

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 November 2023
10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry Development
Committee or such later as determined by the preceding committee

Council Chambers, Level 8 1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND	SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
Deputy Mayor Russell Milligan (Chairperson)	Mayor Teresa Harding
Councillor Andrew Fechner (Deputy Chairperson)	Councillor Jacob Madsen
	Councillor Kate Kunzelmann

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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	Business Outstanding	
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^{**} Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 10

9 NOVEMBER 2023

AGENDA

WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. <u>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</u> <u>COMMITTEE NO. 2023(09) OF 12 OCTOBER 2023</u>

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 October 2023 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. <u>STATUS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM</u>
THE 2022 FLOOD REVIEW

This is a report providing a status update on the implementation of the recommendations made following the *Flood Review 2022*.

RECOMMENDATION

That the status update on the implementation of the recommendations from the 2022 flood review be received and the contents noted.

3. CITY OF IPSWICH ENVIROPLAN PROGRAM AND LEVY PROGRESS REPORT 2022-2023

This is a report concerning the Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report for the 2022-2023 Financial Year (Attachment 1). Contained within the report is an overview of project delivery, a financial summary including expenditure and revenue and highlights from the past year which include:

- Increased investment in hazard mitigation and fuel management activity including hazard reduction and ecological burns as well as installation of fuelreduced areas.
- Increased investment in private landowner conservation partner support including landowner support workshops and education on improving land management practices for the benefits of themselves and the environment.
- Updates of signage and information bays in key locations.
- Flood recovery and resilience measures which were not eligible for funding or only part funded through alternative revenue streams.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report concerning the Enviroplan Annual Progress Report 2022-2023, be received and the contents noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2023(09)

12 OCTOBER 2023

MINUTES

<u>COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:</u> Deputy Mayor Russell Milligan (Chairperson); Councillors

Andrew Fechner (Deputy Chairperson), Mayor Teresa

Harding, Jacob Madsen and Kate Kunzelmann

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES: Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager

Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), General

Manager Asset and Infrastructure Services (Matt

Anderson), General Manager Corporate Services (Matt Smith), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Brett Davey), Emergency Management Manager (Matt Pinder), Senior Communications and Policy Officer (Jodie Richter), Chief of Staff – Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Manager Media, Communications and

Engagement (Mark Strong), Senior Media Officer (Darrell Giles), Senior Media Officer (Lucy Stone), Precinct Director

(James Hepburn)

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. <u>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</u> <u>COMMITTEE NO. 2023(08) OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2023</u>

RECOMMENDATION

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

That the Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE NEGATIVE
Councillors: Councillors:
Milligan Nil

Fechner Harding Madsen Kunzelmann

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. 2023-2024 ANNUAL DISASTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

This is a report concerning Council's annual disaster awareness campaign which runs throughout the high-risk weather season from October 2023 to the end of March 2024. The campaign aims to raise awareness of disaster risk in Ipswich and encourage residents to take actions that will prepare them for severe weather events.

RECOMMENDATION

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

That the 2023-2024 Annual Disaster Awareness Campaign report be received and the contents noted.

AFFIRMATIVE NEGATIVE
Councillors: Councillors:
Milligan Nil

Fechner Harding Madsen Kunzelmann

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 2.10 pm.

The meeting closed at 2.13 pm.

Doc ID No: A9256886

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM THE 2022 FLOOD REVIEW

AUTHOR: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

DATE: 2 OCTOBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report providing a status update on the implementation of the recommendations made following the *Flood Review 2022.*

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the status update on the implementation of the recommendations from the 2022 flood review be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no discernible related party conflicts of interest associated with this report and its recommendation.

IFUTURE THEME

Safe, Inclusive and Creative

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

In February 2022 significant rainfall across South East Queensland caused major flooding along the Brisbane and Bremer Rivers, and many of its creeks and tributaries. When flood waters receded devastating damage across the city to over 500 dwellings, almost 300 businesses, more than 250 vehicles, losses to livestock, and livelihoods was uncovered.

This event mobilised the collective efforts of residents, businesses, community organisations, Council, emergency services, non-government entities, state government entities and the Australian Defence Force to provide response, relief, and recovery to our City.

A Mayoral Motion was made on 21 April 2022 to undertake a review into the flooding preparation, planning, emergency response and communications. The methodology consisted of literature reviews of 740 documents and 50 websites; 7 group debriefing sessions; 31 individual interviews; 4 independently facilitated community forums and an online community survey. The *Flood Review 2022* Operational and Strategic Reports were

released publicly, and the 47 recommendations were adopted at Committee on 29 November 2022 and resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting of 5 December 2022.

A list of each recommendation and its individual status is provided at **Attachment 1.** A summary of each category is provided in the table below.

- 12 Completed
- 27 In progress
- 8 Not commenced

The recommendations had several interdependencies and synergies and accordingly have been grouped into work packages, these being:

- 1. Integrated Resilience Framework
- 2. Permanent Flood Camera Network
- 3. Warnings and Alerts
- 4. Community Information and Awareness
- 5. Flood Risk Management
- 6. Enhanced Planning and Preparedness
- 7. Capability Enhancement

Attachment 2 outlines the achievements in each work package and future intentions.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The continued implementation of the *Flood Review 2022* recommendations will likely result in proposals to amend policies, these however will be managed through standard change and consultation practices.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no discernible risks associated with the recommendation to receive and note the contents of this report.

Completion of recommendations is being delivered in addition to delivery of core services and pre-planned works; thus there is risk that one or the other, or both, may be delayed. Alternative options are being explored in attempts to mitigate this risk.

Operational risk may be realised if the recommendations of the *Flood Review 2022* are not implemented in a timely manner, with the potential for those same or similar areas for improvement being observed in future disaster events impacting Ipswich. However, it must be noted that in order to achieve high quality and sustainable outcomes, timely implementation must be balanced with considered and systemic changes.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of the *Flood Review 2022* has been delivered within operational expenditure and resourcing.

Where possible, existing projects, programs and resourcing have been aligned to achieve the recommendations adopted by Council. Council has and will continue to proactively seek grant funding to assist with implementation of the recommendations.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Significant community and partner consultation occurred through the development of the *Flood Review 2022* recommendations. Each work package is being delivered in consultation with affected groups and internal branches/sections.

CONCLUSION

The achievements in implementing the *Flood Review 2022* recommendations demonstrate Council's commitment to meaningful and sustained improvement based on community and partner feedback. This has occurred against the backdrop of changes in the sector following the broader review into the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements by the Office of Inspector-General of Emergency Management.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS

RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT

The Recommendation states that the report be received, and the contents noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. List of Recommendations and Status 🗓 🖺
- 2. Summary of Work Package Achievements and Next Steps 🗓 🖼

Matthew Pinder

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

Status of Flood Review 2022 Recommendation Implementation

eport	Rec ID	Recommendation	Current Status
2022 Flood	1	Formalise the coordination arrangements between ELT, EMU, LDCC, LRRG and the wider organisation. This should be	In progress
Review		supported by a process that includes setting, communicating and resourcing the response/recovery priorities.	
Strategic			
Report	2	Explore opportunities to expand the camera network and alternative methods of community notification, including alarms	In progress
		(not depending on technology alone). Assess the benefits versus risks to inform the selection of methods.	
	3	Review the content of community messages and identify opportunities to refine the hazard/impact descriptions and call to	Complete
		action, including for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community members. Avoid using acronyms and technical information like gauge levels.	
	4	Implement continuous community engagement outside a disaster in Council's role and responsibilities and an information	In progress
	5	campaign on what Council is doing. Explore opportunities to make flood information more accessible to the community.	Complete
		Secure endorsement for the Councillor toolkit and familiarise/promote its use among the Councillors.	Complete
	7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	/	Implement live response and recovery briefing opportunities for Councillors with the interval depending on the severity, complexity and circumstances of the disaster.	Complete
	8	Assess future purposes for identified high risk flood areas that were severely damaged during this flood, i.e. areas like	In progress
		Colleges Crossing.	
	9	Explore opportunities to further enhance disaster preparedness within high-risk communities, for example those that	In progress
		become isolated.	
	10	Process the outcomes of the human/social network initiative in a human/social network capability matrix and supporting	In progress
		contact list. Re-engage with network members to formalise the working arrangements during disaster response and	
		recovery. Provide ongoing initiatives to build the capability and capacity of the human/social network.	
	11	Continue to build on existing initiatives to strengthen local business community connections, and explore opportunities to	In progress
		assist businesses in enhancing their resilience through disaster planning, provided in the various languages commonly	
		spoken in the Ipswich Local Government Area.	
2022 Flood	1	Revise the LDCC structure and reallocate EMU as an advisory role.	In progress
Review	2	Explore opportunities to optimise use of skills and align resourcing for the various LDCC functions to the Branches in	In progress
Operational		Council (see figure 4 for an example)	
Report	3	Train Incident Controllers/LDCC Commanders within Council (Branch Manager level) to lead the operational response.	Not commenced

Status of Flood Review 2022 Recommendation Implementation

Report	Rec ID	Recommendation	Current Status
	4	Formalise roles and responsibilities in managing internal/organisational crises and disaster management. Ensure the agreed	In progress
		structure is resourced to deliver on both objectives.	
	5	Develop an integrated framework for Council's crisis management, business continuity, disaster management and	In progress
		emergency response functions with supporting integrated emergency response and business continuity plans. Build	
		internal awareness and competency across Branches to implement and execute the plans.	
	6	Establish baseline training requirements for Council staff involved in disaster response, including the use of technology-	In progress
		based systems.	
	7	Implement a Guardian IMS training program to support LDCC personnel.	In progress
	8	Formalise the new dynamic form processes in procedures and include in LDCC induction training.	Complete
	9	Formalise the disruption/impact assessment and reporting requirements for Council based assets and facilities during a	Not commenced
		crisis/disaster, including the existing reporting initiatives. Include this in the respective plans (crisis, business continuity,	
		disaster management).	
	10	Develop an online Common Operating Picture that can be easily shared across the LDCC, LDMG and LRRG using business-as-	In progress
		usual software, such as the Microsoft suite (SharePoint, Teams).	
	11	Council executives to determine and advise an optimal staffing/resourcing model to provide event-based flood intelligence	In progress
		to decision makers, responders and the community.	
	12	Council executives to explore sourcing of a dedicated catchment/floodplain management resource to assist in flood	Complete
		mapping, in addition to supporting resources to build internal capabilities and redundancies.	
	13	Council executives to seek advice as to liability exposure in providing flood intelligence during a flood response for the	Complete
		individual officers.	
	14	Council to pursue technological improvements to its forecast system to provide more timely creation of flood maps.	Complete
	15	Council to pursue an interactive mapping platform that accurately and easily conveys known flood risks prior to a disaster	In progress
		event to the community.	
	16	Council to work with other local governments and the state government to develop a flood literacy resource or program.	Not commenced
	17	EMU to reflect on community feedback to inform community flood information/communication improvements.	Complete
	18	Replicate the WFSB disaster preparedness planning and annual exercising process across all branches/sections.	In progress
	19	Provide education to emergency services and the community regarding the opening of closed roads and the associated	In progress
		risks prior to a safety inspection being undertaken.	
	20	Explore opportunities to provide evacuation centre management support through the recently established Ipswich	Not commenced
		Human/Social network.	

Status of Flood Review 2022 Recommendation Implementation

Report	Rec ID	Recommendation	Current Status
	21	Council to review the number and locations of centres available during a flood event and the standard to which they can	In progress
		operate, considering: accessibility, risks, capacity, resources, service levels and availability of partner agency/human social	
		network support.	
	22	Council executive to confirm organisational responsibility, resources and training to provide evacuation centre staff during	In progress
		a disaster.	
	23	Council to develop a security policy for evacuation centres and secure/train the resources to provide the required services.	Not commenced
	24	Council to develop a training module on how to manage evacuee challenges, including people who are drug and alcohol	Not commenced
		affected, have mental health issues or are distressed due to trauma.	
	25	Formalise the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ipswich Show Society and Ipswich City Council regarding the	In progress
		use of the Ipswich Showgrounds as an evacuation centre.	
	26	Establish an evacuation centre-specific animal management plan.	Not commenced
	27	Identify and train sufficient capability and capacity to undertake public information, warnings and associated functions in a	In progress
		holistic manner, including on-ground support to the LDMG Chair, media releases, social media, updates to customer service	
		and issue warnings.	
	28	Roster public information and warnings personnel to be present in the LDCC where possible.	Complete
	29	Develop a communication strategy at the start of every disaster event using the template that has been developed.	Complete
	30	Review the out-of-hours customer contact centre arrangements and implement measures to ensure a consistent level of	In progress
		service during a disaster between the service during office hours, as well as out of hours.	
	31	Ensure internal communication with field-based staff is considered in the communication strategy by the Public	In progress
		Information cell in the LDCC. List stakeholders: community, Councillors, agencies, staff, suppliers, partners and service	
		providers.	
		Consider use of boosted social media posts for official warnings at Watch and Act or Emergency Warning levels.	In progress
	33	Council to conduct a Business Impact Analysis to inform what services should continue during disaster response and	Not commenced
		recovery. This information will inform planning and allow for swift redeployment of staff to support disaster operations	
		with coordination and in field activities.	
	34	Council to review the fatigue monitoring process to include a responsibility for monitoring and managing fatigue for each	Complete
		key role.	
	35	Council to consider incentives to encourage staff to undertake duties during disaster events.	In progress
	36	Council to consider inclusion of disaster operations in position descriptions.	In progress

Flood Review 2022 Work Package Summary

Integrated Resilience Framework Work Package		
Achievements/progress	Next Steps	
 Workshop with the Executive Leadership Team on Incident Management A Councillor Disaster Toolkit was established, and a workshop was held with Divisional Support staff Critical Incidents Administrative Directive has been drafted to provide support to supervisors with managing employees involved in disaster operations Research of models of integration for business continuity, disaster management/community consequence management, crisis management and ICT disaster recovery Advice requested and received relating to legal liability 	 Develop an Integrated Resilience Framework that addresses the independencies and nuances of business continuity, disaster management/community consequence management, crisis management and ICT disaster recovery Develop an operational emergency management plan for Council branches and sections to support the current local disaster management plan Update disaster management policy to reflect recovery governance and improved working arrangements as required 	

Permanent Flood Camera Network Work Package			
Achievements/progress	Next Steps		
 11 temporary cameras installed and operational to support the current season, including the conduct of privacy impact assessments Disaster Awareness Camera Network Policy drafted Future site listing based on feedback to allow harnessing of future grant and funding opportunities Establishment of a Reciprocal Data License Agreement with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) to enhance information sharing Established communications protocol to minimise potential duplicated sites with DTMR Nearing completion of procurement for referable dam monitoring cameras to enhance officer safety during flood events 	 Adoption of the Disaster Awareness Camera Network Policy On 23 October 2023, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority advised that the Council is invited to apply for up to \$200,000 in funding, which will be used to establish the 11 temporary sites as permanent infrastructure. The Disaster Dashboard is currently being updated to provide a 'camera on page' view 		

Flood Review 2022 Work Package Summary

Warnings and Alerts Work Package	
Achievements/progress	Next Steps
 Nearing completion of construction and installation of four new flood gauges to support warnings and alerts. Council participated in the change management design and planning process for implementing the Australian Warning System in Queensland. Council participated in the Queensland State-wide Warnings Language workshop for severe storms hosted by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Further Council presented its experiences and lessons. Council participated in the Queensland State-wide Warnings Language workshop for flooding hosted by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services All warning templates and wording were updated to align with the findings of the various reviews and workshops Disaster Dashboard has been optimised for mobile phone use, and the mapping component improved Disaster Dashboard updated to show gauge level data in a spatial format with interactive hydrographs A template publication function to minimise time delays within Council's incident management system has been procured and implemented Enhanced notifications about the issue of warnings have been implemented. 	 Accessibility improvements to the Disaster Dashboard is underway with a text-to-speak feature Pursuing grant opportunities to develop consolidated warnings publication systems A process to utilise boosted Facebook warnings to allow earlier notification is in development

Community Information and Awareness Work Package			
Achievements/progress	Next Steps		
 Utilising a current Australian Government grant a, detailed market research was undertaken to understand disaster preparedness levels better, barriers to preparedness and community desire. This has been used to inform community information and awareness programming. Delivery of an eight week community education and awareness campaign throughout September and October 2023, which has seen 	 Update to the Emergency Management pages on the Council website Establishment of a community relief portal as part of the Disaster Dashboard. Review and simplification of all publicly available emergency management materials (brochures, factsheets etc) Participate in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority community flood education and engagement materials project 		

Flood Review 2022 Work Package Summary

Community Information and Awareness Work Package	
Achievements/progress	Next Steps
disaster preparedness feature at 22 events across the city and resulted	Pursuit of grant funding to assist with flood literacy development
in over 1,600 in-depth conversations.	within the community
Along with West Moreton Health and other partners, hosted a	
Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) forum to enhance disaster	
preparedness	

Flood Risk Management Work Package	
Achievements/progress	Next Steps
 Publication of a Historic Flood Mapping Portal Establishment of an ICC specifications document for all future flood gauges to ensure the best value for money and optimal reliability Surveyed all ICC owned flood gauges and made new survey data to the Bureau of Meteorology Participation in the Resilient Homes Program Implementation of 'Water Level Now' system to be made available to emergency services showing near real-time flooding extents Improvements to the ICC flood forecasting system using combined forecast approach which reduces the time to produce forecasts by roughly 60%. Partnered with Urban Utilities to access sewerage pump stations and treatment plant data to understand better impacts based on flood forecasts. Integrated Catchment Management/Floodplain Management Engineer funded as a permanent position following a business case for 2023/24 onwards 	 Participate in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Property Level Information Portal to allow residents access to interactive mapped flood data Participate in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority-led Brisbane River Catchment Flood Forecasting and Warning System Enhanced Flood Warning System Implementation (using \$287,500 DRFA funding and project delivery by 30 June 2026) Multi-Agency Response Plan (using\$345,000 DRFA funding and project delivery by 30 June 2026) Community-Based Flood Emergency Action Plans, initially targeting Goodna, Karalee and Marburg (using \$230,000 DRFA funding and project delivery by 30 June 2026) Feasibility Study for Nature-Based Mitigation Solutions for the Bundamba and Warrill Creek using (\$160,500 DRFA funding and project delivery by 30 June 2026)

Flood Review 2022 Work Package Summary

Enhanced Planning and Preparedness Work Package	
Achievements/progress	Next Steps
 Established a stockpile of resources to support evacuation centre management and operations Partnered with Shiloh Church to enhance emergency sheltering options in the Goodna community. Updated work instructions for LDCC to guide repetitive and administrative tasks Disaster Operations Knowledge Hub was established as the single point of truth for all disaster and emergency instruction and guidance, doctrine and tools for Council Development of Job Hazard Analysis for Local Disaster Coordination Centre and Emergency Shelters to enhance safety with particular emphasis on fatigue management Development of site-specific Emergency Sheltering Guidelines for Ipswich Showgrounds and the Shiloh Church Conduct of seasonal briefing sessions for Council office and field-based 	Review and update the local disaster management and sub plans by 30 June 2024.

Capability Enhancement Work Package				
Achievements/progress	Next Steps			
 Daily scheduling, briefings and concept of operations enhanced to meet the needs of users Analysis of current and historical training provided to staff, including integration with employee records through the Organisational Development Unit Development of minimum training standards and pathways for those involved in disaster management Established elearning event-specific induction process for the Local Disaster Coordination Reserve 	 Gap analysis and training delivery. Evaluation and potential procurement of a common operating picture for recovery. Finalise event-specific induction process for local recovery and resilience members. Finalise consolidation and update of the Local Recovery and Resilience Taskforce membership and Terms of Reference. Finalise duty statements for key recovery positions. Prepare a suite of work instructions to support essential relief and recovery activities. 			

Flood Review 2022 Work Package Summary

Capability Enhancement Work Package	
Achievements/progress	Next Steps
 Achievements/progress Organised and conducted Exercise Fuego I – A recovery-based exercise that tested improved tools, including response to recovery handover, impact analysis and planning tools for recovery. Organised and conducted Exercise Fuego II - A recovery-based exercise to develop recovery event action plans for the functional recovery areas. Delivery of masterclass training on recovery, decision making and incident management Attended the Moreton Bay Regional Council Recovery Exercises as an evaluator, but more importantly, to observe other Council's systems and processes. Undertook an exercise to test the Local Disaster Coordination Centre and allow 20+ staff to practice skills in response to a simulated scenario. 	
Participated in the state-wide Evacuation Facilities Working Group to enhance emergency sheltering throughout the state.	

Doc ID No: A9494732

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: CITY OF IPSWICH ENVIROPLAN PROGRAM AND LEVY PROGRESS REPORT 2022-

2023

AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 12 OCTOBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report for the 2022-2023 Financial Year (Attachment 1). Contained within the report is an overview of project delivery, a financial summary including expenditure and revenue and highlights from the past year which include:

- Increased investment in hazard mitigation and fuel management activity including hazard reduction and ecological burns as well as installation of fuel-reduced areas.
- Increased investment in private landowner conservation partner support including landowner support workshops and education on improving land management practices for the benefits of themselves and the environment.
- Updates of signage and information bays in key locations.
- Flood recovery and resilience measures which were not eligible for funding or only part funded through alternative revenue streams.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report concerning the Enviroplan Annual Progress Report 2022-2023, be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

Nil

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Enviroplan levy continues to be a much supported and vital tool for Council and the city of Ipswich in preserving and enhancing the environmental and cultural values of the city.

At its inception, Ipswich was one of the first and remained as 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 to implement the Enviroplan Program and deliver against the newly adopted Natural Environment Strategy and the many initiatives within it.

In line with best practice and the council's commitment to transparency and integrity, as of 2019 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 importance of understanding the needs, costs, and investment direction of the Enviroplan Levy into the future, this report allows the community to better understand what their 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 working hand in hand with the implementation of the new Natural Environment Strategy endorsed by Council last year.

As Council has grown and matured over the last 25+ years, the strategic focus, priority and needs of the city have changed and the Enviroplan has evolved 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. Following the recent adoption of the new Natural Environment Strategy, expenditure is balanced between strategic and opportunistic expansion of the protected areas (council and private) and the protection, embellishment and management of the land that Council has responsibility for.

Enviroplan and the associated policy and procedure allow some flexibility, however, with the advent of new and emerging challenges, pressures, opportunities and community priorities it is likely that existing policies will need to be reviewed in line with the new strategic direction to ensure they are fit for purpose and adequately support the achievement of future goals and objectives. With this, we will continue to use and review the current revenue generated and the future needs of the organisation in achieving the strategic goals. This will be a focus over the next 2-3 years alongside the development and delivery of implementation plans.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The report and the Enviroplan Levy are managed in line with the recently adopted Natural Environment Policy, the Ipswich Enviroplan Policy, and associated Procedures. The latter will be reviewed to ensure it adequately supports the future directions as documented in the Natural Environment Strategy.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Publication of the annual report presents little or no risk to Council. Publication of the financial and annual report aligns with Council's position on transparency and openness and allows for public visibility.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no forward financial or budget implications from receiving or noting this report or the attached document. The Natural Environment Branch will continue to consider management and plan the Levy Funds with a view of using the funds efficiently and effectively to deliver against Council's strategic environmental goals.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

It is proposed that after noting by Council the annual report be published on the Council website and the Transparency and 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.

The direction of the Enviroplan moving forward is largely set by the Natural Environment Strategy which was complied with extensive community engagement.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the annual City of Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report 2022-2023 to be received and noted. As well as a summary of the financial details, it includes summaries of key programs and projects for the 2022-2023 financial year.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS

RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT

The Recommendation states that the report be received, and the contents noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 Ipswich Enviroplan Annual Progress Report 22 23 🗓 🖫

Phil A. Smith

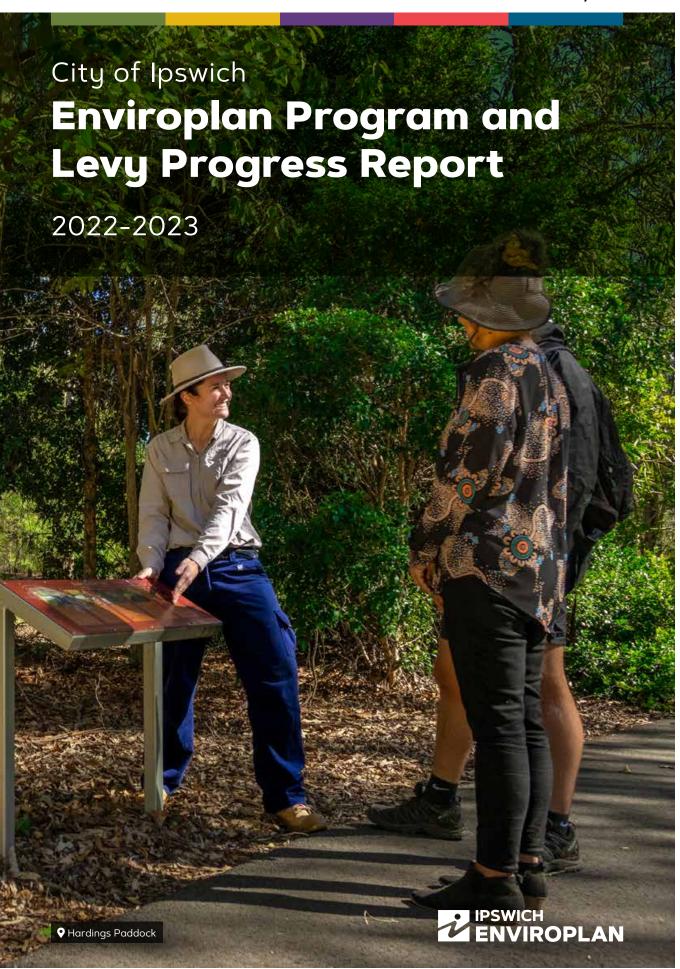
MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

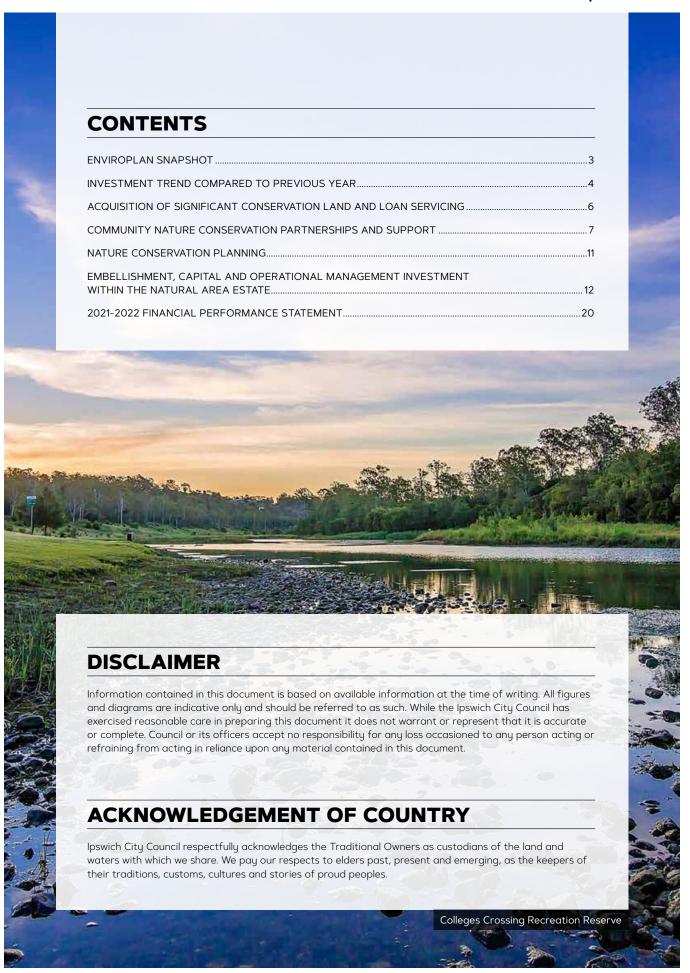
I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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





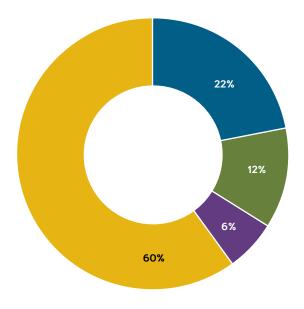
ENVIROPLAN SNAPSHOT

The initiative is funded through a levy paid through household rates. By committing to Ipswich Enviroplan, council is able deliver citywide conservation outcomes in four key areas; land acquisition, estate management, conservation planning and community partnerships.

Currently, the Ipswich Enviroplan portfolio includes more than 6,700 hectares of conservation land and broader community activities. It includes:

- Maintenance such as weed removal, hazard reduction burns, pest management
- Research and planning, including flora and fauna surveys, and masterplans
- Recreational facilities such as walking tracks, amenities, signage
- Community-facing initiatives such as Experience Nature and the Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program to inspire community action.

Where did the funds go in 2022-2023?



- Acquisition of significant nature conservation land and loan servicing \$861,028
- Community nature conservation partnerships and support \$484,913
- Nature conservation planning \$229,537
- Embellishment, capital and operational management within the Natural Area Estate \$2,353,517

Total Spend: \$3,928,995



INVESTMENT TREND COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR



2022-2023 saw an increase in hazard reduction burn activity across multiple estates, as well as investment in fuel reduced areas



The Landholder
Conservation
Partnerships
Program delivered
greater support
for landholders
including first
landholder support
day since the
program's re-launch.



Significant
investment
continued with
flood recovery
works and building
resilience to future
floods and severe
storms in estates
and reserves



Investment
in nature
conservation
planning saw
important
fauna and
flora survey
works carried
out at various
locations.

TREND	ТНЕМЕ	CHANGE FROM 2021-2022
=	Acquisition of significant nature conservation land and loan servicing	(=) 0
1	Community nature conservation partnerships and support	(+) \$232,137
1	Nature conservation planning	(+) \$98,545
4	Embellishment, capital and operational management within the Natural Area Estate	(-) \$1,060,723

YOUR LEVY IN ACTION

Urban biodiversity is a crucial element to conservation efforts across the city of lpswich.

The importance of urban biodiversity enhancement is recognised as one of the strategic goals in the Natural Environment Policy, with council committing to creating and enhancing corridors to provide refuge for wildlife and ecosystem services functions.

Enviroplan supports urban biodiversity through the protection and restoration of urban bushland conservation areas, and by supporting landholders to improve biodiversity on private property.

Urban bushland nodes such as Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve and Haig Street Quarry Bushland Reserve are examples of landscapes that were extensively cleared for uses such as mining and logging. Through Enviroplan these landscapes have been restored to a natural state and embellished for nature-based recreation such as bushwalking, birdwatching and nature play.

The value of urban biodiversity is not just in the size and number of bushland reserves and estates, but also the connection to other spaces. The bushland network creates green corridors and stepping stones for native species to move between larger conservation and habitat areas, supporting the longer-term viability of populations.

Bushland areas in the urban environment provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit both native flora and fauna as well as humans. These spaces build appreciation of nature, enhance recreational opportunities and have practical functions such as urban cooling, carbon storage and reducing stormwater runoff and pollutants entering waterways.

Through Enviroplan, these benefits of urban biodiversity are strengthened through the Habitat Gardens program which had 827 members as of 30 June 2023.

This free conservation partnerships program was re-invigorated as a five-year commitment aimed at urban landholders to increase biodiversity on their properties. Members are supported with incentives such as additional free plants from Council's Nursery, workshops and networking opportunities and access to resources.

Habitat Gardens properties have also featured as 'open gardens' in the annual Sustainable Ipswich campaign in October, providing opportunity for Ipswich residents to visit these gardens, meet the landholders and raise awareness of the program.









ACQUISITION OF SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION LAND AND LOAN SERVICING

- There were no land acquisitions in 2021-2022
- \$861,028 went towards servicing the loan

Council continues to investigate acquisition opportunities as they arise, assessing properties against a set of criteria including ecological values.

COMMUNITY NATURE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT

- \$11,262.16 went to Land Management Payments to landholders
- \$95,261.10 was spent on Nature Conservation Grants
- \$42,753.36 was provided to landholders through incentive activities
- \$17,002.12 was spent on landholder education activities.

RENEWED REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- \$13,049 was provided to Land for Wildlife South East Queensland
- \$16,305 went towards SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

LANDHOLDER SUPPORT DAY BOOSTS ON GROUND ACTION

The ever-growing Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program shared learnings and resources through a special landholder support day.

About 70 members of the program attended Ivory's Rock Conference Centre and took part in workshops and networking, as well as receiving resources to assist their property goals.

One of the presentations was on nest box installation, including a practical demonstration of installing a phascogale nest box on a tree. Landholders were provided Hollow Log Homes nestboxes made of 100 per cent recycled plastic and Queensland cypress with a lifespan of 30 years.

Another presentation from Watergum demonstrated how cane toad tadpole lures are deployed and provided practical tips on maximising effectiveness of this new technique.

At the end of the day, eligible landholders received plants custom selected based on the ecosystems on their property and restoration work being undertaken.

In total more than 4,600 native plants, 43 nest boxes, 30 cane toad traps and copies of Mangroves to Mountains were provided to landholders on the day.

Members invited to attend have migrated to the new program model and have completed a property visit by a council officer and received an up-to-date Property Management Plan.

These plans outline the ecosystems and key natural values, priority threats and recommendations for managing those threats.









PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT LANDHOLDER PROFILE

REBUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM FROM SCRATCH

As Mick and Kate Drews wander through semi evergreen vine thicket at their Tallegalla property, it's hard to imagine there was once not a tree in sight.

"When we moved here 18 years ago the land was heavily grazed and the nights were quiet instead of buzzing with wildlife," Mick said.

"Looking over 20 acres of bare land, we began planning to revegetate with natives that would have existed here years ago.

"We started with 8 free council trees - you have to start somewhere."

Over the years Mick and Kate continued to revegetate, planting small patches of local dry vine scrub trees grown from locally sourced seeds.

Today around 4,000 native plants are thriving and wildlife like wallabies, echidna, birds and frogs have returned.

"Trees like company and do well in a community. The larger trees protect the smaller trees and the understorey and leaf debris provide habitat for wildlife including some fascinating insects," Mick said.

"It's a pleasure to watch the trees naturally regenerate now. Our focus has shifted to mostly supporting the process and weed management."

Early in the project Mick and Kate connected with Land for Wildlife and the Enviroplan-funded Landholder Conservation Partnership Program.

"We have received a lot of encouragement from the partnerships team who are passionate and interested in land restoration," Mick said.

"It's helpful to have a Property Management Plan that identifies priority areas, threatened species on our property and maps out our weed management."

The property features *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine), *Owenia venosa* (Crows Apple), *Streblus brunonianus* (Whalebone tree) and *Acacia harpophylla* (Brigalow) which are species from the endangered Brigalow Regional Ecosystem (12.8.23).











activities focused on Ipswich's Enviroplan conservation estates and reserves.

encouraged the Ipswich community to connect with the natural environment and conservation efforts.

Overall, 1145 people engaged with the program in face-to-face activities.

The campaign expanded on council's environment and conservation goals and priorities, by focusing on awareness of conservation, sustainable nature-based recreation and 'treading lightly' in these high value areas.

A calendar of events featured free or low cost events and activities across diverse Enviroplan and natural locations, with opportunities suitable for all ages.

The campaign featured some special experiences, such as a Twilight Moonrise Night Hike at Mt Goolman Lookout, Nature Sketchbook workshop with artist Deb Mostert at Purga Nature Reserve, and a Habitat and History walk at Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve.

The culmination of the 40-day campaign was two events at the Hardings Paddock day use area in the Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate.

An Experience Nature Outdoor Education Day had 135 students from 9 local schools and focused inspiring students to become environmental stewards. Activities included a campfire, nature walks, waterbug investigation, habitat planting and waste sorting.

An Experience Nature Family Day had more than 450 attendees, with highlights such as traditional dance performance, showcase of local conservation projects, live entertainment, the launch of a an Ipswich Libraries 'Tales and Trails' location, and an informative and entertaining debate between three leading biodiversity experts.







NATURE CONSERVATION PLANNING

- \$122,581 funded operational expenses such as staff wages, vehicles and equipment necessary to deliver the Enviroplan Program.
- \$19,505 was spent on the Brush-tailed rock wallaby survey works and reporting.



The Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (Petrogale penicillata) is a shy and cryptic species, living in hard-to-access rocky cliffs, ledges, escarpments and steep areas of Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate, as well as smaller rocky hills and mountains in the area.

During the day they rest in the safety of high rocky homes. They also use specific ledges to sun themselves on cold winter mornings, which become polished from constant and prolonged use.

They emerge at dusk to feed on grassy hillsides, leaving behind distinctive scat.

When doing a survey of the animals, it is rare to see the wallabies themselves, so it is other telltale signs such as scat and ledges that the surveyor looks for.

A fauna survey in June 2023 found good evidence of Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby use at sites within the Enviroplan estate.

The work was part of council's Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Recovery Plan, which was developed to conserve the city's faunal emblem.

Surveys help council understand the populations' health over time, movements and use of habitat in the landscape, which guides further conservation work such as lantana and weed removal and management of feral predators.

The Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate also provides protection for an endangered rainforest tree *Planchonella eerwah*, also known as Flinders Plum or shiny leaved Condoo.

There has been little data about the species' distribution within the estate, so a flora survey can help identify the health of the population, and understand if further investment is needed.

A survey completed in the estate in the 22/23 FY found 36 Flinders plum, of which five were juvenile. These will be re-assessed in future surveys.

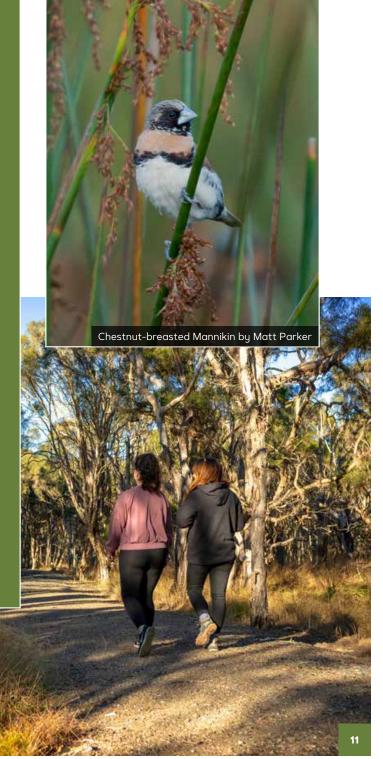




EMBELLISHMENT, CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT WITHIN THE NATURAL AREA ESTATE



- \$340,486 went towards restoration projects within higher value conservation sites. Highlights include:
 - more than 17 hectares of restoration works including Koala and Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby habitat restoration, and Yellow box vegetation community.
 - 40+ hectares of weed management, including lantana and cats claw creeper
- \$423,124 was spent on capital projects across the Natural Area Estate.
 Highlights include:
 - significant upgrade to information bays at five key locations
 - flood recovery and resilience works
 - two new public walking trails at Purga Nature Reserve – Wirepi and Ngudur
 - new pedestrian gate at Peter Tullett Memorial Park
 - open/closed signage on roads into key day use areas
 - Tales and Trails signage at Hardings Paddock
- \$764,321 on the fire management program, implementing fuel modification activities within designated areas. Highlights include:
 - Installing and maintaining fuel reduction areas
 - Hazard reduction burn activities
 - Post-burn weed and vegetation management
- \$120,054 on pest animal monitoring and management



FUEL REDUCTION PREPARES ESTATES FOR FIRE SEASON

Following years of La Nina conditions and vegetation growth, it was important to manage Enviroplan conservation estates and reserves to reduce fuel loads and reduce the risk of bushfire.

As the land manager, council has a responsibility to undertake activities that mitigate the risk of fire leaving or entering council-owned land.

An ongoing program of hazard reduction burns achieved outcomes at estates and reserves across lpswich in the 2022 – 2023 Financial Year.

- White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation Estate: 45.5 hectare burn area completed in March 2023
- Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate:
 155 hectare burn area completed in April 2023
- Hillview Drive Reserve: 10 hectare burn area completed in February 2023.

Fire is recognised as a natural and essential requirement for the long term health and viability

of bushland and associated wildlife species in lpswich. Managing fire in bushland areas is also vital for the protection of surrounding properties and structures.

Proactive fire management activities are a key to <u>achieving balanced</u> outcomes.

As well as hazard reduction burns, council also implements strategic fuel reduced areas (FRAs).

These are 20 metre wide areas where vegetation in the under-storey, mid-storey and canopy layers are managed to mitigate fire risk.

A number of new FRAs were created across key Enviroplan estates and reserves, with Mount Grandchester Conservation Reserve and Rifle Range Reserve also having new service tracks installed.

There was also a significant amount of maintenance on FRAs created in recent years. This included fire mitigation in 25 local bushland reserves across the city.









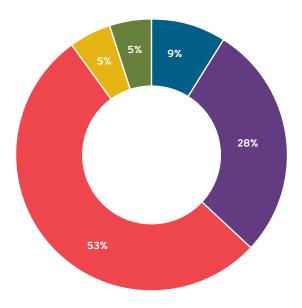
HABITAT PROTECTION THROUGH PEST MANAGEMENT

Over 1,875 hours were spent undertaking pest management in priority habitat areas across the Natural Area Estate.

Management involved activities such as:

- Deploying, monitoring and retrieving traps and cameras
- Reviewing camera data
- Monitoring trails and tracking pest animal activity
- Maintaining equipment
- Active hunting
- Humane destruction and carcass removal
- Opportunistic pest plant control
- Reporting.

As a result of implementing the program, 43 pest animals were removed along with several areas of pest plant control.



Per cent of total controlled pest animals

Vulpes vulpes (fox)

Lepus europaeus (Hare)

Sus scrofa (pig)

Cervus elaphus (red deer)

Canis familiaris (wild dog)





CONTINUING TRADITIONS AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

The Enviroplan Policy emphasises the importance of Aboriginal Cultural Values when protecting and enhancing Ipswich's natural environment.

Council has an ongoing commitment providing opportunity for the preservation, management and promotion of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values.

In May 2021, council adopted a new Traditional Land Access Permit to allow access to culturally significant locations within the Enviroplan conservation network, enabling continuation of cultural activities by Traditional Owners and Indigenous Organisations:

- Education passing on traditional knowledge and practices
- Harvesting collecting leaves, branches, bark, stone and/or ochre for basket weaving, painting practices, traditional dancing or making digeridoos, coolamons, stone tools, etc
- Hunting/food resources collecting edible items
- Men's business and women's business
- Yarning circle place to share knowledge, culture and stories
- Traditional cooking Kupmurri at Hardings Paddock

In the 2022-2023 financial year, four Traditional Land Access Permits were issued.

An application form for Traditional Land Access Permit is available at

lpswich.qld.gov.au/live/our-community/indigenous

Hardings Paddock has also been activated for community cultural education. This has included Galvanised Festivals 'Culture on Country' Event in 2022 and 2023, as well as the Experience Nature outdoor classroom day in June 2023.

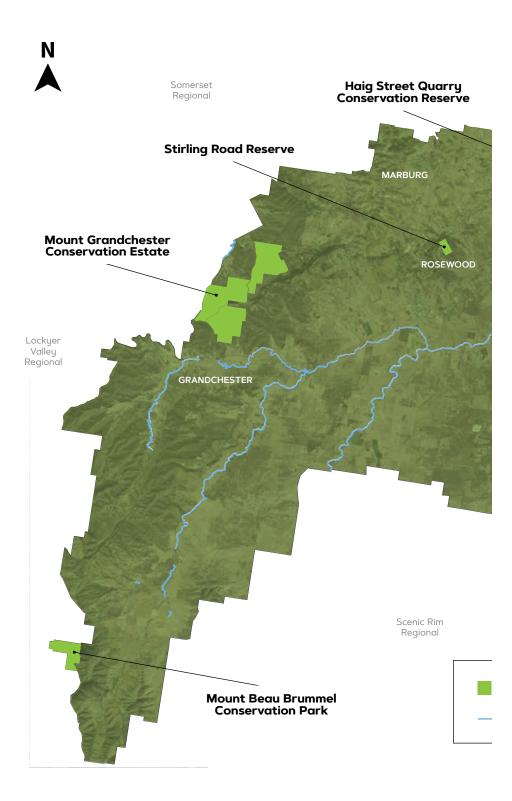


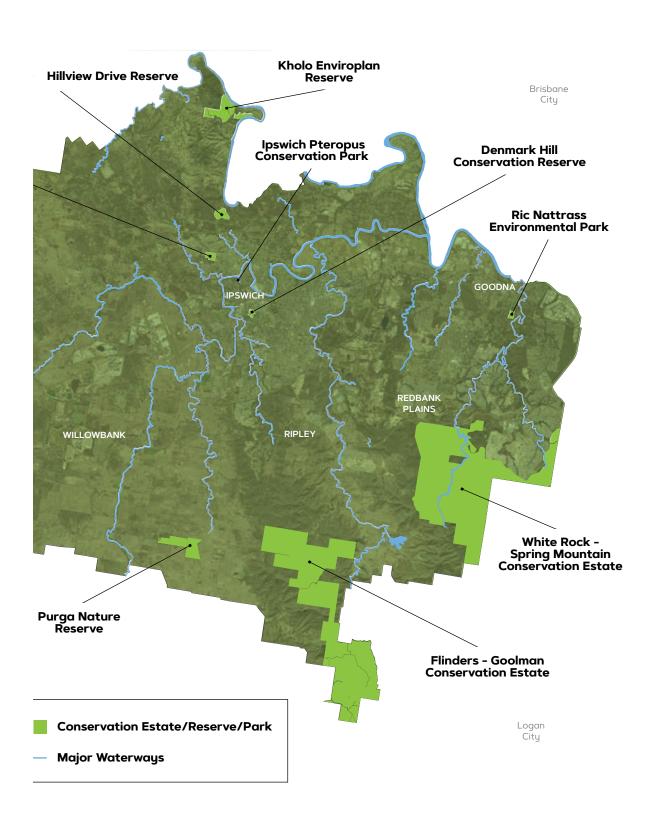






NATURAL AREA ESTATES





2022-2023 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

This statement is certified by the Chief Financial Officer (Mr Jeffrey Keech) on the 23 August 2023

PROJECT/ACTIVITY		ACTUALS
STRATEGIC THEME: ACQUISITION OF SIGNIFICANT NATURE CONSERVATION LAND		
Land Acquisition Program		
Land Acquisition Program Implementation: Assessments and Purchases		\$0
Loan Service for Land Acquisition		\$861,028
Estat Strike 16. Cana requisition	Sub-program total	\$861.028
	Theme total	\$861,028
STRATEGIC THEME: COMMUNITY NATURE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT		74474
Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program		
Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program Management: Operational expenses		\$216,103
Voluntary Conservation Agreements Payments: Annual landholder land management payments		\$0
Landholder Nature Conservation Grants: On-ground landholder support projects		\$171,456
Voluntary Conservation Agreement Incentives: Education and capacity building activities		\$1,263
Landholder Partnerships Workshops: Education and capacity building activities		\$0
	Sub-program total	\$388,821
Community Partnerships Program		
Community Partnerships Program Management: Operational expenses		\$0
Community Awareness and Engagement Events: Annual city-wide events		\$19,238
Community Support Grants: On-ground community projects		\$13,007
Community Education Resources: Digital and printed material		\$28,555
Strategic community partnerships: Building community capacity		\$0
SEQ Land For Wildlife Program Partnership: Regional partnership contribution		\$13,049
SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Partnership: Regional partnership contribution		\$16,305
Citizen Science Program		\$5,939
	Sub-program total	\$96,092
	Theme total	\$484,913
STRATEGIC THEME: NATURE CONSERVATION PLANNING		
City-wide Nature Conservation Planning Program		
Nature Conservation Planning: Operational expenses		\$122,581
Nature Conservation Planning, Management and Research: Continual improvement projects		\$0
	Sub-program total	\$122,581
Threatened and Key Species Recovery Program		
Biodiversity planning: operational expenses		\$86,351
Koala Conservation and Habitat Management		\$0
Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Recovery		\$20,605
Platypus recovery		\$0
Flying-fox roost management		\$0
Protected plants managmeent		\$0
	Sub-program total	\$106,956
	Theme total	\$229,537
Strategic Theme: Embellishment, Capital & Operational Management Investment within Natural Area	Estate	
Natural Area Maintenance Program Natural Area Maintenance: Operational expenses		\$469,510
Natural Area Maintenance. Operational expenses	Sub-program total	\$469,510
Natural Area Management Program	Sub-program total	\$409,510
Natural Area Management Program Natural Area Management operational expenses		\$104,194
Conservation Works Program: On-ground operational projects		\$340,486
Fire Management Program: On-ground operational projects		\$764,321
Natural Area Capital Investment Program		\$423,124
Pest Animal Management Program: Operational expenses		\$120,054
Natural Area Estate Visitor Management: Operational expenses		\$87,652
Natural Area Activation Program		\$8,462
Natural Area Estate Enforcement Program		\$35,715
	Sub-program total	\$1,884,007
	Theme total	\$2,353,517
	PROGRAM TOTAL	\$3,928,995
Revenue		\$4,721,595
External Grant Funding for Enviroplan Projects		-
Adjustment to Reserve (Drawdown)		\$792,600
Reserve Balance		\$5,312,108
		-



