotal role in the delivery of the Resilient Rivers initiative.</p> <p>The position incumbent will contribute environmental expertise, legislative knowledge, stakeholder engagement skills and strong systems and analytical proficiencies to effectively manage grants, levy funds and projects.</p>		

Our Values

<p>Communication We actively promote clear, concise and open discussion between staff, Council and communities</p>	<p>Respect We act respectfully to each other, accepting each person's individuality and their role.</p>
<p>Teamwork We work cooperatively to achieve common goals, drawing on the strengths of each other, in a supportive and safe environment.</p>	<p>Honesty We act with integrity and when we ask an honest question, we get an honest answer.</p>
<p>Accountability We accept ownership of our role and responsibility for our actions.</p>	<p>Trust We build strong relationships that we believe in and rely on.</p>
<p>Staff worth Our actions demonstrate that our people matter.</p>	<p>Quality We have pride in whatever we do, and strive to do it well</p>

enabling community + environmental sustainability

Key Responsibilities

Fulfil the accountabilities of this role in accordance with Council values and as varied from time to time to achieve Council objectives. Key responsibilities include the following:

- Identify, initiate, formulate, manage, implement, monitor, evaluate and report on projects under the Resilient Rivers Initiative and the Bremer Catchment Action Plan.
- Ensure projects are designed and implemented to achieve the goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative Bremer Catchment Action Plan .
- Maintain strategic communications with catchment stakeholders, community Landcare and catchment groups and councils through the Bremer River network via social media, regional meetings and workshops.
- Ensure projects are undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation, policies, plans, procedures and other requirements as appropriate.
- Ensure projects are delivered on time and within scope and budget.
- Operate with a high level of autonomy, whilst providing effective, efficient and comprehensive project coordination and delivery.
- As part of the projects, utilise, retrieve and update procedures, databases or information systems to ensure effective and efficient project delivery and create specialised documents and materials specific to the projects.
- Utilise GIS software and prepare mapping as required for the projects including undertake analysis and research as required for the projects.
- Identify, apply for, and manage project, grant and levy funds to ensure value for money and deliver outcomes which achieve the goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative – Bremer Action Plan
- Liaise, engage, consult and negotiate with Government agencies, businesses, NGOs, community members and landholders to achieve project goals.
- Prepare project plans and reports for Council and other key stakeholders, including project options, designs, progress reports, finances, monitoring and performance.
- Assess and review the standards and work of designers, consultants and contractors.
- Comply with Council policies, procedures and instructions to deliver quality and safe services Maintain accountability and appropriate use of information systems and maintain vigilance to comply with record keeping requirements.
- In accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, take reasonable care for your own health, safety and wellbeing and take reasonable care to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of others.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience

Formal Qualifications/Technical skills

- Tertiary qualifications in Environmental Engineering, Environmental Management, Geomorphology and/or other relevant discipline with appropriate practical experience.
- A current Queensland C Class driver's licence.
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills, including the ability to determine and adapt management approaches for a broad range of catchment management solutions.
- Excellent written communication skills, including the ability to prepare reports.
- Highly motivated and organised with an ability to work independently or as part of a team.
- Project management skills with the ability to develop complex plans and programs

enabling community + environmental sustainability

- Demonstrated proficiency in the use of business software packages and computer systems including Microsoft Office applications and GIS
- High level of interpersonal skills with the ability to present and communicate clearly and effectively to various stakeholders.
- A strong commitment to the provision of customer service.

Knowledge

- Specialist knowledge and experience in catchment management, hydrology or geomorphology in a rural setting.
- Specialist knowledge and experience in catchment functions including the ability to assess environmental risk.
- High level knowledge of legislation and how it relates to natural resource management within the Region including the Planning Act 2016, Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013, Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999.
- Ability to identify catchment issues and develop, implement and review policies, plans, strategies and projects.

Experience

- Experience in engaging with communities, land owners and stakeholders in a rural setting
- Demonstrated experience in developing innovative design solutions in water quality management using knowledge, experience, best practice standards and facilitation, where a number of complex alternatives exist.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in the environmental industry preferably within a waterways/catchment management function.
- High level of experience in the environmental management including project management within the context of catchment management.
- High level of experience in the implementation of natural resource programmes with measurable and realistic objectives.
- Experience in, or a clear understanding of local government and local government conservation practices.

Organisational Competencies

CUSTOMER FOCUS	High level experience in working with a range of internal and external customers, ascertaining their needs and tailoring innovative and cost-effective solutions to meet these needs while obtaining best practice communication outcomes.
COMMUNICATION	Communicate clearly through active listening and written communication, states points coherently and tailoring information to audience needs.
RESULTS	Experience in setting and achieving work goals, meeting priorities and deadlines in a fast paced environment.
TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION	Works cooperatively within a team and contributes to the team goals.

Organisational Relationships

This position:

- Is responsible for up to nil reports.
- Has financial delegations in accordance with Council's Delegations Register.
- Is a service provider to Scenic Rim communities, internal and external stakeholders.

enabling community + environmental sustainability

How will a candidate be assessed for this position?

- Please provide a current Curriculum Vitae or Resume (maximum of 5 pages). Your CV should include the names of at least three current/ recent referees. One Referee should be a Manager you have worked for during the past two years.
- Please provide a statement (maximum 2 pages) where you can demonstrate how your skills, knowledge and experience meet the specific requirements and responsibilities of this position.

Doc ID No: A6734996

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF 12-26 EUGENE STREET, BELLBIRD PARK FOR ENVIROPLAN ACQUISITION

AUTHOR: PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

DATE: 19 JANUARY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning a desktop assessment of 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park (Lots 901 & 902 RP909175) for consideration of acquisition under the *Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Policy* and *Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Procedure*.

Recognising the intent of the Enviroplan Program and Levy, Council takes a strategic, priority based and financially prudent approach when it comes to considering land for acquisition as part of this program.

It is acknowledged that 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park contains a number of natural and ecological values, and has a value to the local community. However, it is recommended that purchasing 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through the Ipswich Enviroplan Levy does not represent a strategically sound investment and as such, Council should not pursue further assessment to secure the property through this mechanism.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council not pursue the acquisition of the property identified as 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through Enviroplan Levy based upon findings of an initial desktop assessment and an independent kerbside evaluation of the land; instead the protection or acquisition of land adjacent to Woogaroo creek will be considered under the planning process as part of any future development proposal.

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME

Caring for the environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

This report is in response to a request received from representatives of the Bellbird Park Preservation Group, for Council to investigate voluntary acquisition of the property at 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park (Confidential Attachment 1).

The *Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Policy* outlines Council's position with respect to the use of levy funds to acquire land. When considering acquisition the purpose must be to 'protect and enhance the environmental values and ecological processes'.

The supporting *Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Procedure* explains the broad use of levy funds to carry out acquisition. The procedure states that funding can be used towards the purchase of 'strategic land that contains environmental values that are consistent with the Ipswich Enviroplan Land Acquisition Forward Plan/Portfolio and which provide a range of other corporate and strategic outcomes'.

At the time of this assessment, the portfolio is in a state of review and redevelopment. With this in mind, the priority locations identified in the adopted Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017-2022 provided key direction. These locations are identified as providing:

- Protection of large intact areas
- Protection of sites with exceptional biodiversity values
- Contribution to improving regional connectivity
- Buffering of current natural areas

The assessment of 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park against the key purpose of the policy and subsequent criteria is detailed in (Confidential Attachment 2).

Council's current Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) identifies land adjacent to the tributary of Woogaroo Creek as future Citywide Linear Park (LGIP ID 1155). Should the current or future landowners choose to pursue a development proposal over the subject site that complies with the Ipswich Planning Scheme (i.e. Residential Subdivision with suitable lot sizes that have regard to the site specific constraints), Council will have an opportunity to condition the dedication of land adjacent to the tributary of Woogaroo Creek, at which point the landowner may be entitled to offsets for the dedicated land against infrastructure charges that would ordinarily be collected by Council when the residential lots are created. In other words, the acquisition of the land and possible embellishments would be funded through developer driven infrastructure charges and not by the ratepayers of Ipswich.

Whilst the area of land to be dedicated to Council as Citywide Linear Park is not known at this time, it is generally established having regard to the flood extent on the site which would be determined at the time of assessing a development application for the site.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Ipswich Enviroplan Program & Levy Policy

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is considerable risk with the financial investment required to acquire 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park should Council wish to do so. A kerbside (restricted) property valuation assessment has been completed (Confidential Attachment 3). This valuation has been considered in comparison to a recent Enviroplan acquisition at Woolshed, demonstrating a significant variance in the cost per hectare to the community for acquiring urban developable land for conservation outcomes.

If this acquisition is progressed it would substantially reduce the ability for Council to pursue future acquisitions within identified strategic priority areas, such as securing a link between White Rock - Spring Mountain and Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estates.

In addition, urban bushland reserves require greater levels of ongoing maintenance investment to preserve and enhance the ecological values present, compared to those located in rural landscapes. With over 60 adjoining separate parcels of land backing on to this property, it would require relatively more investment to maintain reduced fire fuel risks and the spread of pest plants and animals as well as other associated urban pressures.

Other mechanisms to preserve the high value areas such as future planning zones and development conditions would offer better community value as the cost to Council would be minimised and would ultimately result in Council receiving the higher value protected areas of the site as contributed assets as part of any future development.

As outlined in the Assessment Report (Confidential Attachment 2), there would be considerable financial implications associated with acquiring the properties.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

During the period that the assessment was on-hold, there were on-going communications between representatives from the Bellbird Park Preservation Group, council officers, and Division 2 Councillors.

The Bellbird Park Preservation Group have been in regular contact to track the progress of the assessment.

As part of the assessment process, Council officers from Infrastructure and Environment, Planning and Regulatory Services, and Corporate Services (Legal) have been consulted where relevant to inform the drafting of this report.

CONCLUSION

Following a request received from the Bellbird Park Preservation Group, Council has undertaken a desktop assessment on the potential natural and ecological values of 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park. As part of the assessment, an independent market valuation was conducted by a registered professional valuer to provide a kerbside restricted assessment.

The investment of acquiring this property would require a significant draw-down of funds from Enviroplan, and notably put at risk any future strategically aligned acquisitions such as protecting large intact conservation areas or sites with exceptional values, or creating corridor linkages between core conservation estates.

It is recommended that purchasing 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through the Ipswich Enviroplan Levy does not represent value or a strategically sound investment of Enviroplan funds, and as such Council should not pursue further assessment or process to secure this property through this funding. As this property is zoned for urban development, there are other mechanisms by which areas of ecological value may be protected.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

	CONFIDENTIAL
1.	Enviroplan Acquisition Request - Bellbird Park Preservation Group
2.	Initial Assessment of 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park under the Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Policy
3.	Property Valuation - Kerbside Restricted Assessment

Tim Shields

PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Sean Madigan

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Doc ID No: A6761444

ITEM: 4
SUBJECT: CHERISH THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION
AUTHOR: MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning Council's future involvement and membership of Cherish the Environment Foundation Limited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That Council develop an exit strategy from Cherish the Environment Foundation Limited, and that the exit strategy be developed in partnership with the Cherish the Environment Foundation Directors.**

- B. That Council source the required legal and governance advice to develop the exit strategy and to provide guidance to Council and Cherish the Environment Foundation through the transition phase.**

RELATED PARTIES

Cherish the Environment Foundation Directors

- Steve Rafter
- Shane O'Kane
- Cr Andrew Fechner
- Jeffrey Keech

Cherish the Environment Foundation Secretary

- Bryce Hines

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME

Caring for the environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

In 2008, the Mayor of Ipswich City announced the launch of Cherish the Environment, a new and innovative initiative formed in partnership with Patrick Rafter's Cherish the Children Foundation. Cherish the Environment Foundation (CTEF/Cherish) was created to provide a vehicle for community engagement and collaboration in projects that are of benefit to Ipswich's natural environment.

The principle objectives of Cherish are:

- the protection and enhancement of the natural environment; and
- the provision of information or education, or the carrying on of research, about the natural environment

Under its constitution, Cherish seeks to pursue its objectives within Ipswich LGA through acquiring, managing and protecting biodiversity and bushland; working towards decreasing waste generation and increasing recycling; improving water quality; increasing local food production; minimising the impacts of carbon emissions; and, promoting environmental education.

Ipswich City Council is listed as the 'founding member' in the constitution.

In February 2021, Council received a letter from Cherish the Environment Foundation Director Shane O'Kane seeking direction from Council on its future involvement and membership of Cherish and how best to finalise transitional arrangements.

PROPOSAL

Council recognises the valuable contribution Cherish has made to the natural environment of Ipswich, primarily through the acquisition and rehabilitation of natural bushland, and the planting of thousands of koala fodder and habitat trees through environmental offsets. These offset plantings and offset management areas are now protected under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* through Voluntary Declarations.

Since the launch of Cherish, there have been changes made to environmental offsets legislation and policies at both the Commonwealth and State Government levels. Council is also in the process of developing a local environmental offsets policy for consideration under the Ipswich Planning Scheme review.

As such, it is proposed that Council considers an exit strategy from Cherish. The exit strategy will be developed in partnership with the Cherish the Environment Foundation Directors, and with the appropriate legal and governance advice to support Council and Cherish through this transition phase.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As the founding member, Council has been involved with Cherish the Environment Foundation since its inception and launch in 2008. Over this period, Council has contributed funds annually based on \$1 per rateable property per year from the Enviroplan levy (excluding 2019-2020 & 2020-2021, and the first year of Cherish), and provided various levels of support including: project management and financial reporting.

There is an identified risk for Council to demonstrate that this contribution has resulted in an additional conservation outcome for the City of Ipswich. This can be demonstrated through the additional bushland and koala habitat that has been re-instated or rehabilitated by Cherish through environmental offsets within the Ipswich LGA. Environmental offsets that have been delivered by Cherish are protected under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* through Voluntary Declarations.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- Council currently provides support to Cherish via financial reporting to the Queensland Audit Office as a controlled entity.
- Council has 2 Directors on the board, being Jeffrey Keech (Chief Financial Officer) and Cr Andrew Fechner (Division 3 Councillor).
- Council has previously committed to paying an annual contribution to Cherish based on \$1 per rateable property per year. Whilst budgeted, this contribution was not paid in 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 (to date).

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Consultation for this report has been undertaken with key Council stakeholders only.

CONCLUSION

Since inception in 2008, Cherish the Environment Foundation has contributed towards improved conservation and biodiversity outcomes within the Ipswich LGA. These outcomes have primarily been achieved through environmental offsets for koala habitat. Over this period, environmental offsets legislation has evolved and Council is in the process of developing a local environmental offsets policy to be considered in the Ipswich Planning Scheme review. As such, it is proposed that Council develops an exit strategy in partnership with the Cherish Directors, and seeks legal and governance advice to support the development of this strategy.

Kaye Cavanagh

MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Sean Madigan

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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