



City of Ipswich

**IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

of the

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Held in the Council Chambers
8th floor – 1 Nicholas Street
IPSWICH QLD 4305**

On Thursday, 7 April 2022
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, 7 April 2022**
in the Council Chambers, 8th Floor, 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich*

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 3

7 APRIL 2022

AGENDA

WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2022(02) OF 10 MARCH 2022**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2022 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **ENVIROPLAN PROGRAM AND LEVY PROGRESS REPORT 2021 2022**

This is a report concerning the Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report for the 2020-2021 financial year (Attachment 1). Contained within the report is an overview of project delivery, a financial summary including expenditure and revenue and a number of highlights from the past year which include:

- Enviroplan 25-year campaign,
- acquisition details concerning the expansion of the Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate
- program summaries for the review and implementation of the voluntary conservation and partnerships programs
- conservation planning programs
- investment into the existing and new Enviroplan reserves.

This annual report follows on from the first report for the 2019-2020 fiscal period.

The 2020-2021 fiscal year saw a significant increase in the overall investment of \$4.9m, up from the previous years of \$2.6m.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report 2020-2021 be received and noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2022(02)

10 MARCH 2022

MINUTES

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

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES: Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive Officer (Peter Tabulo), Acting General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Brett Davey), General Manager Infrastructure and Environment (Sean Madigan), Acting General Manager Corporate Services (Jeff Keech), Executive Services Manager (Wade Wilson), Chair - Retail Sub-Project Sub Committee (James Hepburn), Senior Policy and Communications Officer (David Shaw), Senior Digital Media and Content Officer (Jodie Richter) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

WELCOME TO COUNTRY/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson) delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2022(01) OF 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

RECOMMENDATION

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

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 10 February 2022 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Nil

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 12.13 pm.

The meeting closed at 12.14 pm.

Doc ID No: A7953990

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: ENVIROPLAN PROGRAM AND LEVY PROGRESS REPORT 2021 2022

AUTHOR: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGER

DATE: 21 MARCH 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report for the 2020-2021 financial year (Attachment 1). Contained within the report is an overview of project delivery, a financial summary including expenditure and revenue and a number of highlights from the past year which include:

- Enviroplan 25-year campaign,
- acquisition details concerning the expansion of the Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate
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This annual report follows on from the first report for the 2019-2020 fiscal period.

The 2020-2021 fiscal year saw a significant increase in the overall investment of \$4.9m, up from the previous years of \$2.6m.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report 2020-2021 be received and noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There is no declaration of conflicts of interest in relation to this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Over the 2021 calendar year council and the community celebrated 25 years of the Enviroplan levy investing in conservation initiatives. At its inception, Ipswich was one of only a handful of local governments to introduce a levy focused on protecting and enhancing the environment. Since then the community and council have worked together implementing the Enviroplan Program and the many initiatives within it.

In line with best practice and council's commitment to transparency and integrity, as of last year Council committed to the annual publication of the Enviroplan Annual Report. As well as this the financial data is provided for publication on the Transparency and Integrity Hub.

Given the need to examine the cost and investment of the Enviroplan Levy regarding the strategic needs into the future, this report allows the community to better understand what the Levy is used for. Building this understanding should aid in better dialogue and engagement when it comes to City wide directional decisions around the Environment including the development of the new Natural Environment Strategy currently underway.

As council has grown and matured over the 25 years, the strategic focus, priority and needs of the city have changed and the Enviroplan spending has changed with that. Like many other Southeast Queensland Local Governments who followed in the footsteps of the Enviroplan Levy; initial investment focussed on acquisitions of strategically important, high value conservation land parcels. As the portfolio grew it was identified that the need to manage and maintain this land grew with it as did the resourcing required. As such spending shifted to consolidation and connectivity. Presently, as we await the development of the new Strategy, expenditure is balanced between opportunistic expansion of the protected areas (council and private) and the embellishment and management of the land Council has responsibility for.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is no risk associated with the adoption and publication of the annual report.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The recommendation states that the report be received and noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no forward financial or budget implications from the presentation or endorsement of this report.



COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

It is proposed that the annual report be published publicly on the Council web site and the integrity hub in order to inform the community of where and how the money is invested. This in turn will help guide future engagement regarding future strategy and direction in Ipswich's natural environment.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the annual Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report 2020-2021 to council to be received and adopted. As well as a summary of the financial details in includes summaries of key programs and projects for the 2020/21 financial year. If adopted this report will be made publicly available.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	DRAFT Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report 2020 2021  
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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

GENERAL MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

City of Ipswich

Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report

2020-2021



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DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this document is based on available information at the time of writing. All figures and diagrams are indicative only and should be referred to as such. While the Ipswich City Council has exercised reasonable care in preparing this document it does not warrant or represent that it is accurate or complete. Council or its officers accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon any material contained in this document.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters with which we share. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, as the keepers of their traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

ENVIROPLAN SNAPSHOT

Over the 2021 calendar year council and the community celebrated 25 years of the Enviroplan levy investing in conservation initiatives. At the time, Ipswich was one of only a handful of local governments to introduce a levy focused on protecting and enhancing the environment. Since then the community and council have worked together implementing the Enviroplan Program.

Building on the history and efforts of the past, the 2020-2021 fiscal year saw a significant increase in the overall investment of \$4.9m, up from the previous years of \$2.6m.

This annual report follows on from the first undertaken for the 2019-2020 fiscal period. The purpose being to provide insight into investment, deliverables and outcomes.

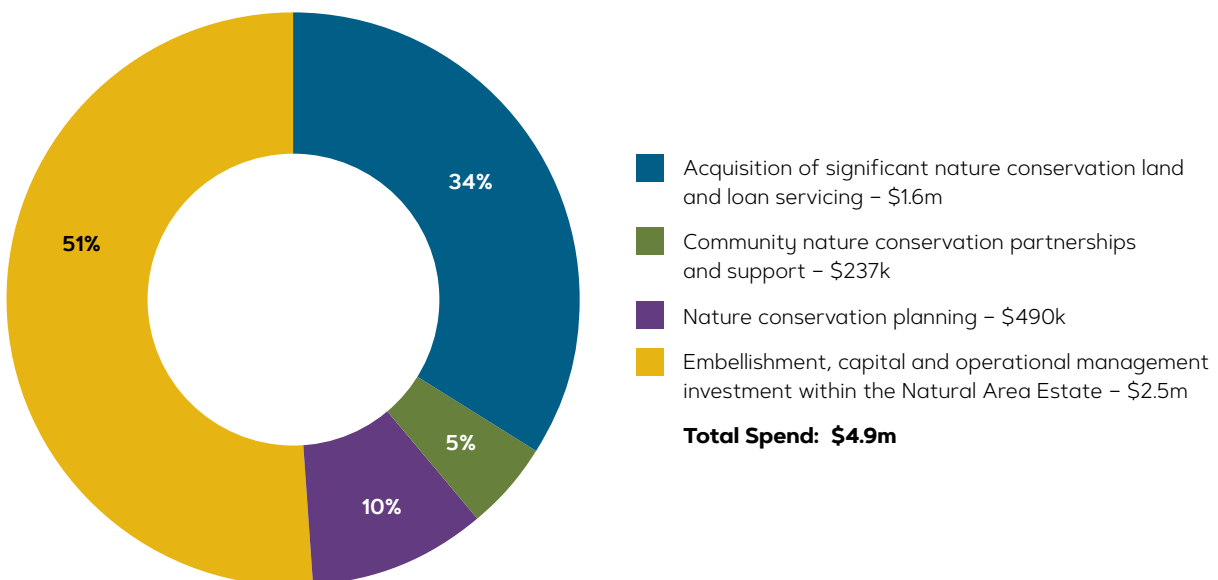
The amount of special charge for the Ipswich Enviroplan Program on all rateable land for the 2020-2021 financial year increased by \$1.00 to \$46.00. Revenue during this period increased by 6% from the previous year and totalled \$3,991,768.

Additional revenue of \$443,956 was received through external grants. These funds were invested primarily in constructing a community hut in Hardings Paddock (Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate).


A drawdown from the reserve of \$526,680 was needed to fund the program in addition to the revenue for the year, leaving a balance at the end of 2020-21 of \$4,571,320.

The levy is a key funding source in the delivery of the Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy. This strategy outlines council's strategic approach, objectives and long-term vision for Ipswich's natural environment. It also provides direction for decision-making, prioritisation and implementation.


Where did the funds go in 2019-2020?




INVESTMENT TREND COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR




A substantial increase in investment in acquisition saw council expand the Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate through the purchase of land.







Implementation of the new Conservation Partnerships model saw the Nature Conservation Grants Program on hold.



Though there was an overall reduction in investment in some areas of nature conservation planning, investment was made into bio-condition assessment within the Natural Area Estate.



A significant increase of investment in the Natural Area Estate occurred with capital investment or visitor management and nature-based recreation infrastructure.

TREND	THEME	CHANGE FROM 2019-2020
	Acquisition of significant nature conservation land and loan servicing	(+) \$839,000
	Community nature conservation partnerships and support	(-) \$32,000
	Nature conservation planning	(-) \$30,000
	Embellishment, capital & operational management investment within the Natural Area Estate	(+) \$815,000

ENVIROPLAN 25 YEARS

In 2021 Enviroplan reached the significant milestone of 25 years of conservation achievements.

A multi-faceted campaign was developed to increase awareness of Enviroplan in the community, and participation in environment-related initiatives.

A number of events, activities and promotions were held throughout 2021, funded through Enviroplan and general revenue streams.

Enviroplan-funded activities included Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program workshops and Experience Nature bushwalks.

The first public event for the campaign was a Habitat Gardens workshop. Sessions were held for Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program members and the public on 19 June as a way of promoting Enviroplan and encouraging participation in the program.

Approximately 30 people attended each session at the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre and learned about xeriscaping and worm farms. About half of the attendees at the public session signed up to the Enviroplan-funded Habitat Gardens program on the day.



