



City of  
**Ipswich**

**IPSWICH  
CITY  
COUNCIL**

**AGENDA**

*of the*

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

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

**On Thursday, 15 April 2021**  
**At 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry Development  
Committee**

<b><u>MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE</u></b>	
Councillor Russell Milligan <b>(Chairperson)</b> Councillor Andrew Fechner <b>(Deputy Chairperson)</b>	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, 15 April 2021***  
Council Chambers

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\*\* Item includes confidential papers

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**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 3**

**15 APRIL 2021**

**AGENDA**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

**BUSINESS OUTSTANDING**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(02) OF 11 MARCH 2021**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2021 be confirmed.

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**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

2. **LITTLE LIVERPOOL RANGE INITIATIVE UPDATE**

This report is regarding Council's continued support and partnership with the Turner Family Foundation and Queensland Trust for Nature for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. That Council extends the partnership with the Turner Family Foundation and Queensland Trust for Nature in the Little Liverpool Range Initiative for an additional 12 months.
  - B. That Council contributes a further \$14,800 in the 2021-2022 budget towards co-funding the continued employment of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative Project Officer.
- 

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**MATTERS ARISING**

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(02)**

**11 MARCH 2021**

**MINUTES**

**COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson); Mayor Teresa Harding, Councillors Andrew Fechner (Deputy Chairperson), 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 Planning and Regulatory Services (Peter Tabulo), General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development (Ben Pole), Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Natural Environment and Land Manager (Phil Smith), Team Leader (Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning)(Tim Shields), Manager Procurement (Richard White), Chief Financial Officer (Jeff Keech), Chair – Retail Sub-Project Sub Committee (James Hepburn), Engagement Manager (Allison Grant), Manager Economic and Community Development (Cat Matson), Media and Communications Manager (Darrell Giles) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Nil

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**BUSINESS OUTSTANDING**

Nil

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**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

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:  
Seconded by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:

**That the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on  
11 February 2021 be received and noted.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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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

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:  
Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

- 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.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

Madsen  
Kunzelmann

The motion was put and carried.

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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.

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(f), (e), (g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.”

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:

Seconded by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:

That Council not pursue the acquisition of the property identified as 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through the 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.

**VARIATION TO MOTION**

Mayor Teresa Harding proposed a variation to the motion:

That Recommendation B be included as follows:

- B. That a spreadsheet be provided to all Councillors outlining the Enviroplan Budget.

The mover and seconder of the original motion agreed to the proposed variation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:  
Seconded by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:

- A. That Council not pursue the acquisition of the property identified as 12-26 Eugene Street, Bellbird Park through the 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.**
- B. That a spreadsheet be provided to all Councillors outlining the Enviroplan Budget.**

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

**NEGATIVE**

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

**Attachments**

1. Enviroplan Acquisition Request - Bellbird Park Preservation Group
  2. Initial Assessment of 12-26 Eugene Street Bellbird Park
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**4. CHERISH THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:  
Seconded by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:

- 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.**

**AFFIRMATIVE**

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

**NEGATIVE**

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

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**MATTERS ARISING**

Nil

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**PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

The meeting commenced at 12.52 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.17 pm.

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Doc ID No: A6823239

ITEM: 2  
SUBJECT: LITTLE LIVERPOOL RANGE INITIATIVE UPDATE  
AUTHOR: PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)  
DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 2021

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is regarding Council's continued support and partnership with the Turner Family Foundation and Queensland Trust for Nature for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That Council extends the partnership with the Turner Family Foundation and Queensland Trust for Nature in the Little Liverpool Range Initiative for an additional 12 months.
- B. That Council contributes a further \$14,800 in the 2021-2022 budget towards co-funding the continued employment of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative Project Officer.

## RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest

## ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME

Caring for the environment

## PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Little Liverpool Range is located on the western boundary of the Ipswich local government area, adjoining Lockyer Valley, Somerset and Scenic Rim local government areas. It is a vegetated biodiversity corridor linking with the Main Range National Park and the Great Eastern Ranges.

The Little Liverpool Range contains several regional ecosystems providing important habitat for significant species including the Glossy-Black Cockatoo, Powerful Owl, Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby, Little Pied Bat, and Slender Milk Vine. It includes core conservation areas including the Mt Grandchester Conservation Estate, Hidden Vale Nature Refuge and Mt Beau

Brummell Conservation Park. The Little Liverpool Range has also been identified in the Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 as a Priority Conservation Area.

In 2016, the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) was established by Council in partnership with Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN), the Turner Family Foundation (at the time known as the Gainsdale Group), Healthy Land and Water, and University of Queensland to ensure the long term management and conservation of the Little Liverpool Range by working with the community and organisations across the region.

LLRI aims to establish a long-term commitment to the preservation and expansion of locally significant native vegetation in support of biodiversity for future generations. LLRI aims to build on the existing vegetation and wildlife corridor using a coordinated cross-boundary approach. This collaboration harnesses the expertise of involved stakeholders, each playing a pivotal role in the decision-making processes. The LLRI aims to work in a way that supports and/or delivers ecological and community resilience to climatic and environmental challenges.

In a report dated 18 June 2018 (Attachment 1), the following resolution was made:

- A. That Council partner with the Gainsdale Group and Queensland Trust for Nature, by contributing \$10,000 a year for two (2) years, to help fund a part-time Project Officer to deliver the Little Liverpool Range Initiative, and that the divisional Councillor and Chairperson of the Conservation and Environment Committee be consulted on the progress.
- B. That the governance structure for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative be submitted to a future Conservation and Environment Committee for information.

A follow-up report dated 13 August 2018 (Attachment 2) was presented to Council, which contained an update regarding the proposed governance structure for the two (2) year period.

Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed in collaboration with the three (3) funding partners. The purpose of this MoU was to set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Parties in respect to the LLRI. Gainsdale Group (as referenced in the report dated 18 June 2018) now operate under the name Turner Family Foundation (TFF), and this name change was reflected in the MoU. Additionally, contributions from both Council and the Turner Family Foundation were increased from \$10,000 as agreed upon in the report dated 18 June 2018 to \$14,800, as some staff expenses such as leave loading and superannuation weren't accounted for in the initial estimates. The MoU reflected these increased figures. This MoU was executed on the 6 March 2019.

Council has since engaged a Project Officer to deliver the LLRI, who commenced in the role on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. The current contract of the Project Officer ceases on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### **Successes of the Initiative to Date**

In the 20 months since the Program Officer's commencement in the role, there have been several achievements with the LLRI, with the inclusion of a strategic plan (Attachment 3).

The Project Officer has amongst other things provided exceptional value and support to Council in the delivery of educational workshops, site visits and extension support services to landholders in the Landholder Conservation Partnership Program (LCPP). This has allowed the Program Officers of the LCPP to continue to up-skill and engage with their landholder partners in a time-effective and efficient manner. Furthermore, the LLRI Project Officer has collaborated extensively with Council's Planning Officer (Biodiversity) with a few successful grant applications, planning, mapping, networking and project management. The LLRI Project Officer serves as a really efficient and cost-effective mechanism to achieve Council's strategic objectives.

The position has generated \$28,500 in grant revenue on top of the partner contributions for on-ground projects.

### **Plan for an additional 12 months**

The LLRI Project Officer's contract ceases on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021. If the recommendations of this report are approved, the proposed plan for a subsequent 12 months is to continue to deliver the Initiative in accordance with the strategic plan. The LLRI Project Officer will continue to be hosted by Council for this 12 month period at 0.4FTE. Council will take responsibility for the day-to-day management of the LLRI Project Officer and the delivery of the agreed works program. TFF and QTFN will provide their funding at the beginning of the 2021/2022 financial year to co-fund the Project Officer position.

In the 2021-2022 Financial Year, the Project Officer will:

- deliver a series of workshops;
- drive the expansion of initiative through supporting the registration of properties into Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreements;
- continue the delivery of ecological monitoring on private property;
- maintain social media platforms;
- maintain relationships with internal and external stakeholders; and
- deliver working group meetings on a quarterly basis

In addition to these tasks, the Project Officer will use the 12 months to determine long-term governance arrangements, with a vision of setting up the Initiative as its own legal entity.

### **LEGAL/POLICY BASIS**

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

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The key risk associated with not approving the recommendation includes a loss of momentum and potential cessation of the LLRI, due to Council's role as a key stakeholder in the Initiative.

Without the delivery of LLRI, objectives in Council's Nature Conservation Strategy will not be met. Subsequently, there is reputational risk for the LLRI and its partners and future conservation works if the trust built with landholders is damaged due to limited support or leaving the partnership.

There are minimal risks associated with the recommendations in this report. Council's legal services team have been assisting with the development of a new MoU.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Financial contributions are within the allocated budget, subject to budget approvals for 2021/2022 financial year.

### **Funding arrangements**

- Ipswich City Council will contribute \$14,800 in the 2021-2022 Financial Year
- In-principal support from QTFN for an amount of \$5,000 in the 2021-2022 Financial Year
- Confirmed contribution from TFF for an amount of \$14,800 in the 2021-2022 Financial Year
- The position has generated \$28,500 in grant funding in the 2020-2021 Financial Year




## **COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION**

Discussion regarding the governance arrangements for the LLRI were undertaken at the February 2021 LLRI working group meeting with the three funding organisations. Minutes from the meeting were distributed widely to all stakeholders within the LLRI, which outlined the discussion points regarding the governance of LLRI. Ongoing communication between the three (3) funding partners, and the LLRI Project Officer has occurred since the February meeting regarding the governance and hosting arrangements. Broader community engagement has not been sought as the short-term hosting arrangements for the LLRI Project Officer should not impact the operational delivery of the project.

## **CONCLUSION**

To continue to deliver on Council's Nature Conservation Strategy and the collaboration within the community, other Local Government areas and natural resource management groups, it is important for the LLRI to continue with the extended support for the partnering arrangement between TFF, QTFN and Council for an additional 12 months.

## ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Little Liverpool Range Initiative Project Officer Funding CE June 2018 <a href="#">↓</a> 
2.	Little Liverpool Range Initiative Governance Structure for Project Officer CE August 2018 <a href="#">↓</a> 
3.	Little Liverpool Range Initiative Strategic Plan <a href="#">↓</a> 

Dani Andlemac

### **PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Stephani Macarthur

### **TEAM LEADER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS)**

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”***

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 18.06.18	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

NS: NS

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11 May 2018

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS PARKS AND RECREATION)

FROM: ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

RE: LITTLE LIVERPOOL RANGE INITIATIVE – PROJECT OFFICER FUNDING

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report by the Acting Sport Recreation and Natural Resources Manager dated 11 May 2018 concerning the funding of a Project Officer for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative which Ipswich City Council is a major stakeholder in.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Little Liverpool Range, located on the western boundary of the Ipswich local government area, adjoining Lockyer Valley, Somerset and Scenic Rim Council local government areas, is a vegetated biodiversity corridor linking with the Main Range National Park and the Great Eastern Ranges.

The range is heavily vegetated and is made up of several mapped regional ecosystems providing habitat for a range of significant species including the Glossy-Black Cockatoo, Powerful Owl, Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby, Little Pied Bat, and Slender Milk Vine. The connectivity the range provides along with its high biodiversity value and low pressure from urban infringement makes it ideal for long-term conservation. Furthermore, the range also contains core habitat areas including Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate, Hidden Vale Nature Refuge and Mount Beau Brummell Conservation Park.

The Little Liverpool Range has also been identified in the Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 as a Priority Conservation Area.

**OVERVIEW OF THE LITTLE LIVERPOOL RANGE INITIATIVE:**

The Little Liverpool Range covers the Ipswich, Lockyer, Somerset and Scenic Rim local government areas, and includes large private landholdings dedicated to conservation. In partnership with key stakeholders, including The Gainsdale Group (Spicers Hiddenvale) Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN), the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) was mooted to provide a collaborative approach to conserving and enhancing the environmental values within the area in collaboration with private landholders in the vicinity of the range (Attachment A).

**PROPOSED PROJECT OFFICER FUNDING:**

The LLRI stakeholders have previously discussed the need to fund a part time Project Officer as the LLRI progressed further and gained more momentum. Now that the LLRI has gained more recognition, the stakeholders believe that a dedicated LLRI Project Officer is necessary to ensure that sufficient time and effort can be allocated to the LLRI to make sure the momentum continues.

Employing a part time Project Officer to represent all stakeholders under the LLRI name would direct much needed time and effort towards:

- Community engagement
- Educating and creating awareness amongst the community about the Little Liverpool Range and its importance
- Coordinating events and activities including field days, events, meetings and landholder property visits
- Collaborating with stakeholders from the LLRI to help deliver a consistent approach to conservation of the Little Liverpool Range
- Preparing written material including brochures, flyers, reports and grant applications.

Employing a Project Officer will provide additional benefits to Ipswich City Council as they will be able to promote Council's Waterways Conservation Agreement, Koala Conservation Agreement, Bushland Conservation Agreement and Nature Conservation Agreement, in the Little Liverpool Range, which is a region of Ipswich where there has been less take-up of the Landholder Partnerships.

Ipswich City Council has received written commitment from Queensland Trust for Nature (Attachment B) confirming that they are willing to put \$5,000 per year towards the funding of a Project Officer for 2 years. The Gainsdale Group has provided written commitment (Attachment C) that they are willing to put \$10,000 a year towards the funding of a Project Officer for at least 2 years. Additionally, Gainsdale Group have offered to provide a computer and office space, at the Hidden vale Wildlife Centre, for the project officer to work from.

To ensure the LLRI continues to grow, it is proposed that Ipswich City Council also contribute \$10,000 per year for 2 years. This would bring funding to a total of \$25,000 per year for two years and allow for the employment of a part time Project Officer at 2 days per week.



### **BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS:**

Currently, it's the stakeholders of the LLRI that are delivering the LLRI message across multiple Council areas. As a result, it's difficult to deliver a consistent message to everyone. Employing a Project Officer as a representative of the LLRI would allow the Project Officer to work across all 4 Council areas (primarily the Ipswich region based on proposed funding), engaging with the community, ensuring that information delivered across the region is consistent. The role will also be based in the Little Liverpool Range region to ensure that the Project Officer is readily available to landholders who would like to meet and discuss land management practices related to their property.




Being that there is a smaller population in the region, word of mouth is effective for creating awareness about the LLRI and associated events and workshops. With the Project Officer based in the region and in regular contact with the community, they'll be better able to promote those workshops and events as well as any other significant projects that Ipswich City Council, or the other Council's, are carrying out in the region.

The four different Council's offer a range of Landholder Partnerships that enable landholders to access incentives to help with land management on their properties. The Project Officer will have a general knowledge of the partnerships offered across the Council's which they will be able to promote.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The Little Liverpool Range Initiative aims to conserve the range through a coordinated and collaborative approach with private property owners, conservation organisations and adjoining local governments, and to facilitate open discussions on conservation management strategies to conserve and improve the environmental values of the area. Employment of a Project Officer to represent the Little Liverpool Range Initiative will ensure that the coordinated and collaborative approach is delivered consistently.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Draft Little Liverpool Range Initiative Vision	 Attachment A
Funding commitment Letter from Queensland Trust for Nature	 Attachment B
Funding commitment letter from Gainsdale Group	 Attachment C

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Amended at Conservation and Environment Committee No. 2018(06) of 18 June 2018.

- A. That Council partner with the Gainsdale Group and Queensland Trust for Nature, by contributing \$10,000 a year for two years, to help fund a part-time Project Officer to deliver the Little Liverpool Range Initiative, and that the divisional Councillor and Chairperson of the Conservation and Environment Committee be consulted on the progress.
- B. That the governance structure for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative be submitted to a future Conservation and Environment Committee for information.

Kaye Cavanagh

**ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER**

I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Bryce Hines

**ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)**

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 13.08.18	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

NS: NS

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19 July 2018

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

RE: LITTLE LIVERPOOL RANGE INITIATIVE – GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR THE PROJECT OFFICER

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report by the Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 19 July 2018 concerning the governance structure for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative Project Officer.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

At the Council Ordinary Meeting held on the 26 June 2018 the following was resolved:

- A. *That Council partner with the Gainsdale Group and Queensland Trust for Nature, by contributing \$10,000 a year for two years, to help fund a part-time Project Officer to deliver the Little Liverpool Range Initiative, and that the divisional Councillor and Chairperson of the Conservation and Environment Committee be consulted on the progress.*
- B. *That the governance structure for the Little Liverpool Range Initiative be submitted to a future Conservation and Environment Committee for information.*

A copy of this report is shown in Attachment A

This report provides an update on the governance structure.

### **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:**

In agreement with Gainsdale and QTFN, the Project Officer will be an employee of Ipswich City Council, sitting within the Sport Recreation and Natural Resources Branch. This will allow the Project Officer to work alongside the Programs Officer (Natural Environment), ensuring alignment with Council's Voluntary Conservation Partnership program, stakeholder engagement, and conversation strategies.

Gainsdale has also offered to provide desk space at the Hidden Vale Wildlife Centre for when the Project Officer is working within the area, as well as access to a laptop computer and mobile phone.

A works program and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are currently being drafted, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders and the Project Officer. In principle, Gainsdale and QTFN will provide their part funding contribution to Council for the Project Officer position. Council will take responsibility for the day-to-day management of the officer and the delivery of the agreed works program. All stakeholders will meet on a quarterly basis through the Steering Committee meetings to discuss progress.

A draft Position Description has been developed in consultation with the key stakeholders (Attachment B). This will be formatted into Council template following finalisation of the MoU and works program.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Following the report to Conservation and Environment Committee No. 2018(06) of 18 June 2018 and Council Ordinary Meeting of 26 June 2018, Council has consulted with Gainsdale and Queensland Trust for Nature on the governance structure for the employment of a Project Officer.

In agreement with Gainsdale and QTFN, Council will take on the responsibility for employment and the day-to-day management of the Project Officer. A works program and Memorandum of Understanding will set the roles and responsibilities for each organisation, and the Steering Committee will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss progress.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Conservation and Environment Committee No. 2018(06) of 18 June 2018 and Council Ordinary Meeting of 26 June 2018 report	 Attachment A
Draft Project Officer position description	 Attachment B

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Nicholas Swanson  
**PROGRAMS OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)**

Kaye Cavanagh  
**ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER**

I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Bryce Hines  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)**







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## Vision

The Little Liverpool Range is embraced and enhanced through **collaborative partnerships** between landholders, the community, non-profit organisations and government bodies to conserve its natural beauty, wildlife and landscapes.

## Role

The purpose of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) is to **connect people, landscapes and ecosystems** to conserve local and regional biodiversity for future generations by promoting communication and coordination across boundaries. To achieve this, the LLRI provides support and networking opportunities for land managers and stakeholders at a regional scale.



## Background

The Little Liverpool Range (LLR) includes a combination of unique native habitat and production land in South East Queensland.

With large areas of intact remnant vegetation primarily occurring on private land, the LLR is home to a variety of species of national, state and local significance including koala, brush-tailed rock-wallaby, powerful owl, glossy black cockatoo, and swamp tea tree.

The diverse and stable vegetation communities found across the Little Liverpool Range supports habitat connectivity to Main Range National Park and the Great Eastern Ranges, providing wildlife with an important corridor for dispersal and a refuge from threats associated with urban development.

Preserving the health, connectivity, size, and resilience of this habitat will provide species with an improved opportunity to adapt to changing climatic conditions and ensure the continuation of ecosystem services that are vital for agricultural productivity including pollination, disease control, water quality, and soil stability.

Recognising the importance of this landscape and the need to address challenges at a regional scale, the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) was formed in July 2016.

The Initiative is comprised of landholder and community representatives, local councils, natural resource management groups and conservation organisations.

The long term aspiration of the Initiative is to support sustainable land management and the connection of habitat between Main Range National Park, located in the Scenic Rim local government area, and the D'Aguilar National Park located in the Somerset local government area. This focal area reflects the broader vision identified in the South East Queensland Regional Plan for improved landscape connectivity and the formation of strategic biodiversity corridors.





Little Liverpool Range Biodiversity Corridor





## Aims

To achieve our vision of protecting the natural beauty, wildlife and landscapes of the Little Liverpool Range, the Little Liverpool Range Initiative will work collaboratively with stakeholders to protect existing habitat (A1), facilitate land stewardship (A2), restore degraded habitat (A3) and support locally rare and threatened species (A4). Collectively, stakeholders also aim to increase community awareness of the Little Liverpool Range's ecological and cultural significance (A5).



## A1. Protect habitat

**Objective:** *Encourage and provide support for habitat retention in the range by scoping for incentives to protect existing habitat, increasing the quantity of land protected through Conservation Agreements, and demonstrating mix-purpose land management approaches.*

The Little Liverpool Range retains extensive and continuous tracts of remnant vegetation, providing refuge and dispersal corridors for wildlife. Across the range, a large portion of this habitat exists on private land. Rural land use designation combined with the topography of the area has historically meant that the Little Liverpool Range has been protected from many of the threatening processes associated with urban development.

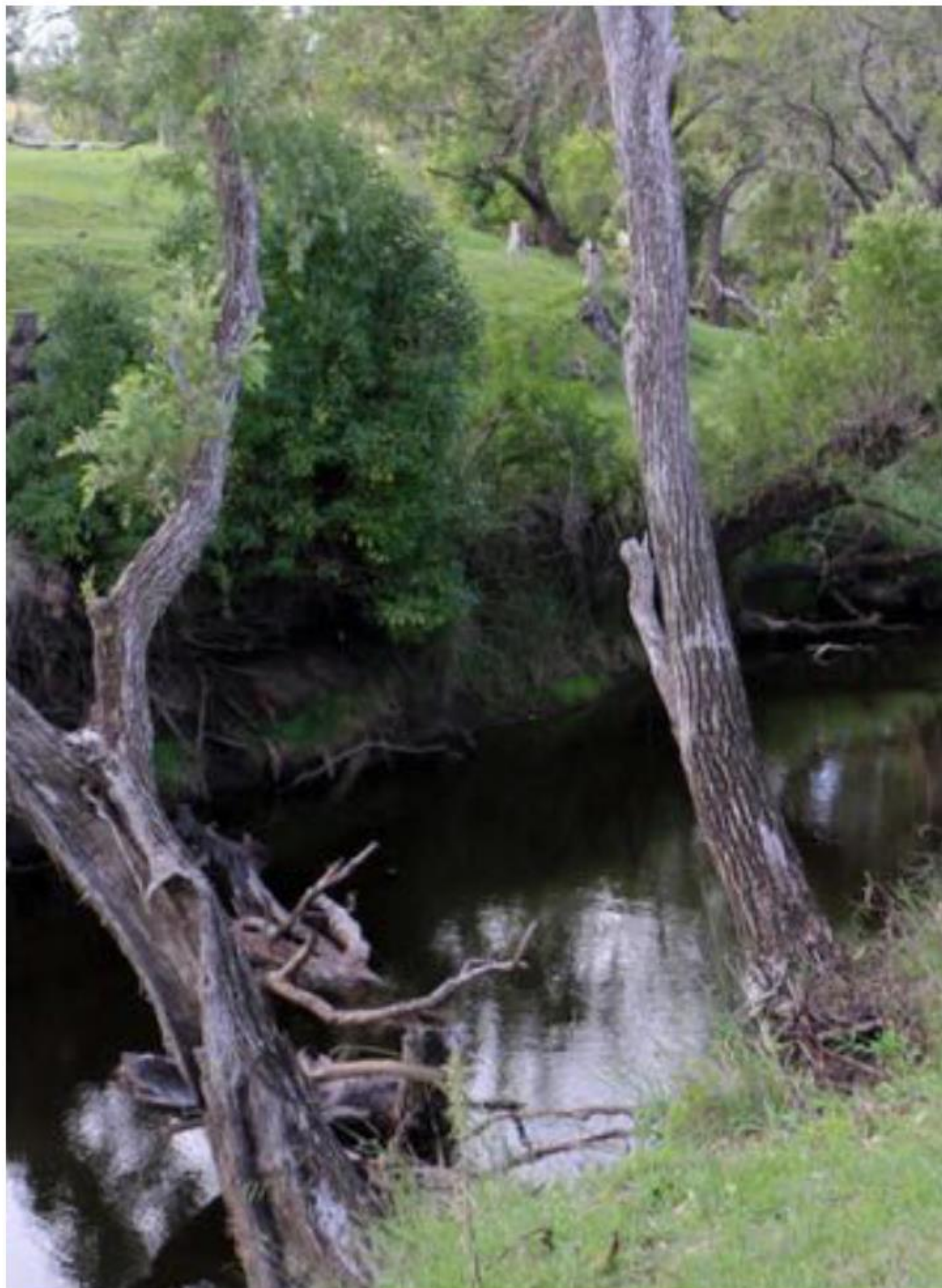
Today, over 6400 hectares of this wilderness is preserved in regional parks, conservation estates and through voluntary conservation agreements between landholders and local governments, with scope for additional voluntary land acquisition through private or public acquisitions such as Ipswich council's Enviroplan levy<sup>2</sup> and Scenic Rim Regional Council's Habitat Protection Program<sup>3</sup>.

### Actions:

The primary aim of the LLRI is to protect, restore and manage this valuable habitat corridor. To achieve this we recognise the need for balance between social, economic and environmental requirements. To assist landholders in balancing these competing needs, the Initiative will provide support through the identification of potential incentive schemes and the demonstration of a range of mixed purpose land-use strategies that offer opportunities for diversification and improved resilience to changing climatic, social and economic environments. Members of the Initiative including Queensland Trust for Nature and the Turner Family Foundation will be instrumental in trialling and demonstrating a range of mixed purpose land-use strategies including sustainable grazing, eco-tourism, land for wildlife, biodiversity offsets and carbon farming.







## A2: Facilitate Land Stewardship

**Objective:** *Connect owners with opportunities and capacity for sustainable land and water management.*

Invasive species, inappropriate fire regimes and erosion are considered to be the major threats to native species and overall environmental health across the Little Liverpool Range<sup>4,5,6</sup>. The direct and indirect impacts of unsustainable land practices not only affect native flora and fauna but also adversely affect the productivity and profitability of agricultural landscapes.

To prevent these negative impacts, landholder's frequently engage in programs to eradicate and control pest animals such as wild dog (*Canis familiaris*), fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*) and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and weed species such as Lantana (*L. camara* and *L. montevidensis*), Cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) and Broad-leafed pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*). Whilst it is understood that these pest plants and animals are pervasive throughout the region, little is known about the effectiveness of eradication methods, particularly as programs are often administered at an individual property level.

### **Actions:**

The Little Liverpool Range Initiative aims to support landholders in the adoption of sustainable land management activities including but not limited to; pest management and eradication, fire management, riparian management and erosion control.

To achieve this, the LLRI will consult with landholders to identify property attributes and management challenges for the purpose of developing and delivering tailored workshops and resources that support land stewardship. The initiative will for scope funding opportunities and provide a platform to assist landholders with information sharing and activity coordination to facilitate a landscape-level approach to natural resource management.



## A3: Restore degraded habitat

**Objective:** *Identify remnant habitat fragments and develop management plans for monitoring and improving habitat health.*

175 km<sup>2</sup> of remnant vegetation has been identified across the Little Liverpool Range, providing an important refuge for locally rare and threatened species. Remnant vegetation includes endangered regional ecosystems such as *Eucalyptus tereticornis* woodland (12.3.3), *Acacia harpophylla* (12.9 – 10.6), Semi-evergreen vine thicket (SEVT) (12.8.21) and *Melaleuca irbyana* forest (12.9 – 10.11). Threats to these ecosystems include timber harvesting, grazing, invasion by weed species and feral animals as well as inappropriate fire regimes.

*Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Blue Gum) woodlands are an endangered regional ecosystem with few intact stands remaining. Blue gums are an important food source for Koala and hollows formed in large old trees provide shelter to a range of other fauna species including powerful owls, glossy black cockatoos and squirrel gliders. Approximately 0.4km<sup>2</sup> of Blue Gum woodland can be found across the Little Liverpool Range.

Semi-evergreen vine thickets (SEVT) are an extreme form of dry seasonal subtropical rainforest. The ecological community is considered as endangered with only 13% of its original extent remaining. Approximately 1 km<sup>2</sup> of SEVT occurs in the Little Liverpool Range, primarily within the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Local Government area.

*Melaleuca irbyana*, or Swamp Tea-tree Forests are listed as critically endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. At present, less than 10% of the original extent of *M. irbyana* remains with no representation in reserves. More than 3% of this ecosystem is found within the Little Liverpool Range and subsequently has been identified as a priority concern for the Initiative.

### **Actions:**

The LLRI aims to identify remnant patches and improve the health of these threatened ecological communities by assessing the bio-condition of remnant habitat and developing targeted management strategies. Project partners such as Turner Family Foundation, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Healthy Land and Water have embarked on restoration projects focused on *M. irbyana* and SEVT communities. Their expertise and experience will provide important information and a valuable demonstration as to how these ecological communities can be managed and restored on private land.





## A4: Support locally rare and threatened species

**Objective:** *Landholders, community members, conservation organisations and government bodies work collaboratively to record and share data on the presence and distribution of significant species.*

Little Liverpool Range is home to a wide variety of native species of Commonwealth, State and local significance, including koala, brush-tailed rock wallaby, glossy black cockatoo, powerful owl, little pied bat, Fleay's barred frog, Bailey's cypress-pine and Lloyd's olive.

In recent years, native species that were previously common throughout the range, such as the spotted tail quoll, have not been sighted. Threats including invasive species, road mortalities, 1080 baiting and habitat loss have reduced many populations of the area's iconic wildlife.

### **Actions:**

To protect native flora and fauna across the range, more information is needed on the presence and distribution of species. The LLRI aims to improve landholder identification skills, increase engagement with citizen science activities, provide a platform for stakeholders to share information on the region's threatened fauna, flora and pest predator species. This will be achieved by working collaboratively with a range of scientific organisations to deliver community information sessions and skill development workshops.

Improved data availability and sharing will assist in the identification of critical habitat, facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of threats, and provide land managers with additional guidance for the strategic deployment of management actions such as pest eradication and burning regimes. This data will also be used to measure program performance and inform future strategies.





## A5: Increase awareness of the Little Liverpool Range's ecological and cultural significance

**Objective:** *Promote and celebrate the Little Liverpool Range with the wider community and highlight landholder's conservation efforts.*

The Little Liverpool Range is a valuable component of South East Queensland's habitat network. As well as providing a valuable corridor from North to South, the Range is also where headwaters for the Bremer and Brisbane River are located and as such, is the source of an important freshwater corridor linking habitats and communities from the ranges in the West, to Moreton Bay in the East. The scenic amenity of the Range is recognised as being regionally significant<sup>1</sup> and provides residents and visitors with opportunities for nature based leisure, tourism, and recreation activities.

In addition to the area's ecological importance and natural beauty, Little Liverpool is rich in cultural heritage. The land has been continuously occupied by Indigenous people for at least 40,000 years. European settlement and leaseholds for sheep and cattle grazing date back to 1829 with the naming of the Laidley Plains and the establishment of Franklin Vale Station in 1843. The areas rich history is encapsulated by heritage-listed buildings such as Grandchester Railway Station and the Exchange hotel. Today, the Little Liverpool Range is home to a diverse community of farmers, custodians, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

### **Actions:**

A lack of community awareness and engagement has been identified as a key threat to the natural environment in the region<sup>5</sup>. The LLRI aims to increase community engagement and promote the beauty, utility and ecological significance of the range with the broader South East Queensland community by hosting and attending a range of formal and informal community events and excursions. Utilising a range of written and online communication channels, the Initiative also aims to showcase sustainable land management practices undertaken by landholders in the region.

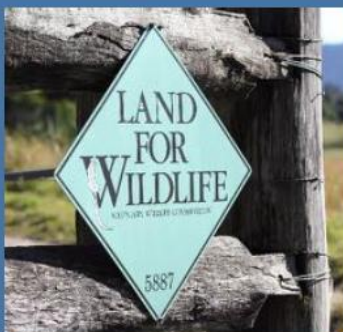


## Evaluation

Strategic Aims	Outcome	Performance Indicator	2019 Status	2024 Aspiration
<b>A1</b> – Protect existing habitat	Conservation Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of LLR focal area covered by voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs) including Land for Wildlife</li> </ul>	38% of freehold land within the LLR focal area was covered by VCAs including 20% in Ipswich City Council and 18% in LVRC.	40% of freehold land within the LLR will be covered by VCAs.
<b>A2</b> – Facilitate land stewardship	Adoption of sustainable land management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced clearing in the LLR</li> <li>Reduced number of feral pest animals</li> <li>Improved water quality</li> <li>Cultural burning practices conducted on private land</li> </ul>	<p>Between 2013 – 2018, 4.1 km<sup>2</sup> was cleared in the LLR.</p> <p>Limited information available on density, distribution and effectiveness of pest control methods.</p> <p>Franklin Vale Creek Catchment restoration project underway.</p> <p>Workshop held on cultural burning practices.</p>	<p>A 20% reduction in clearing between 2019 – 2024.</p> <p>Improved data on the density and distribution of fauna pests and effectiveness of control methods.</p> <p>Reduced sedimentation and improved bio-condition scores of riparian areas.</p> <p>Community cultural burning practices adopted by private landholders</p>
<b>A3</b> – Restore degraded habitat	Exclusion fencing and planting of key species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved health of remnant regional ecosystems of concern including 12.3.3, 12.8.21 and 12.9 - 10.11.</li> </ul>	175km <sup>2</sup> of remnant habitat has been identified in the LLR focal area including 0.4km <sup>2</sup> of 12.3.3, 0.8km <sup>2</sup> of 12.8.21 and 1.88km <sup>2</sup> of 12.9 – 10.11.	Management plans developed for 12.3.3, 12.9 – 10.11 and 12.8.21 for the purpose of monitoring and improving habitat health evidenced by improved bio-condition scores.
<b>A4</b> – Support locally rare and threatened species	Engagement in Education programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of community outreach activities and resources</li> <li>Increased participation in community outreach events</li> <li>Improved species records</li> </ul>	<p>Sporadic community events based on capacity.</p> <p>57 mammal species, 280 bird species, 77 reptile species, 31 amphibians, 22 species of fish and 1160 species of plant have been recorded in the Little Liverpool Range and documented on the Atlas of Living Australia.</p>	<p>Bi-annual community events including workshops, information evenings and excursions.</p> <p>Landholder resource library developed to support monitoring efforts and participation in citizen science.</p> <p>Number of species documented will increase across all native taxa. Populations of rare and threatened species will be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<b>A5</b> – Increase awareness of cultural and ecological significance	Improved community knowledge about the LLR and opportunities to maintain habitat on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater community awareness of the LLR</li> <li>Social media engagement</li> </ul>	Social Media followers; Facebook 213 Instagram 0	<p>Social media followers; Facebook 1000, Instagram 500.</p> <p>Little Liverpool profiled in 5 community newsletters.</p> <p>Partnerships formed with 10 community groups.</p>



## Opportunities



### Land for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program administered with support from local councils that encourages and assists landholders to manage wildlife and habitats on their properties. The program has been available in SEQ since 1998. Across the Little Liverpool Range, the program is administered by SRRC, LVRC, ICC and SRC. Extension officers provide landholders with information, resources and incentives to protect habitat and manage threats such as pests. SEQ's Land for Wildlife program is the fastest-growing network of landholders involved in private land conservation with nearly 4,000 properties.



### Hidden Vale Wildlife Centre

The Hidden Vale wildlife centre was established in 2017 as a joint venture between the University of Queensland and the Turner Family Foundation. The centre is involved in wildlife research and teaching, offering a valuable opportunity for students and researchers to engage in hands-on wildlife management experience. The overarching goal of the Hidden Vale Project is to develop innovative and globally significant solutions for wildlife management and conservation, using the Hidden Vale Wildlife Centre and surrounding ecosystems as a model.



### Aroona Station

Aroona station has been a working cattle farm for over 50 years. The property was donated to Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) in 2015 who have since established a nature reserve on the property. QTFN is working with research institutions to understand and demonstrate how grazing and agricultural land management can deliver economic and environmental benefits. Aroona station presents an opportunity to undertake research and development for optimizing mix-purpose land use and demonstrate coexistence between cattle grazing and the conservation of flora and fauna.

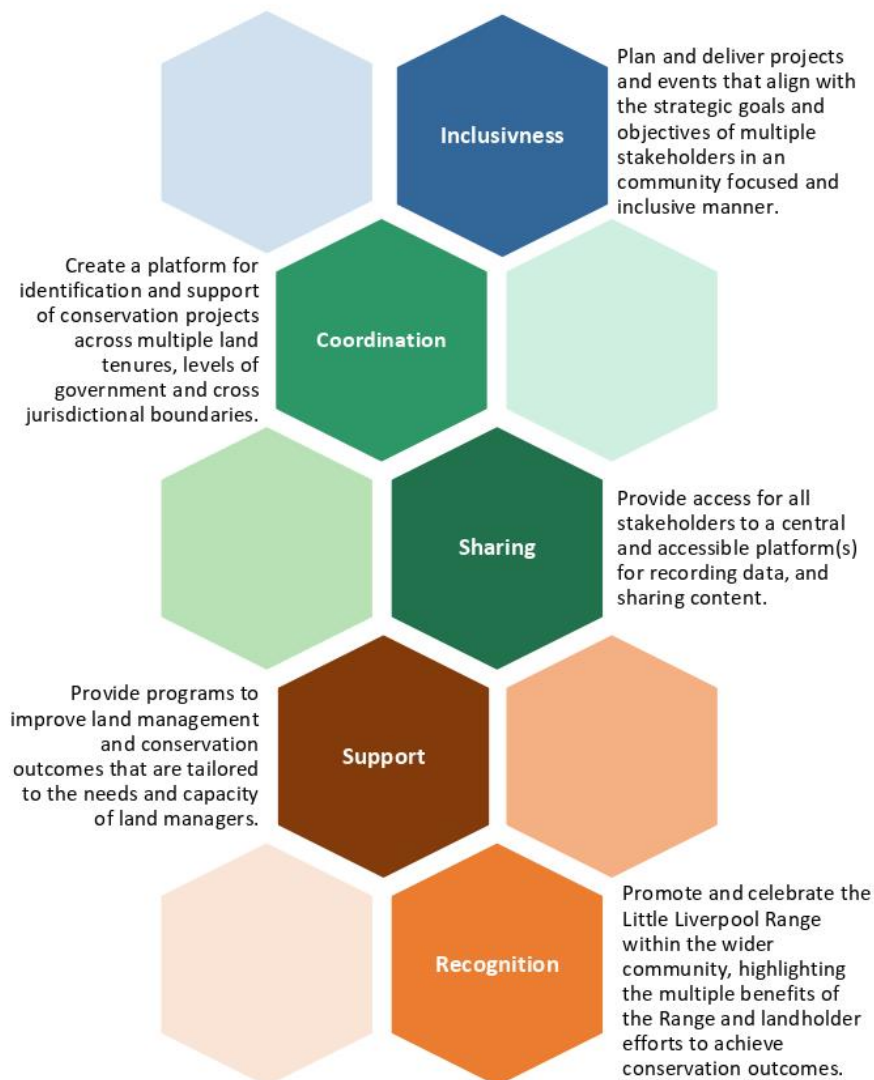


### Resilient Rivers

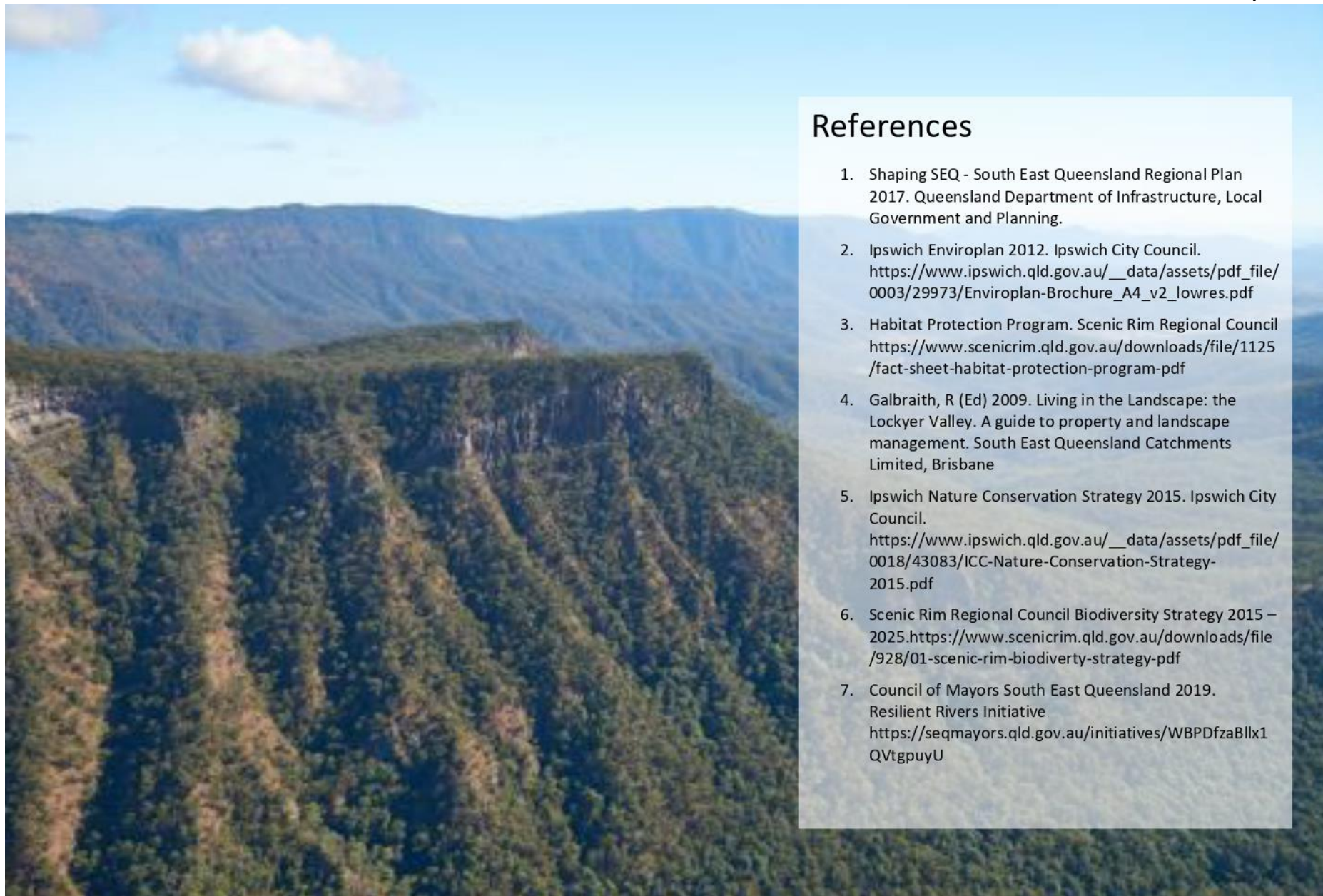
The resilient rivers initiative aims to collaboratively improve the health and resilience of South East Queensland's catchments. The Mid-Brisbane, Lockyer Valley and Bremer catchments have been identified as a priority project areas. Action plans have been developed for these projects with focus given to improving water security, water quality, climate resilience and preventing soil and bank erosion along Franklin Vale and Western Creek in the Ipswich LGA, Laidley Creek in the Lockyer Valley LGA and Black Snake Creek in the Somerset LGA<sup>7</sup>.



## Key Principles







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