



# 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, 14 July 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

Deputy Mayor Jacob Madsen

Councillor Kate Kunzelmann

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

*10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry  
Development Committee on **Thursday, 14 July 2022***

Council Chambers

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\*\* Item includes confidential papers

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**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 6**

**14 JULY 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(05) OF 16 JUNE 2022**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2022 be confirmed.

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**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

2. **UPDATE OF THE NATURAL AREA ESTATE FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

This is a report concerning the repealing of the current policy and adoption of the updated Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy that has been reviewed, updated and placed onto the new corporate template as part of the regular policy and procedure review process, and as per recommendation 1 from Audit A2021-02-Bushfire Risk Management.

The objective of this policy remains the same as the original version, to provide a framework for the desired aims and outcomes of fire management in response to the regulatory requirements, community and biodiversity needs of Council's Natural Area Estate.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. That the policy titled 'Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy', as detailed in Attachment 1, as per resolution No. 3 of the Policy and Administration Board No. 2015(07) of 14 July 2015 – City Management and Finance Committee No. 2015(07) of 21 July 2015, be repealed.

- B. That the policy titled 'Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy', as detailed in Attachment 3, be adopted.
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3. COUNCIL ROOFTOP SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PLANNING

This report concerns Council's planned investment in rooftop solar and battery storage. It includes projects with future potential for implementation but requires further investigation into the feasibility and financial sustainability of the projects.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

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**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**MATTERS ARISING**



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**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2022(05)**

**16 JUNE 2022**

**MINUTES**

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

**COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:** Nil

**OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Peter Tabulo), General Manager Infrastructure and Environment (Sean Madigan), Manager Economic and Community Development (Cat Matson), Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Team Leader (Environment and Sustainability Education and Awareness)(Stephani Grove), Acting Chief Financial Officer (Paul Mollenhauer) and Theatre Technician (Trent Gray)

**WELCOME TO COUNTRY/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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

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

Nil

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**BUSINESS OUTSTANDING**

Nil

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2022(04) OF 5 MAY 2022**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 5 May 2022 be confirmed.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

2. **FLOOD RECOVERY SUPPORT - WILDLIFE CARERS AND PRIVATE LANDHOLDERS**

This is a report concerning flood recovery funding made available to wildlife carers and private landholders who are in partnership with council. The funding in the form of a bursary was made available to eligible wildlife carers and landholders who have a registered Voluntary Conservation Agreement or Land for Wildlife Agreement with council, in response to the 2022 flood impacts. The purpose of the Bursary was to offer immediate support to impacted carers and property owners caring for an increased amount of flood impacted wildlife.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:

Seconded by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:

**That the report be received and the contents noted.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.



3. POTENTIAL AQUISITION OF A LAND IN SOUTH RIPLEY WITH ENVIROPLAN PROGRAM AND LEVY FUNDS

This is a report concerning the voluntary acquisition of 25.25 hectares of significant conservation land in South Ripley. It is proposed that the Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Funds be used to acquire this land and secure the site. Site location and funds required are outlined in the confidential background information (Attachments 1 to 3).

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.”

RECOMMENDATION

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

- A. That Council resolve to purchase the whole of the land in South Ripley, as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 for environmental purposes.**
- B. That the method of acquisition be by agreement with the affected person/s pursuant to the *Property Law Act 1975* and the *Land Title Act 1994*.**

AFFIRMATIVE  
Councillors:  
Milligan  
Fechner  
Harding  
Madsen  
Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE  
Councillors:  
Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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4. QUEENSLAND FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

This is a report concerning the ongoing partnership and financial contribution to the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC).

RECOMMENDATION

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

**That the report be received and the contents noted.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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5. TI TREE BIOENERGY FUNDING - ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

This is a report concerning Ipswich City Council's role in managing and delivering on revenue collected from the Ti Tree Bioenergy facility. Ipswich City Council looks to manage and expend these funds in such a way as to offset social and environmental impacts from the facility and improve amenity and environmental values for the local community through the provision of community proposed projects.

This report highlights progress to date on current projects and proposes the list of projects to be developed upon and delivered in the 2022-2023 financial year and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacob Madsen:

**That in accordance with the Ti Tree Bioenergy Funding governance arrangements, Council endorse the proposed program of projects to be pursued in the 2022-2023 financial year.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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6. CHERISH THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION LIMITED

In March 2021, a report was presented to Environment and Sustainability Committee proposing that Council seek legal and governance advice in order to develop an exit strategy for Council from the Cherish the Environment Foundation.

This is a report providing the final documents that make up the exit strategy for Council, including a revised draft Constitution as provided by Cherish the Environment Foundation board.

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.”

RECOMMENDATION

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

**That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to negotiate and finalise the terms of the Separation Deed, Deed of Indemnity – Stockland, Deed of Indemnity – QR, and Grandchester Services Agreement to be executed by Council and to do any other acts necessary to implement Council’s decision in accordance with section 13(3) of the *Local Government Act 2009*.**

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 12.58 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.25 pm.

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Doc ID No: A8053727

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF THE NATURAL AREA ESTATE FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY

AUTHOR: TEAM LEADER (LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL AREA PLANNING)

DATE: 11 MAY 2022

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is a report concerning the repealing of the current policy and adoption of the updated Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy that has been reviewed, updated and placed onto the new corporate template as part of the regular policy and procedure review process, and as per recommendation 1 from Audit A2021-02-Bushfire Risk Management.

The objective of this policy remains the same as the original version, to provide a framework for the desired aims and outcomes of fire management in response to the regulatory requirements, community and biodiversity needs of Council's Natural Area Estate

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- A. That the policy titled 'Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy', as detailed in Attachment 1, as per resolution No. 3 of the Policy and Administration Board No. 2015(07) of 14 July 2015 – City Management and Finance Committee No. 2015(07) of 21 July 2015, be repealed.**
- B. That the policy titled 'Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy', as detailed in Attachment 3, be adopted.**

### **RELATED PARTIES**

There are no known or declared conflicts of interest concerning this matter.

### **IFUTURE THEME**

Natural and Sustainable

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to provide the community and council staff with the most up to date information to enable good decision making when considering fire management within Council's Natural Area Estate.

The existing policy, which has remained in place during this process, has been reviewed by our management team and staff to ensure it remains accurate and relevant.

The changes which have been made to the policy are outlined below in detail, other than to update roles and responsibilities, general content, refresh the format and add in the additional information the new template requires such as human rights commitments and policy ownership.

1. 2.1 Aims – changed all reference to “NAE to Natural Area Estate” *to remove the use of abbreviations within the policy*
2. 2.2 Relationship with Relevant Legislation – *this has been deleted as this paragraph was deemed unnecessary*
3. 2.3 Responsibility of Council – *this has been deleted as Council’s responsibilities are clearly outlined throughout the relevant legislation and this section was deemed unnecessary*
4. 2.4 Regional Co-ordination – “adjoining councils” *added as an oversight from past policy*
5. 2.5 Fire Risk Management
  - (a) “based on live assessment of conditions” *was added to reflect current procedure*
  - (b) “It should be noted that council does not make assessments on regional Fire Danger Ratings, or subsequent adjustments to roadside Fire Danger Rating signage. These activities are controlled and monitored by the Queensland Fire & Emergency Services, with data supplied by the Bureau of Meteorology as a Stage Government responsibility” – *this point was added for clarity*
  - (c) “on an annual basis” – *this point was added for clarity*
  - (d) “and mechanical fuel reduced areas” – *this has been added as it is a new component to the Fire Management Program*
6. 3.0 “Queensland Fire and Emergency Services” – *has been added to improve clarity by removing acronym*
  - (a) “Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium” – *updated to reflect the correct name due to a recent name change*
7. 3.2 “Strategic and The Strategic Plan” – *has been added to this section to reflect the name of the new plan. “Fire Management Program” – this was added to reflect the new Fire Management Program title*
8. 3.3 “Fuel Reduced Areas (FRA’s) To complement burns and to contribute to fire mitigation infrastructure Council will create and maintain Fuel Reduced Areas. These are areas where fuel in the form of vegetation is physically managed and if required removed through slashing, pruning and other mechanical means to create breaks or low fuel areas to control and mitigate risk presented by a spreading wildfire.” *This paragraph has been added as it is a new component of the Fire Management Program*

9. 3.4 “Program” – *has been updated to reflect the correct name. “organisation such as QFES” was replaced by “Contractors” – this has been adjusted as council now exclusively uses contractors to undertake controlled burns.*
10. 3.4.3 “in local media” – *has been removed, as this is no longer a requirement under the Act.*
11. 3.5 “Natural Area Estate” *this is an update and correction within the matrix; “Natural Area Estate” this is an update to clarify the Program Boundaries; “or partial” this is an update to the program structure; “and Reserves” this is an update to the program structure*
12. 3.5.1 “Queensland Fire and Emergency Services as the lead agency” *this was added for clarity; “Queensland Fire and Emergency Services” this was added for clarity*
13. “6. Roles and Responsibilities” *this section has been added as an update to be compliant with the new policy template. “Environment and Sustainability Branch – ownership and updates of the Fire Management Program within the Natural Area Estate and technical supporting documents. Ownership for the planning and delivery of the annual fire reduction and prescribed burn programs. Works and Field Services Branch – support on ground delivery and/or oversight of fire management through maintaining fire mitigation infrastructure and contractor management of fire risk around offset plantings etc.”*
14. “7. Key Stakeholders” *this section has been added as an update to be compliant with the new policy template. “The following will be consulted during the review process:*
  - Environment and Sustainability Branch
  - Works and Field Services Branch
15. “9. Policy Owner” *this section has been added as an update to be compliant with the new policy template. “The General Manager (Infrastructure and Environment) is the policy owner and the Manager Environment and Sustainability is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy”*

## **LEGAL/POLICY BASIS**

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:

- *Qld Fire and Emergency Services Act (1990)*
- *Sustainable Planning Act (2009)*
- *Nature Conservation Act (1992)*
- *Environment Protection Act (1995)*
- *Local Government Act (2009)*

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As this policy has remained operational during the review process, there are no identified risks that would delay decisions or tasks that would impact Council’s reputation or business as usual activities.

## HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	The adoption of the updated Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy.
(b) What human rights are affected?	Human rights are not affected by these decisions.
(c) How are human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial or resourcing implications as a result of adopting this policy.

## COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION




As a minor adjustment to an existing policy no public consultation was undertaken in preparation of this report outside of that carried to complete the audit.

Internal consultation included information, advice and approval from stakeholders from Natural Environment and Land Management, Environment and Sustainability Branch and Works and Field Services Branch.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this report seeks a repeal of the previous version of the Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy and adoption of the updated version.

## ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy (CURRENT) <a href="#">↓</a> 
2.	Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy (TRACKED CHANGES) <a href="#">↓</a> 
3.	Natural Area Estate Fire Management Policy (DRAFT NEW VERSION) <a href="#">↓</a> 



John Young

**TEAM LEADER (LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL AREA PLANNING)**

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”*

	<p><b>NATURAL AREA ESTATE FIRE MANAGEMENT POLICY</b></p>	<p><b>DOCUMENT NO: A4619418</b></p>
<p><b>1. Objective</b></p> <p>That Council’s natural area estate will be managed to protect life and property from wildfire while planning, manipulating and utilizing fire to maintain or enhance environmental values.</p>		
<p><u>Human Rights Commitment</u></p> <p>Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the <i>Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)</i> (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.</p> <p><b>2. Policy Scope</b></p> <p>This policy provides a framework for the desired aims and outcomes of fire management in response to the regulatory requirements, community and biodiversity needs of Council’s natural area estate. It will be delivered through the preparation of procedures, plans, standards and guidelines for fire planning, operations, monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p><b>2.1 Aims</b></p> <p>The specific aims of fire management for Council’s natural area estate are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect life, property and the environment</li> <li>• Minimise the risk of fire entering or leaving the estate and impacting upon the estate or adjoining private property</li> <li>• Maintain ecologically appropriate fire frequencies, distribution, seasonality and intensity</li> <li>• Ensure the long term viability and survival of populations of native plants and wildlife</li> <li>• Ensure cultural heritage and historic values within and around the estate are protected; and</li> <li>• Minimise social impacts and hazards associated with smoke</li> </ul> <p><b>2.2 Relationship with Relevant Legislation</b></p> <p>The policy recognises that existing and future legislation relative to land management will impact on the specific requirements and procedures and that this policy is consistent with overall objectives. Some existing legislation and regulations that have been considered in the preparation of this policy are:</p> <p><i>Qld Fire and Emergency Services Act (1990)</i>  <i>Sustainable Planning Act (2009)</i>  <i>Nature Conservation Act (1992)</i>  <i>Environment Protection Act (1995)</i>  <i>Local Government Act (2009)</i>  Local Laws</p>		

### 2.3 Responsibility of Council

Council has a responsibility under the Qld Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to both minimise fire risk and take all reasonable steps to control fire on Council owned or controlled lands and to prevent its escape to other lands.

Under State and Federal legislation Council has responsibilities for appropriate management of environmental and biodiversity values in relation to both planned and wildfires.

In addition Council has a duty of care to provide safe access for park visitors.

### 2.4 Regional Co-ordination

Council acknowledges that appropriate fire management cannot be achieved in isolation. Council will engage and work with key stakeholders including the Queensland Fire & Emergency Services, Rural Fire Service, neighbouring property owners, research and special interest groups in planning and conducting its natural area fire management program.

### 2.5 Fire Risk Management

The key issue of fire risk management in the natural area estate will be addressed through range of strategies and actions including:

- Maintaining a park fire danger schedule for operational response and visitor safety
- Maintaining a close working relationship with Queensland Fire & Emergency Services and other disaster management agencies
- Developing and implementing fire management plans for individual reserves
- Developing and maintaining a network of fire trails, fire breaks and fuel reduced areas
- Conducting annual assessments of fire fuel loads
- Implementing measures to reduce risk on Council lands including the use of hazard reduction burns
- Educating park visitors through on ground signage, Council's website and other means
- Land use planning

### 2.6 Resourcing & Capabilities

Council will endeavour to resource fire management strategies, programs and actions as required to meet Council's community obligations as a responsible land manager, legal responsibilities under relevant legislation and duty of care.

In addition, Council will support fire management programs by appropriate training of Council personnel to fulfil their respective roles.

## 3. FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Council will take an integrated and planned approach to fire management based on current research, knowledge and best practice bushland fire management objectives and techniques. Key to this process will be Council's relationship with the QFES and participation in the SEQ Fire & Biodiversity Consortium (FabCon).

### 3.1 Research

Council will use relevant fire management research from recognised fire/land management agencies and research organisations such as FabCon as the basis for best practice fire management.

Where deemed relevant and appropriate Council may engage with research institutions, fire authorities and consultancies to undertake fire based research in the natural area estate to inform natural area planning and management programs.

### 3.2 Fire Management Planning

Detailed Fire Management Plans will be developed and reviewed for all Conservation Estates and Conservation Reserves within the natural area estate on a 5 year cycle. Plans will be implemented through annual works programs.

Each plan will contain the following key elements:

- Legislative requirements associated with fire
- Description of reserve features and natural values
- Reserve vegetation & values mapping
- Fire infrastructure planner and mapping
- Schedule of implementation actions
- Identification of hazard reduction mechanisms
- Prescribed burn plan
- Relevant standards, protocols etc

Fire management in Local reserves will be addressed by incorporation of fire planning and management principles and strategies in reserve specific maintenance maps.

### 3.3 Fire Infrastructure

Council will establish and maintain appropriate infrastructure on its lands to provide safe access for fire management and protect built and natural assets, human life and property. Environmental assessments will be conducted for the development of new fire infrastructure. Fire infrastructure may include fire trails, fire breaks, keyed gates, fire specific signage and access to water sources.

### 3.4 Prescribed Burn Program

Prescribed burns, as directed by the Fire Management Plan, will be used to consolidate the management requirements for hazard reduction and biodiversity maintenance.

Prescribed burning is defined as the controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

Council will engage an appropriately qualified and skilled organisation such as QFES to conduct its prescribed burns.

#### 3.4.1 Hazard Reduction Burning

Prescribed fires for hazard reduction purposes will be used to reduce fire fuel loads and reduce

the risk, impact and severity of wildfire and its associated threat to life and property. Hazard reduction burns will also aim to achieve sound ecological outcomes and minimise impacts on local and regional air quality. Specific prescribed burn requirements will be determined on an annual basis subject to criteria including past fire history, weather, fuel load and risk.

#### 3.4.2 Fire Ecology

As part of sound ecological management of Council's estate, prescribed fire will be applied as a management tool to achieve ecological objectives. This may include manipulation of the fire season and regime to achieve a range of objectives including pest plant control, stimulation of native vegetation or protection of fire sensitive species and habitats. Specific prescribed burn requirements will be determined based on ecological requirements, fire history, season and weather.

#### 3.4.3 Notifications

Council will notify relevant adjoining landholders and other relevant agencies of planned burning as required under the Act. Additional notifications may take the form of public notices in local media and information posted on Council's website.

#### 3.5 Wildfire Preparedness

Council will maintain a natural area reserves visitor and fire management decision matrix to guide and direct preparedness levels for Council's wildfire response systems and personnel. In addition the schedule will advise park fire safety actions including visitor access, permit and area restrictions.

In the event of a Catastrophic fire danger rating Council Procedure 30/11 – Temporary Closure of a Park or Reserve will be implemented for full closure of all Conservation Estates.

#### 3.5.1 Wildfire Control

Council will give the highest priority to responding to wildfire in the natural area estate and fulfilling its obligations under the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990. Council will support the QFES in their response with the primary objective of rapidly containing and controlling fire.

In support of the QFES, Council will assist by facilitating reserve access, providing bulk water, equipment and on ground knowledge as required on a case by case basis. Environmental protection will be given due considerations once any threat to life and property have been removed.

#### 4.1 MONITORING & EVALUATION

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation is essential to achieving successful outcomes in fire management and will be incorporated into all program areas and levels. Key delivery areas within the fire management program will include:

- Program level audits conducted by external parties
- Reserve level audits of fire management plan implementation
- Ad hoc activity audits as determined through annual works planning

- Monitoring and evaluation of fuel load accumulation annually at permanent plots
- Monitoring and evaluation of post fire biodiversity response
- Monitoring and evaluation of fire history (planned and wildfire)

5.0 Policy Author: Planning Officer (Biodiversity)

<b>Date of Review:</b>	19 January 2018
<b>Date of Council Resolution:</b>	28 July 2015
<b>Committee Reference and Date:</b>	Policy and Administration Board No. 2015(07) of 14 July 2015 – City Management and Finance Committee No. 2015(07) of 21 July 2015
<b>No. of Resolution:</b>	3
<b>Date to be Reviewed:</b>	19 January 2020































Doc ID No: A8114856

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: COUNCIL ROOFTOP SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE PLANNING

AUTHOR: SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

DATE: 13 JUNE 2022

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report concerns Council's planned investment in rooftop solar and battery storage. It includes projects with future potential for implementation but requires further investigation into the feasibility and financial sustainability of the projects.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

**That the report be received and the contents noted.**

### **RELATED PARTIES**

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

### **IFUTURE THEME**

Natural and Sustainable

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND**

As part of Council's focus on energy and emissions reduction, Council has a short to medium-term plan to invest in renewable energy projects to reduce operating costs and reduce carbon emissions. This includes investment in rooftop solar projects that have a positive return on investment (ROI) and where financially viable, battery storage to supplement the solar system.

The investment in rooftop solar is aligned with work undertaken in 2019 to develop a 'Renewable Energy Plan' (REP), which identifies solar and battery storage as key components that Council should seek to implement to reduce operational costs and carbon emissions. This report informed the planning and selection of rooftop solar projects and is where the data provided has been derived from.

As part of budget planning the following projects have been identified to invest in over the next three years due to their positive ROI and impact on reducing Council's energy and carbon emissions (refer Table 1). Both the 'Ipswich Central Library' and 'Riverview Depot', have been included in the capital program for delivery in FY23.

All projects included in Table 1 have also been included in the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP) and are awaiting the outcome of the grant application.

	<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Rooftop Solar Projects</i>	<i>System Size (kw)</i>	<i>Cost (\$)</i>	<i>Expected ROI (years)</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>FY23</i>	<i>Ipswich Central Library</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>\$ 130,000</i>	<i>&lt;5</i>
	<i>FY23</i>	<i>Riverview Depot</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>\$ 130,000</i>	<i>6.2</i>
	<i>FY24</i>	<i>John Glenis Nugent Sports Centre</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>\$ 80,000</i>	<i>7.7</i>
	<i>FY24</i>	<i>Yamanto Depot</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>\$ 80,000</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>FY25</i>	<i>Ipswich Art Gallery</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>	<i>8.1</i>
	<i>FY25</i>	<i>Robelle Domain (Stage 1)</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>\$ 80,000</i>	<i>8.4</i>
	<i>FY25</i>	<i>Leichhardt Swim Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$ 15,000</i>	<i>7.6</i>
		<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>415</i>	<i>\$ 540,000</i>	

*Table 1 – Rooftop Solar projects to invest in the short term.*

In addition to the listed projects in Table 1, Council has opportunities to investigate the feasibility of rooftop solar systems at several other locations across the LGA. This includes understanding system sizing and roof space availability as well as reviewing and anticipating future electricity load and consumption. These projects are listed in Table 2 below.

	<i>Future Potential, Further Investigation Required</i>	<i>System Size (kw)</i>	<i>Cost (\$)</i>	<i>Expected ROI (years)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>Robelle Domain Stage 2</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>\$ 30,000</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>estimate</i>
	<i>Goodna Aquatic Centre</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>\$ 40,000</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>estimate</i>
	<i>Goodna Gym</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>\$ 40,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>estimate</i>
	<i>Redbank Plains Community Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$ 15,000</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>estimate</i>
	<i>Briggs Road Sports Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$ 15,000</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>estimate</i>
	<i>Studio 188</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>estimate</i>
	<i>Ivor Marsden Memorial Park</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>Ipswich Civic Centre</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>Limestone Park</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>Riverview Depot (expansion)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>Springfield Central Sports Complex</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>Springfield Central - Tennis Facility</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>Thornton St Nursery</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Further investigation required</i>
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>\$ 140,000</i>		

*Table 2 - Rooftop Solar projects that require further investigation & feasibility*

Furthermore, Council has several locations with potential for rooftop solar but fall into a medium-term time frame for delivery, as there are planned and potential changes to those

facilities. This includes changes such as relocations, roof restorations and facility redevelopments. These projects are listed in Table 3 below.

	<i>Future Potential, Require changes before further investigation</i>	<i>System Size (kw)</i>	<i>Cost (\$)</i>	<i>Expected ROI (years)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>North Ipswich Reserve</i>	-	-	-	<i>Waiting outcomes of potential for future stadium build</i>
	<i>Redbank Plains Library</i>	-	-	-	<i>Facility electricity consumption changes</i>
	<i>Rosewood Aquatic Centre</i>	-	-	-	<i>Facility to be rebuilt</i>
	<i>Ipswich City Square (Cinema/Venue Building)</i>	-	-	-	<i>Future roof restoration</i>
	<i>Metro A + Metro B (Mall)</i>	-	-	-	<i>Location redevelopment and/or sale of location</i>
	<i>Ipswich City Pound</i>	-	-	-	<i>Location change</i>

*Table 3 – Rooftop solar projects that require outcomes of changes to facilities and further investigation and feasibility.*

## LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

Investment in rooftop solar and battery storage is strategically consistent with the Council’s adopted Sustainability Policy and Strategy. Council’s Sustainability Strategy prioritises ‘Energy and Carbon Reduction’, as a key focus area for Council.

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:  
*Not Applicable*

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk to Council’s reputation should no action be taken to invest in rooftop Solar and battery storage, given the critical role that renewable energy plays in reducing Council’s reliance on fossil fuels and the strong alignment with Council’s emissions reduction target.

## HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The recommendation states that the report be received and contents 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

### Financial Opportunity

Council is seeking to invest in rooftop solar projects with a positive ROI of less than 10 years and a reduction in operating costs. Projects outside a 10-year ROI will not be considered once feasibility assessments are undertaken. Rooftop solar systems generally have a 20–25

year life span and will reduce operating costs for 10 – 20 years after the return on initial capital outlay.

### **Battery Storage**

Over the last decade the cost of battery storage has continued to fall and become more economic. However, ROI for battery storage remains at 10+ years depending on the use case.

In the short term, Council officers will continue to scan for opportunities to add battery storage to rooftop solar installations where financially viable and seek out opportunities to apply for state and federal grant funding that supports investment in battery storage.

The scalability of battery storage means that existing and planned rooftop Solar systems can be retrofitted in the future as battery storage becomes more economically viable.

### **COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION**

- Projects listed in Table 1 are based on pre-existing feasibility studies that Council has undertaken to identify where rooftop Solar would be most economically viable.
- Project locations were discussed internally within the Infrastructure and Environment Department (IED) to identify where rooftop solar installation(s) may be impacted by changes to those facilities in the short to medium term. The outcome of this was the development of Table 3 which shows several facilities with potential for rooftop solar however are bound by other works before rooftop solar should be considered for installation.

### **CONCLUSION**

This report highlights part of Council's overall strategy to reduce energy and emissions from its operations through investment in rooftop solar and future battery storage opportunities. It also shows Council's commitment to reducing operational costs associated with carrying out its business through investment in projects that provide a return to Council over a medium to long-term time horizon.

Brodie Smith  
**SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Samantha Smith  
**SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matthew Pinder  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY 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”*