



**City of  
Ipswich**

## **AGENDA**

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### **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 3 September 2024

10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Cultural Development Committee or such later time as determined by the preceding committee

Council Chambers, Level 8  
1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich

<b><u>MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE</u></b>	
Councillor Jim Madden ( <b>Chairperson</b> ) Councillor Andrew Antoniolli ( <b>Deputy Chairperson</b> )	Mayor Teresa Harding Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic Councillor Jacob Madsen Councillor Pye Augustine

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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\*\* Item includes confidential papers

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(04)**

**3 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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. 2024(03) OF 13 AUGUST 2024

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 13 August 2024 be confirmed.

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**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

2. QUEENS PARK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE OPERATIONAL UPDATE

This is a report concerning the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre, highlighting key changes from the past two (2) years and the plan for the future.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the report on the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre be received and the contents noted.

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3. DISASTER AWARENESS CAMERA NETWORK (DACN) UPDATE

This report concerns the progress in establishing and implementing the Disaster Awareness Camera Network (DACN), commonly called flood cameras. It describes the activities undertaken thus far and plans to roll out the DACN camera network across the Ipswich LGA.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the report titled Disaster Awareness Camera Network (DACN) Update be received and the contents noted.

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4. **WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION POLICY DIRECTIVE UPDATE**

This is an update report on the continuing implementation of the Ipswich City Council Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive (the Directive) following the review of the Directive as presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting of 23 May 2024.

As outlined in the attachment to this report, a significant body of work continues to implement actions against the ten (10) principles of the Directive.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the report on the Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive update be received and the contents noted.

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5. **IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESILIENT RIVERS INITIATIVE THROUGH SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF MAYORS**

This is a report concerning Ipswich City Council's financial contribution to the Resilient Rivers Initiative through Council of Mayors (SEQ).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Ipswich City Council pay Council of Mayors (SEQ) the sum of \$224,263 as its financial contribution to the Resilient Rivers Initiative for the 2024-2025 financial year.

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**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**MATTERS ARISING**



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(03)**

**13 AUGUST 2024**

**MINUTES**

**COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Jim Madden (Chairperson); Councillors Andrew Antonioli (Deputy Chairperson), Mayor Teresa Harding, Jacob Madsen, Pye Augustine and Marnie Doyle (Observer)

**COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:**

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic

**OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), General Manager Asset and Infrastructure Services (Matt Anderson), General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development (Ben Pole), Chief Financial Officer (Jeff Keech), Resource Recovery Manager (David McAlister), Senior Community Education and Engagement Officer (Paul Tanko), Chief of Staff – Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Disaster and Natural Hazards Manager (Matthew Pinder), Senior Communications and Policy Officer (Jodie Richter), Senior Media Officer (Darrell Giles) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE - DEPUTY MAYOR NICOLE JONIC**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Jim Madden:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

**That a Leave of Absence be granted for Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic.**

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**WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Councillor Jim Madden (Chairperson) delivered the Acknowledgement of Country

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

Nil

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## **BUSINESS OUTSTANDING**

Nil

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(02) OF 16 JULY 2024

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

**That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 16 July 2024 be confirmed.**

### **AFFIRMATIVE**

Councillors:

Madden

Antonioli

Harding

Madsen

Augustine

### **NEGATIVE**

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

2. SES WEEK 2024

This is a report regarding the annual SES Week campaign and the activities that are occurring in the City of Ipswich to recognise and celebrate the Ipswich City State Emergency Service Unit as part of SES Week 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Mayor Teresa Harding:

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

### **AFFIRMATIVE**

Councillors:

Madden

Antonioli

Harding

### **NEGATIVE**

Councillors:

Nil



Madsen  
Augustine

The motion was put and carried.

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3. GET READY WEEK 2024

This is a report concerning the state-led annual Get Ready Queensland program, including the keystone event 'Get Ready Week' in October, and how council plans to promote the program across Ipswich in 2024 to encourage all residents to learn about their disaster risk and the steps they can take to prepare for and build resilience to disasters in Ipswich.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

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

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden  
Antonioli  
Harding  
Madsen  
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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NOTICES OF MOTION

4. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSED WESTERN RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

This is a notice of motion submitted by Councillor Jim Madden concerning a proposed location for the Western Resource Recovery Centre at Mount Marrow.

Councillor Jim Madden gave notice of his intention to move the following motion at the Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting of 13 August 2024:

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jim Madden:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

**That the site at Mount Marrow identified as a proposed location for the Western Resource Recovery Centre be removed from consideration.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antoniolli

Harding

Madsen

Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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5. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSED SOUTHERN RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE FACILITY

This is a notice of motion submitted by Councillor Jim Madden concerning facilities at the proposed Southern Resource Recovery Centre.

Councillor Jim Madden gave notice of his intention to move the following motion at the Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting of 13 August 2024:

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jim Madden:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

**That Council Officers prepare a report relating to costings and a review as to the possibility of the following facilities at the proposed Southern Resource Recovery Centre:**

- **Tip Shop – where items that would otherwise go to landfill could be sold.**
- **Tool Library - where residents can loan tools for use instead of buying cheap tools and disposing of them in landfill.**
- **Toy Library - where residents can loan children’s educational toys & play equipment.**
- **Repair Centre or Repair Cafe - where residents can take items to learn how to repair and reuse these items.**
- **And any other relevant issues.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antoniolli

Harding

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

Madsen  
Augustine

The motion was put and carried.

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**MATTERS ARISING**

Nil

**PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

The meeting commenced at 1.32 pm.

The meeting closed at 2.05 pm.

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Doc ID No: A10456800

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: QUEENS PARK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE OPERATIONAL UPDATE

AUTHOR: PROGRAM OFFICER (ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION)

DATE: 30 JULY 2024

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is a report concerning the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre, highlighting key changes from the past two years and the plan for the future.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

**That the report on the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre 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**

The Queens Park Environmental Education Centre (The Centre) is a free council facility serving the community for the last 15 years. The Centre recently celebrated its 15 years in collaboration with World Environment Day on 5 June 2024. It houses permanent environmental education exhibits, displays and information which showcase Ipswich's unique natural environment and waterways. The Centre is an educational hub through which the Environment and Sustainability Education and Awareness Team can achieve its core objective around delivering education and information aimed at instilling behaviour change and sharing awareness of the importance of sustainability and the natural environment.

Following the completion of an internal review of Environmental Education in 2022, the Centre has undergone a number of upgrades and changes. The growth and changes made to programming, centre upgrades and engagement with schools have largely been driven by the recommendations of the review.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of these changes, showcase the subsequent growth in visitation and staffing requirements at the centre and outline the next steps for the Centre as part of our draft three-year operational plan.

### **Vision for Queens Park Environmental Education Centre**

The long-term vision for the Centre is that it is known for its educational excellence with vibrant and progressive learning opportunities by:

- Providing opportunities to connect to Country and acknowledge the significance of the area to Traditional Owners
- Providing high-quality learning experiences for kids, students, families, community members and visitors
- Providing authentic learning opportunities aimed at making meaningful connections with the environment
- Providing a one stop resource and learning hub with:
  - Workshops
  - Free play
  - Excursion programs
  - Story telling
- Provide a supportive learning environment with opportunities to succeed through empowering individuals

The vision has been achieved by:

- Completing upgrades to the space including infrastructure, information, displays and exhibits
- Developing an excursion programming aligned with Environment and Sustainability Department's key strategies
- The recruitment of environmental casual employees
- Upskilling and training of environmental volunteers
- Creating a new Volunteer Coordinator position

### **Overview of Centre upgrades**

In 2023 the Centre went through a number of upgrades to make it more fit for purpose. These include:

- Replacing the carpet with a hard flooring solution. This modernised the space and allowed for easier on-the-spot cleaning with our young audience.
- The construction of an office space to allow Council officers to work from the facility and be on-hand to support front-facing staff and volunteers as required.

- The enclosure of the back veranda and installation of storage space to house resources for Bushcare groups and volunteers to access.

In 2024 the Centre underwent a number of changes to educational content in the exhibition spaces:

- The front room information panels were replaced with updated content reflecting current priority messages and themes related to the natural environment.
- A set of interchangeable information panels were installed in the back room to allow for changing and themed messaging related to resource recovery, sustainability and urban wildlife, depending on the focus/activation in the Centre.
- Images of these updates are available as an attachment.

### **Activation**

QPEEC provides and facilitates the opportunity to connect with and educate a diverse number of people. It also provides a range of activities and educational tools for people to engage and learn from.

The following strategies guide the messaging and programming at QPEEC:

- Natural Environment strategy
- Waterways Health Strategy
- Sustainability Strategy
- Resource Recovery Strategy
- Urban Greening Strategy
- Ipswich City Council iFuture

### **Staffing requirements**

Prior to 2022 the Centre was run entirely by a team of committed volunteers and managed at arms length by a Council officer covering all Environmental Volunteers. While volunteers make a significant and invaluable contribution to the running of the Centre, the changing nature of volunteering and the volunteer landscape following the Covid 19 pandemic meant it was no longer feasible to manage the space through volunteers alone.

Based upon user feedback it was recognised that regular and increased usage of the centre was linked to having consistent and reliable opening hours. As such it was a priority to set and maintain opening hours which meant people had confidence in when they could use the facility.

In 2022 the introduction of casual Council staff provided an interim solution to allow for consistent opening hours and provided an understanding of the future staffing requirements. In recognition of the need for more sustainable and consistent staffing to support the regularity of operating hours, a permanent part-time position has been created and recruitment of this position is underway.

Centre Programming

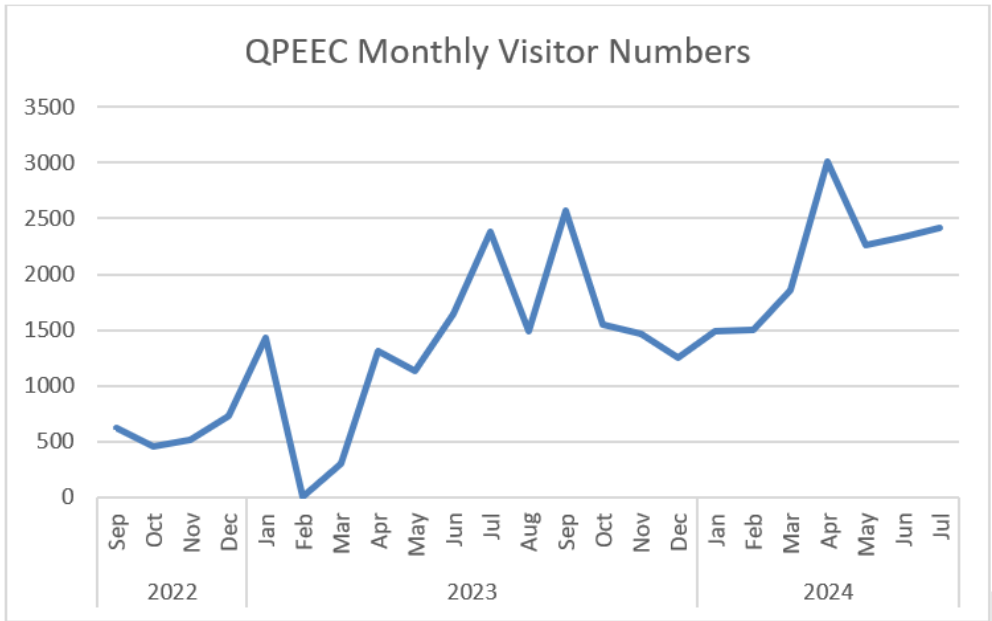
The Centre plays a pivotal role in providing a supportive learning environment with educational opportunities for the general public and more specifically for schools. The school program is available for bookings between Tuesday and Thursday. The program includes a guided experience of the Ipswich Nature Centre and an educational session at the Centre. An excursion guide and booking form is online and available to all schools.

Fridays are reserved for an under 5s audience in partnership with the Ipswich Libraries team who deliver environmental themed story time in the park once a month. School holidays include activations and workshops guided by broader team campaigns and themes.

In 2023 and 2024 the Centre was sought out by different environmental art exhibitors during the SPARK festival where the Centre hosted interactive displays for varied audience.

Growth and visitation

The Centre has seen significant growth in visitation over the past two (2) years as a result of upgrades and consistent opening hours.



\*Centre was closed in February 2023 for building upgrades

Visitor Numbers:

- Over 23 000 visitors in the 23-24 financial year
- Over 7600 visitors April-June 2024
- Over 2500 visitors during the 2024 three-week June/July SPARK activation

Previously most schools would only visit the Ipswich Nature Centre and now nearly all schools visit both locations.

Location	Number of schools 23-24	Number of students 23-24
QPEEC and/or guided Nature Centre	31	2023

### Next steps

Continue to update Shape your Ipswich to communicate any changes proposed to the Centre. With the major upgrades and changes now complete, the Centre is entering a business-as-usual operations phase, which will focus on:

- Ongoing activation of the space including programs, events, workshops and other activations.
- Ongoing training and development of staff to maintain excellence in service delivery
- Establishing an evaluation framework to ensure the Centre is meeting community needs, maintaining relevance and achieving its vision and operational requirements.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There were no policy implications as a result of undertaking the program.

### RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There were no risk management implications as a result of undertaking the program.

### FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The program was delivered using operational budget across the Environment and Sustainability, Education and Awareness Team.

### COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The following Departments were consulted and agreed to the program outcomes and deliverables

- Environment and Sustainability





## CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the Centre concludes its upgrade phase and moves into the business-as-usual phase. Reporting on the growth and activation of the centre will continue as per reporting requirements.

## HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
<b>RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT</b>
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.	Images of QPEEC upgrade <a href="#">↓</a> 
2.	QPEEC 23-24 Vision <a href="#">↓</a> 

Kimberley Hare

**PROGRAM OFFICER (ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION)**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Stephani Grove

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

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

**MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

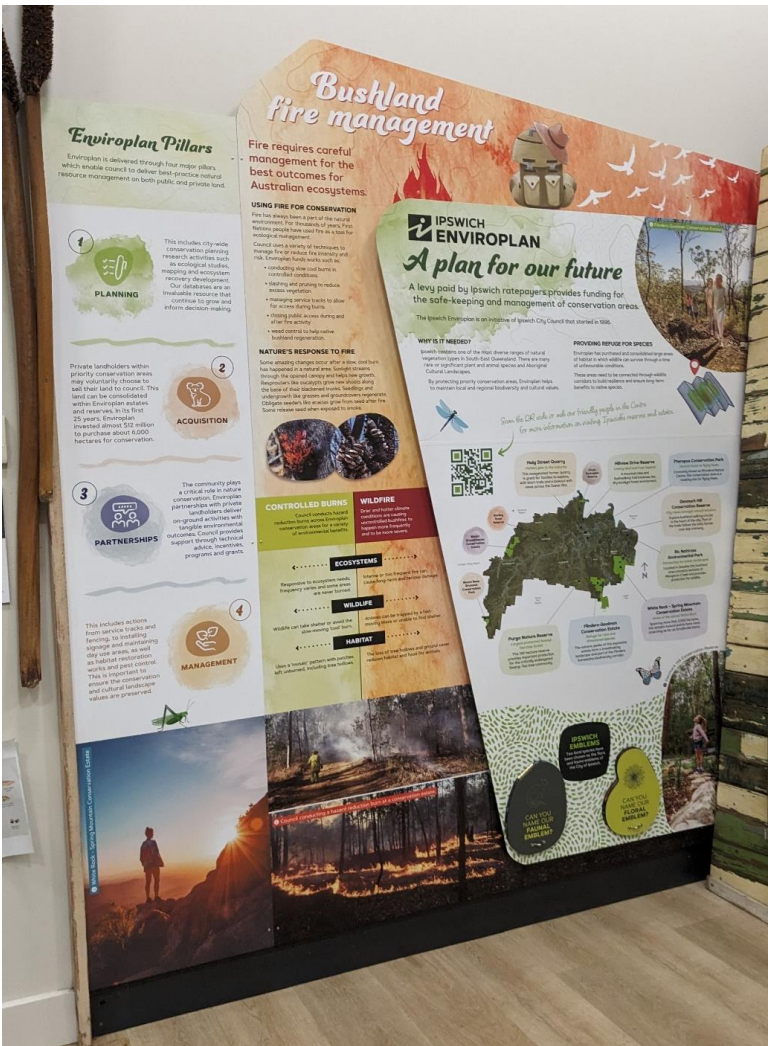
Kaye Cavanagh

**GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)**

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

Images of Queens Park Environmental Education Centre Upgrade







City of Ipswich

# Queens Park Environmental Education Centre

Vision for the future

August 2023







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## 1: BACKGROUND

The Queens Park Environmental Education Centre (QPEEC) houses environmental education exhibits, displays and information which showcase Ipswich's unique natural environment and waterways. QPEEC has historically relied solely on volunteers to be open and recently, QPEEC has been supported by casual employees from the Visitor Information Centre.

In early 2023 the centre underwent building upgrades including new floors, the creation of an office space and the introduction of casual staff support. These changes have made a large impact in the centre, including the ability to maintain consistent opening hours in 2023. The additional staff support and refreshing of the space also led to the opportunity for QPEEC to host it's first artist exhibit which saw over 3000 people through the space in a month. This opportunity showed the true potential of QPEEC and what reach the messages and content of the centre can have.

QPEEC has seen an increase in school excursions being booked to visit the space with 29 schools visiting the centre over the last 12 months with approximately 1900 students. The school experience has traditionally been self-guided by the teachers, however in 2022/2023 the Education officer has been facilitating these sessions to provide a better learning experience.

Since September 2022 QPEEC has recorded approximately 11,000 visitors through the space (this includes a 6-week closure for the upgrades to occur). These numbers are reflective of the work already being done in the space to provide engaging learning opportunities for schools, families, and community members. To continue to build on this it is recommended that upgrades continue to occur to ensure displays, exhibits and information are relevant, up to date and reflective of the Environment and Sustainability's key strategies.

## 2: VISION FOR QPEEC

### ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION & AWARENESS TEAM VISION

*Our team delivers a suite of environmental and sustainability programs for residents and broader community members for the Environment and Sustainability Branch.*

*We are a trusted team who deliver education and information aimed at instilling behaviour change and sharing awareness Our purpose is to enable and empower our audience by providing lifelong learning opportunities for an enriched environmental and sustainable city.*

### QPEEC LONG TERM VISION

The long-term vision for QPEEC is to be an Environmental Education Centre that is known for its educational excellence with vibrant and progressive learning opportunities by:

- Providing opportunities to connect to Country and acknowledge the significance of the area to the Yagara People
- providing high quality learning experiences for kids, students, families, community members and tourists.
- Providing authentic learning opportunities aimed at making meaningful connections with the environment

- Providing a one stop resource and learning hub with:
  - Workshops
  - Free play
  - Excursion programs
  - Story telling
- Provide a supportive learning environment with opportunities to succeed through empowering individuals

### ACHIEVING OUR VISION

- With continued upgrades to the space including infrastructure, information, displays and exhibits
- Development of excursion programming aligned with Environment and Sustainability Department's key strategies
- The recruitment of environmental casual employees
- Upskilling and training environmental volunteers
- Creating a new Volunteer Coordinator position

### 3: ACTIVATION OF QPEEC

QPEEC provides and facilitates the opportunity to connect with and educate a diverse number of people. It also provides a range of activations and educational tools for people to engage and learn from.

The following strategies guide the messaging and programming at QPEEC:

- Natural Environment strategy
- Waterways Health Strategy
- Sustainability Strategy
- Resource Recovery Strategy
- Urban Greening Strategy
- Ipswich City Council iFuture

**Educational themes used to activate QPEEC**

QPEEC ACTIVATION	CURRENT STATE	VISION	EDUCATION THEMES
<b>School Excursions</b> <i>Tuesday – Thursday</i>	Excursion led by Education Officer. Content tailored to meet the request of the school. Time intensive.  Recent introduction of schedule and Nature centre tour (led by casual staff) for all groups.	A high-quality consistent school excursion experience offered for schools from Ipswich and surrounds facilitated by casual staff	Through the creation of a school excursion guide and content for the projectors school excursions will be able to touch on all key education themes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Waterways</li><li>- Biosecurity</li><li>- Indigenous Culture</li><li>- Sustainability</li><li>- Connecting to Nature</li><li>- Connecting to landscape</li><li>- Emergency management</li></ul>
<b>Puggle Time</b> <i>Friday</i>	Story time run by library team once a month. Listed on the website but no promotion or program planning around it.	An engaging age-appropriate series of events for children aged 0-5 and their grown ups	Through the creation of programming for puggle time and updating of wall content in the centre these sessions will be able to touch on all key educational themes in an age-appropriate way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Waterways</li><li>- Biosecurity</li><li>- Indigenous Culture</li><li>- Sustainability</li><li>- Connecting to Nature</li><li>- Connecting to landscape</li><li>- Emergency management</li><li>- Resource Recovery</li></ul>
<b>Activations and Activities</b> <i>School Holidays and Adhoc across the year</i>	School holiday activities planned to cater for high numbers of people. Additional events held across the year; some adhoc and some in alignment with key campaigns run by other parts of the team.	A program of engaging educational events, activities, and exhibitions for public with activations/events held across the year including during school holidays  Engaging or supporting environmental art exhibitions to showcase key environmental messages through art, textures, and experiential activities.	Through planning a strategically aligned program for the centre activations and activities will be able to touch on all key educational themes across the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Waterways</li><li>- Biosecurity</li><li>- Indigenous Culture</li><li>- Sustainability</li><li>- Connecting to Nature</li><li>- Connecting to landscape</li><li>- Emergency management</li><li>- Resource Recovery</li></ul>

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

<b>Wall content</b>	Content is outdated and text heavy. No clear calls for action or take aways for the reader. Content is not age appropriate for school groups or younger children in the space.	Eye catching information and calls to action that align with strategy and are conveyed in an engaging and appropriate manner for visitors to the centre	With an update the wall content will be able to touch on all environmental themes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waterways</li> <li>- Biosecurity</li> <li>- Indigenous Culture</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Connecting to Nature</li> <li>- Connecting to landscape</li> <li>- Emergency management</li> <li>- Resource Recovery</li> </ul>
<b>Projectors</b> <i>1 x Projector for Screen and 1x floor projector</i>	Projector and screen used to show environmental documentaries. Floor projector is installed but does not have any content to operate.	Provide engaging and efficient immersive learning opportunities that take the learner beyond the centre (without having to leave) to connect with key educational themes.	Indigenous Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Storytelling narrative using the floor projector</li> </ul> Emergency Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop content for floor projector to show flood modelling demonstrations or bushland fires</li> </ul> Connecting to Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Showing of documentaries and videos with related information</li> </ul> Projector with screen can be used to play content that aligns with any of the key educational themes
<b>Interactive Screens</b> <i>2x interactive screens</i>	Interactive screen is live and operational in the front room. Content covers a broad range of educational themes through video and text format. Does not have age-appropriate options for younger audience.  Second screen is not currently installed and does not have content created for it.	Opportunities for self-led learning in the centre with engaging strategically aligned content	Able to touch on all themes through use of existing content including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waterways</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Resource Recovery</li> <li>- Biosecurity</li> </ul> Other themes could be included through the creation of new content specifically for QPEEC or drawing on other content being created across the branch.



Item 2 / Attachment 2.

<b>Guided Experiences and workshops</b>	<p>Nature centre tour included with all school excursion bookings at QPEEC</p> <p>4 Teacher PD's run each year across a range of key themes. These have been well attended.</p> <p>Adhoc public workshops occur across the year.</p>	<p>Provide guided and supported opportunities for learning drawing on subject matter experts to educate and inspire attendees on a broad range of topics and experience opportunities.</p>	<p>Connecting with Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nature centre tour provided with all school excursions</li> <li>- Educational elements of the Nature Centre updated</li> <li>- More tie in between QPEEC and Nature Centre</li> </ul> <p>Workshops and Teacher PDs are able to be programmed to touch on all key educational themes across the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waterways</li> <li>- Biosecurity</li> <li>- Indigenous Culture</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Connecting to Nature</li> <li>- Connecting to landscape</li> <li>- Emergency management</li> <li>- Resource Recovery</li> </ul>
<b>Resources and Publications</b>	<p>A large range of publications including flyers, fact sheets and magazines are available at the centre for people to read and take home.</p> <p>QPEEC owns a water testing kit for schools to borrow. This has yet to be loaned out.</p> <p>Plans are in place to set up a tool library at QPEEC for Bushcare volunteers to loan required tools to support their activities.</p>	<p>Act as a hub of resources, publications, and equipment to support environmental education and volunteering activities (e.g. Bushcare).</p>	<p>Waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water ways fact sheets/water bug information</li> <li>- Water ways testing kit for loan to school groups</li> </ul> <p>Connecting to landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hub for activating bushwalking areas, sharing materials, maps and information from QPEEC volunteers and staff</li> <li>- land for wildlife partnerships flyer – how to get involved</li> </ul> <p>Biosecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- weed book available at the centre</li> </ul> <p>Seasonal messaging around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flying Fox colonies</li> <li>- Swooping Birds</li> <li>- Upcoming community plantings</li> <li>- Nursery free plant program</li> <li>- Sustainable Ipswich Month</li> <li>- Other key priorities across the year</li> </ul>

## 4: RECOMMENDATION

To achieve the long-term vision for QPEEC we need to progress to stage three of the Upgrade plan proposed in 2022-2023 (attached)

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENT
Open QPEEC 5 days a week, Tuesday to Saturday with alternative days on school holidays. Uniform operating hours would be 9am -2pm each day.	Rachael Bowler Kimberley Hare Volunteers Casual Employees	These opening hours were trialled for a month during the SPARK Exhibition. They also accommodate school excursion visits. Saturdays will allow for suitable casual and volunteer availability and engage weekend families
Recruit a pool of Environmental casual employees at a level 2 and 3 to support the centre and team with labour budget to support this ongoing	Stephani Grove Kimberley Hare Rachael Bowler	Two position descriptions have been developed and currently being prepared for GM approval 2023/2024 labour budget was approved to support this (\$128,000)
Maintain a pool of environment volunteers	Rachael Bowler	To support the centre and its programs, to provide opportunities for people wanting to volunteer
Update the displays and signage in the centre, including wall content to be current accurate information that aligns with strategic goals and appropriate for the demographic of visitors to the centre	All areas of Environment and Sustainability Department Lead Officers: Stephani Grove, Kimberley Hare and Rachael Bowler	2023 upgrades saw updates made to flooring, storage, office space
Install and activate all AV equipment in the space including the development of content for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floor Projector</li> <li>Additional Touchscreen</li> </ul>	Rachael Bowler Kimberley Hare	AV equipment has already been purchased The touchscreen needs to be installed
Developing excursion programming and guide for schools visiting the park	Kimberley Hare	Outlining excursion experiences and key logistical information that will support groups to visit the park. Develop a high quality and consistent excursion experience that can be delivered by casual staff.
Establish a social media profile and presence for QPEEC	Rachael Bowler Kimberley Hare Volunteers Casual Employees Jane Pinder	To promote the centre, its programs, and activations along with other key environmental messages and events from across the Environment and Sustainability Education and Awareness team.
Update Animal Encounters Tour with revised Nature Centre content	Kimberley Hare Jody Gilbert Nicole Richards	To include First Nations Cultural Values, Habitat and Native Species Messages
Develop an interactive themed activity around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resource recovery</li> <li>circular economy</li> <li>waterways</li> <li>biodiversity</li> <li>Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	All areas of Environment and Sustainability Department Lead Officer: Kimberley Hare and Rachael Bowler	To ensure relevant information is shared for unique learning experiences

The following assumptions are made when recommending operating hours of the QPEEC

- Closed public holidays
- Closed 23<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> December
- Closed all Easter long weekend
- Budget for a maximum casual rate at level 3.
- I haven't included July as I do not have visibility currently on all that was put against this budget code in July.

Not included in rostering

- Additional Bushcare tree planting days (only included 2 at this stage)
- Support of team at workshop days.
- Bringing in a second casual (level 2) for school excursions

OPERATING HOURS OF QPEEC			
Current operating hours	Tuesday – Friday 0930-1330	Staffing arrangement: one casual employee, one volunteer, one Council Officer	Budget impact \$45,500 for casual staff
	Monday – Friday during school holidays		
Recommended operating hours	Tuesday – Saturday 0900-1400	Staffing arrangement: Tuesday – Friday: one casual employee, two volunteers, one Council Officer  Saturday: two volunteers, one casual, Council Officer on standby	Budget impact \$65 986.27 for casual staff  (Approved 2023/2024 labour budget of \$128,000)
	Monday – Saturday during school holidays		



City of  
**Ipswich**

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Doc ID No: A10233630

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: DISASTER AWARENESS CAMERA NETWORK (DACN) UPDATE

AUTHOR: FLOOD INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

DATE: 3 JUNE 2024

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report concerns the progress in establishing and implementing the Disaster Awareness Camera Network (DACN), commonly called flood cameras. It describes the activities undertaken thus far and plans to roll out the DACN camera network across the Ipswich LGA.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

**That the report titled Disaster Awareness Camera Network (DACN) Update be received and the contents noted.**

### **RELATED PARTIES**

There are no declarations of conflict of interest.

### **IFUTURE THEME**

Safe, Inclusive and Creative

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

The *Flood Review 2022* is driven by strong community sentiment for more information during disaster events and an internal need to monitor critical locations such as referable dams. This camera network has improved situational awareness of evolving disaster events at targeted locations.

In 2022, Council commenced stakeholder engagement with internal and external stakeholders to establish the fundamental principles of the DACN network. In 2023, a pilot was conducted with 11 temporary cameras installed at crucial test locations where roads were known to be affected by flooding and in January 2024 Council approved the Disaster Awareness Camera Network (DACN) Policy.

Procurement was completed in March 2024, and a contract was entered with a supplier to establish permanent locations and ensure supply arrangements for expansion.

In April 2024, a data-sharing agreement was established with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to allow the sharing of TMR and Council camera images on a site-by-



site basis. This will reduce the need for the Council to install cameras where a suitable TMR camera already exists.

10 new permanent cameras are located at the five referable dams: Rosewood, Marburg, Limestone Park, Springfield Upper and Springfield Lower. Referable dams were prioritised for installation to allow remote monitoring and completed before 30 June 2024. These cameras are crucial for managing the referable dam, including emergency actions. Only some of these cameras are viewable by the public; however, based on the privacy impact assessment, some will be available via the disaster dashboard by the end of September 2024.

Council received funding under the Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program, funded by the Australian Government under the Emergency Response Fund, to replace nine temporary cameras with permanent cameras. Installation is intended to be completed by the end of October 2024.

As part of the Council-approved capital budget for 2024-2025, Council funds were made available to expand the program further; this is intended to commence in January 2025 and be completed before June 2025 with an estimated eight additional sites. Site locations still need to be determined; according to the criteria established under the policy. This will include consultation with the Mayor and Councillors.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Disaster Management Act 2003*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Privacy Act 2009*

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report is consistent with the provision of the Disaster Awareness Camera Network (DACN) Policy.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The DACN near real-time images made available to the public at the Ipswich Disaster Dashboard enable the community to identify hazards (such as flooded roads, etc.) and avoid them. Thus, the result of the DACN implementation is that in disaster events, it greatly increases situational awareness, leading to better assessed/reduced/avoided exposure to hazards, which ultimately allows for more effective risk management and mitigation or complete risk avoidance.

There are no other discernible risk implications resulting from this report.

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial or resource implications resulting from this report, noting that grant funding has been received and the 2024/25 Capital program has provided funding for establishing and expanding the DACN network.

**COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION**

Community feedback in the ensuing years, including the flood review and pilot camera program, has been instrumental in developing and refining the DACN program.

Extensive consultation has occurred internally across the various Council departments, including the Natural Environment Branch, Works and Field Services Branch, Infrastructure and Strategy Branch, Safe City and Asset Protection Branch.

Council has also conducted and will continue to consult with federal and state departments such as the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

**CONCLUSION**

The community expects the Council to provide more disaster-related information that may reduce the impacts on Ipswich residents.

Responding to that, the DACN implementation provides increased situational awareness in disaster events, leading to better assessment, reduction, and avoidance of hazard exposure. This ultimately allows for more effective risk management and mitigation or complete risk avoidance.

**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.

Adam Cassel  
**FLOOD INTELLIGENCE OFFICER**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Oleg Makarynskyy  
**SENIOR ENGINEER (FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT)**

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matthew Pinder

**DISASTER AND NATURAL HAZARDS 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”***



Doc ID No: A10552350

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION POLICY DIRECTIVE  
UPDATE

AUTHOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

DATE: 21 AUGUST 2024

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is an update report on the continuing implementation of the Ipswich City Council Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive (the Directive) following the review of the Directive as presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting of 23 May 2024.

As outlined in the attachment to this report, a significant body of work continues to implement actions against the ten (10) principles of the Directive.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

**That the report on the Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive update be received and the contents noted.**

### **RELATED PARTIES**

There are many related parties associated with this report including other levels of government, business and industry associated with the waste and circular economy industry.

As this is a report recommending that the report be received and noted, there are not considered to be any conflicts that require declaration.

### **IFUTURE THEME**

A Trusted and Leading Organisation

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

On 3 December 2020, Council resolved to adopt the Directive which prioritises the protection of the health and wellbeing of our community and environment, the liveability of our city, and the future vibrancy of our economy. The Directive is intended to provide a vision for Council reflecting Council's many interests on behalf of the community in respect to the area of waste and circular economy.

Council officers have been implementing a variety of elements of the directive, including a focus on the Implementation Plan. An attachment to this report outlines the core focus for

the last three (3) months. It should be noted that the most significant focus has been placed on the new draft Ipswich Planning Scheme which is now with State for approval.

### ***Key matters***

#### Waste Compliance

An additional compliance role within the PRS development compliance area has been funded for this financial year. This role will help drive better compliance within the waste industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.

#### New City of Ipswich Planning Scheme

Council is in the final stages of seeking approval for its new planning scheme which aims to increase circular economy developments. Once this new planning scheme is adopted by Council it will replace the current planning scheme to help Ipswich plan and deliver for its growing city.

#### Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement improvements are a key delivery of the Directive and as part of the Ipswich City Council Sustainability Strategy. This work has been earmarked for delivery this financial year. Developing sustainable procurement practices will allow Ipswich City Council to future proof against scarcity in supply and changes in social, economic, and environmental factors as well as reduce the impact of waste on human health and the environment.

#### Resource Recovery Strategy and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

Work is continuing in the implementation of Council's Resource Recovery Strategy and the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan to manage waste for our community.

#### Waste Levy Initiatives

Council continues to source support programs to ensure Ipswich gets the best return for the community through leveraging Government Waste Levy initiatives and grant funding. Some significant movement in last quarter included close to \$20M across the Sub-Regional Waste Alliance (SRA) Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and GrowFOGO.

#### Compliance Action and monitoring of waste and resource recovery related development activity

Compliance action on strategic sites is continuing, as is monitoring of development applications and enquiries relating to waste and resource recovery matters.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications associated with this report which is for receiving and noting.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report which is for receiving and noting.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource and financial implications associated with this report which is for receiving and noting.

## COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Not applicable for this report.


## CONCLUSION

A significant body of work continues on the implementation of the Directive and quarterly updates will continue to be reported to the Council.

## HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
<b>RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT</b>
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.	Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive Quarterly Update to Council - September 2024 (FINAL V2) <a href="#">↓</a> 
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Heike Bell

## SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

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”*

Item 4 / Attachment 1.

DIRECTIVE REFERENCE	ACTION	TASKS	SUCCESS MEASURES (what good looks like)	LEAD AREA	STAKEHOLDERS	TIMEFRAME Short 0-2	RELATED DOCUMENTS	START Month/Year	FINISH Month/Year	STATUS	PROGRESS %
All	Undertake meaningful engagement with both the community and the industry to advise, educate and seek feedback on industry and development waste matters.	Determine with Council requirements on further consultation under the directive to ensure community acceptance for the industry.	The community is aware and accepting of council's position on the waste industry and clear on the requirements of the local area and supportive of beneficial and future driven	Council - various	Council	Short		Feb-22	Dec-23	Not started	0
All	Undertake meaningful engagement with both the community and the industry to advise, educate and seek feedback on industry and development waste matters.	Determine unified approach for Stakeholder Engagement and communication for all waste related projects.	The community is aware and accepting of council's position on the waste industry and clear on the requirements of the local area and supportive of beneficial and future driven	Council - various	Council	Medium		Feb-22	Dec-24	In progress	25
#3	Educate the community on their ability to report environmental issues and enforce outcomes.	Undertake targeted engagement activities and knowledge sharing to educate the local community on the importance and their right to report issues and impacts of the waste	Evidence of increased reporting/ reduced compliance due to better performance.	P&RS Compliance	Council Community	Long		Dec-18	Dec-30	On-going	50
#1	Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	Undertake a workshop jointly with WRIQ to develop content with the industry.	All industry partners in the Ipswich region sign up and actively strive to achieve the goals of the Code of Practice in conjunction with the Waste and Recycling Industry Queensland. As a result of this there are less environmental issues and good compliance to existing	P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short	WCETD Waste Code of Practice	Mar-21	Nov-21	Complete	100
#1	Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	Complete draft Code of Practice and circulate to industry through WIRIQ.	All industry partners in the Ipswich region sign up and actively strive to achieve the goals of the Code of Practice in conjunction with the Waste and Recycling Industry Queensland. As a result of this there are less environmental issues and good compliance to existing	P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short		Jul-21	Dec-21	Complete	100
#1	Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	Engage in a Memorandum of Understanding with WRIQ for the development of the Code of Practice as the outcome.	All industry partners in the Ipswich region sign up and actively strive to achieve the goals of the Code of Practice in conjunction with the Waste and Recycling Industry Queensland. As a result of this there are less environmental issues and good compliance to existing	P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short		Apr-22	Jun-22	In progress	50
#1	Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	Confirm Code of Practice endorsement with WIRIQ and the industry.	All industry partners in the Ipswich region sign up and actively strive to achieve the goals of the Code of Practice in conjunction with the Waste and Recycling Industry Queensland. As a result of this there are less environmental issues and good compliance to existing	P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short		Feb-22	Aug-22	In progress	50
#1	Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	Undertake workshop with Councillors to establish signing and publishing process on Council's behalf.	All industry partners in the Ipswich region sign up and actively strive to achieve the goals of the Code of Practice in conjunction with the Waste and Recycling Industry Queensland. As a result of this there are less environmental issues and good compliance to existing	P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short		Aug-22	Oct-22	In progress	40
#1	Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	Seek and gain industry sign up.	All industry partners in the Ipswich region sign up and actively strive to achieve the goals of the Code of Practice in conjunction with the Waste and Recycling Industry Queensland. As a result of this there are less environmental issues and good compliance to existing	P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short		Oct-22	Dec-22	In Progress	40
#2, #3, #8, #9	Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	Establish the Joint Task Force and representation.	Greater collaboration between the State Government and council is established to deliver a unified approach to joint issues. Timely, relevant and useful information can be sought and shared between organisations when issues arise. Better outcomes can be leveraged from the	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Short	Joint Task Force Action Plan to be delivered by the State Government	Apr-21	Jun-21	Complete	100
#2, #3, #8, #9	Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	Call the Joint Task Force and agree to Terms of Reference and meeting requirements.	Greater collaboration between the State Government and council is established to deliver a unified approach to joint issues. Timely, relevant and useful information can be sought and shared between organisations when issues arise. Better outcomes can be leveraged from the	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Medium		Jun-21	Aug-21	Complete	100
#2, #3, #8, #9	Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	Compile and agree to Program of Works under the Joint Task Force.	Greater collaboration between the State Government and council is established to deliver a unified approach to joint issues. Timely, relevant and useful information can be sought and shared between organisations when issues arise. Better outcomes can be leveraged from the	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Medium		Jun-21	TBA	On-going	50
#2, #3, #8, #9	Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	Allocate tasks of the Program of Works to relevant members of the Joint Task Force.	Greater collaboration between the State Government and council is established to deliver a unified approach to joint issues. Timely, relevant and useful information can be sought and shared between organisations when issues arise. Better outcomes can be leveraged from the	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Medium		Jun-21	TBA	On-going	50
#2, #3, #8, #9	Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	Complete tasks assigned to council out of the Program of Works: * Social Licence Paper * Community trust * Organics Action Plan * New Planning Scheme	Greater collaboration between the State Government and council is established to deliver a unified approach to joint issues. Timely, relevant and useful information can be sought and shared between organisations when issues arise. Better outcomes can be leveraged from the	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Short		May-22	Dec-23	In Progress	80
#2, #3, #8, #9	Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	Maintain regular meeting pattern for Joint Task Force to monitor and maintain progress of Action Plan.	Greater collaboration between the State Government and council is established to deliver a unified approach to joint issues. Timely, relevant and useful information can be sought and shared between organisations when issues arise. Better outcomes can be leveraged from the	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Long		Mar-22	Dec-30	In progress	50
#2	Ensure through the Directive that instruments can be prepared and implemented to lobby for change and reform in State Government on the industry.	Research, prepare and implement instruments and documents that will guide policy response to the State Government on planning, change and reform in the industry.	Information is readily available for use to seek better outcomes for council and the community through existing policy and procedures. Better outcomes in terms of financial and	Council - various	Council State Government	Long		Jun-21	Dec-30	On-going	50
#2	Ensure through the Directive that instruments can be prepared and implemented to lobby for change and reform in State Government on the industry.	Support lobbying of the State Government where required to initiate reform on topical issues through targeted activity and business as usual.	Information is readily available for use to seek better outcomes for council and the community through existing policy and procedures. Better outcomes in terms of financial and	Council - various	Council State Government	Long		Jan-22	Dec-30	On-going	50
#2	Ensure through the Directive that instruments can be prepared and implemented to lobby for change and reform in State Government on the industry.	Assist where required in reform actions and advocacy on behalf of the State Government. Change the narrative on Ipswich and the waste industry.	Information is readily available for use to seek better outcomes for council and the community through existing policy and procedures. Better outcomes in terms of financial and	Council - various	Council State Government	Long		Jan-22	Dec-30	On-going	50


Item 4 / Attachment 1.

#2, #7	Adopt and deliver on a new Resource Recovery Plan for municipal waste for Ipswich.	Council adoption of the Resource Recovery Strategy 2021 - 2031.	Delivery on all actions contained within the Implementation Plan. Reduction in municipal waste quantities and increased volumes to green waste and recycling. Establishment of new leading Waste Transfer	IED E&S - Resource Recovery Section	IED E&S Community	Short	Resource Recovery Strategy		Jun-21	Complete	100	
#2, #7	Adopt and deliver on a new Resource Recovery Plan for municipal waste for Ipswich.	Council adoption of the Resource Recovery Implementation Plan 2021-2031.	Delivery on all actions contained within the Implementation Plan. Reduction in municipal waste quantities and increased volumes to green waste and recycling. Establishment of new leading Waste Transfer	IED E&S - Resource Recovery Section	IED E&S Community	Short			Jun-21	Complete	100	
#2, #7	Adopt and deliver on a new Resource Recovery Plan for municipal waste for Ipswich.	Implement and undertake all projects identified under the Action Plan. Refer to Resource Recovery Implementation for further detail. Direct actions reference: * Sustainability * End market development * Collaborate with State and regional partners * Resource Recovery	Delivery on all actions contained within the Implementation Plan. Reduction in municipal waste quantities and increased volumes to green waste and recycling. Establishment of new leading Waste Transfer Stations with increased resource recovery.	IED E&S - Resource Recovery Section	IED E&S Community	Long	Resource Recovery Implementation Plan		Jun-21	Jun-31	On-going	50
#3	Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	Review status of existing compliance activity and actions and address where possible.	Reduction in the need for compliance activity due to better industry performance. Industry ability to self assess against their own conditions and ensure compliance before action is required. Greater leverage behind compliance activity	P&RS Compliance	DES Industry	Short	Compliance Program		Jan-21	Dec-22	In progress	25
#3	Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	Review any additional compliance opportunities that could be leveraged through the State Government for council enforcement purposes.	Reduction in the need for compliance activity due to better industry performance. Industry ability to self assess against their own conditions and ensure compliance before action is required. Greater leverage behind compliance activity	P&RS GM	DES Industry	Short			Jul-21	Dec-23	On-going	50
#3	Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	Draft a new Compliance Program in regards to waste activities and outcomes in coordination with the State Government.	Reduction in the need for compliance activity due to better industry performance. Industry ability to self assess against their own conditions and ensure compliance before action is required. Greater leverage behind compliance activity	P&RS Compliance	Industry	Medium			Jul-23	Jun-26	On-going	0
#3	Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	Draft a new self audit program for Compliance Program.	Reduction in the need for compliance activity due to better industry performance. Industry ability to self assess against their own conditions and ensure compliance before action is required. Greater leverage behind compliance activity	P&RS Compliance	Industry	Short			Jan-21	Dec-22	In progress	50
#3	Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	Implement new Compliance Program including self audit approach.	Reduction in the need for compliance activity due to better industry performance. Industry ability to self assess against their own conditions and ensure compliance before action is required. Greater leverage behind compliance activity	P&RS Compliance	Industry	Short			May-21	Dec-22	In progress	50
#3	Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	Address outcomes of self audits at specific sites to address compliance issues and improve behaviours.	Reduction in the need for compliance activity due to better industry performance. Industry ability to self assess against their own conditions and ensure compliance before action is required. Greater leverage behind compliance activity	P&RS Compliance	Industry	Short			Jun-21	Dec-22	In progress	50
#3, #6	Establish a better working relationship with State Government on compliance related matters and overall coordination between all areas.	Meet with DES ERA Assessment Team and Compliance Team to discuss ongoing issues and coordination between teams.	Increased coordination over all areas which results in less compliance resource waste and unified response to applications between Council and DES. Through the Joint Task Force - strong and coordinated regulation across state and local	P&RS GM	DES Industry P&RS	Short			Jan-21	Jan-21	Completed and On-going	100
#3, #6	Establish a better working relationship with State Government on compliance related matters and overall coordination between all areas.	Implement regular coordination meetings with State Government agencies to discuss openly and action compliance and development issues across all areas.	Increased coordination over all areas which results in less compliance resource waste and unified response to applications between Council and DES. Through the Joint Task Force - strong and coordinated regulation across state and local	P&RS Compliance	DES Industry P&RS	Short			Jan-21	Jan-30	On-going	50
#4	Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	Consultation with the State Commissioner for Mining Rehabilitation to advocate for better outcomes and sustainable practice and support.	Council's Temporary Local Planning Instrument and new Planning Scheme support council's position on the development of existing voids to new landfill sites. The State Government monitor and support	P&RS GM	Council State Government	Short	New Ipswich Planning Scheme		Feb-22	Dec-30	On going	50
#4	Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	Identify extent of existing voids which could be attractive for landfill activities and hold alternate remediation plans.	Council's Temporary Local Planning Instrument and new Planning Scheme support council's position on the development of existing voids to new landfill sites. The State Government monitor and support remediation of void sites through meeting	P&RS GM DES	State Government Council Community	Short			Mar-22	Apr-22	Completed	100
#4	Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	Undertake mine void mapping and investigation to establish and understand obligations from Mining Leases and Plans of Operation.	Council's Temporary Local Planning Instrument and new Planning Scheme support council's position on the development of existing voids to new landfill sites. The State Government monitor and support remediation of void sites through meeting	P&RS GM DES	State Government Council Community	Medium			Mar-22	Dec-24	In progress	25
#4	Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	Determine any high priority sites where remediation has a safety impact and what action is required.	Council's Temporary Local Planning Instrument and new Planning Scheme support council's position on the development of existing voids to new landfill sites. The State Government monitor and support remediation of void sites through meeting	P&RS GM DES	State Government Council Community	Medium			Jun-22	Dec-22	In progress	25
#4	Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	Discuss any identified issues with the State Government and Lease holders to determine actions and planning requirements to ensure preferred land use outcomes.	Council's Temporary Local Planning Instrument and new Planning Scheme support council's position on the development of existing voids to new landfill sites. The State Government monitor and support remediation of void sites through meeting	P&RS GM DES	State Government Council Community	Medium			Dec-22	Jun-24	In progress	25
#4, #5, #10	Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	Promote future coordination between the State Government, council and industry for the long term planning, remediation and use of abandoned or completed mining and landfill voids/ sites.	All planning documents support and reference a unified position on remediation and future uses of all void sites.	P&RS GM DES	State Government Council Community	Long			Mar-22	Dec-30	On-going	5
#5	Maintain informed oversight of Development Applications on former mining and contaminated land.	Review of Development Applications on former mining land should be properly considered in relation to acceptable proposed remediation and proposed land use that align	Change in type of application received to meet the needs of the City, growth in local economy and the New Planning Scheme.	P&RS - Various	P&RS External customers	Long			Jan-21	Dec-30	On going	50
#5	Adopt Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) to address future planning constraints and land uses for mining voids and proposed waste sites.	Draft new TLPI to address identified items.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning	P&RS City Design	P&RS Community Industry	Short	New Planning Scheme		Jul-21	Oct-21	Complete	100

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#5	Adopt Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) to address future planning constraints and land uses for mining voids and proposed waste sites.	Adopt TLPI through Council.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning	P&RS City Design	P&RS Community Industry	Short		Oct-21	Dec-21	Complete	100
#5	Adopt Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) to address future planning constraints and land uses for mining voids and proposed waste sites.	Implement TLPI through Planning and Development Branch and State Government.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning	P&RS City Design	P&RS Community Industry	Short		Dec-21	Dec-21	Complete	100
#5	Adopt new City of Ipswich Planning Scheme with increased and more prescriptive requirements for proposed resource recovery and waste sites to achieve.	Draft new Planning Scheme with inclusion of items as identified through the TLPI for mining voids, land uses and circular economy opportunity.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning conditions. Economic development support in the attraction of industry that meets planning requirements and develops the circular economy.	P&RS City Design	Council State Government Community Industry Developers	Medium	New Planning Scheme	Jun-20	Jul-22	Complete	100
#5	Adopt new City of Ipswich Planning Scheme with increased and more prescriptive requirements for proposed resource recovery and waste sites to achieve.	Review new Planning Scheme and community consultation including emphasis on waste and circular economy elements.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning conditions. Economic development support in the attraction of industry that meets planning	P&RS City Design		Medium		Aug-22	Jul-23	Complete	100
#5	Adopt new City of Ipswich Planning Scheme with increased and more prescriptive requirements for proposed resource recovery and waste sites to achieve.	Adopt new Planning Scheme through Council and State Government.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning conditions. Economic development support in the attraction of industry that meets planning	P&RS City Design		Medium		Aug-23	Jun-24	In progress	95
#5	Adopt new City of Ipswich Planning Scheme with increased and more prescriptive requirements for proposed resource recovery and waste sites to achieve.	Implement new Planning Scheme.	Increase in the approvals of supported circular economy proposals. Decrease in applications for landfill development that don't meet planning conditions. Economic development support in the attraction of industry that meets planning	P&RS City Design		Short		Jul-24	Jul-24	In progress	95
#6	Development and release of Council of Mayors South East Queensland - South East Queensland Waste Management Plan.	State Government to release Council of Mayors South East Queensland (CoMSEQ) - SEQ Waste Management Plan and initiatives.	Improved collaboration between local governments to provide consistent messaging to the community about waste management and reduction,	Council of Mayors South East Queensland	Council Community State Government	Short			Nov-21	Complete	100
#6	Development and release of Council of Mayors South East Queensland - South East Queensland Waste Management Plan.	Refer to CoMSEQ SEQ Waste Management Plan for all outcomes and actions. * Regional Materials Recycling Facility (supported by Ipswich City Council)	Improved collaboration between local governments to provide consistent messaging to the community about waste management and reduction,	Council of Mayors South East Queensland	Council Community State Government	Long	CoMSEQ - SEQ Waste Management Plan	Jan-22	Dec-30	On-going	30
#7	Ensure council's Procurement objectives consider and adopt sustainable practices and consider best practice waste management through all aspects of council business.	With the Sustainability Strategy as the lead, review council's current procurement documentation and identify where updates are required to meet the objectives of both the Strategy and the directive.	All procurement documents reflect Council's intent to purchase in a sustainable manner and to support a circular economy. Procurement documents are updated to ensure information received from the market best addresses Council's sustainability requirements.	CS Procurement IED E&S - Sustainability Section	Council Community Industry	Medium	Procurement Category Plans	Jul-21	Dec-25	In progress	50
#7	Ensure council's Procurement objectives consider and adopt sustainable practices and consider best practice waste management through all aspects of council business.	Undertake education both council officers and the market on what council values for sustainable procurement and the outcomes expected.	All procurement documents reflect Council's intent to purchase in a sustainable manner and to support a circular economy. Procurement documents are updated to ensure information received from the market best addresses Council's sustainability requirements.	CS Procurement IED E&S - Sustainability Section	Council Community Industry	Short		Jan-22	Dec-22	In progress	5
#7	Adopt and deliver a new Sustainability Strategy for council with outcomes supported by the directive.	Council adoption of a new Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026.	Waste Management Plans adopted on all projects Reduction in council waste volumes going to landfill.	IED E&S - Sustainability Section	Council Community	Short	Sustainability Strategy Implementation Plan	Dec-21		Completed	100
#7	Adopt and deliver a new Sustainability Strategy for council with outcomes supported by the directive.	Adoption of the Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 Implementation Plan.	Waste Management Plans adopted on all projects Reduction in council waste volumes going to landfill.	IED E&S - Sustainability Section	Council Community	Medium		Dec-21	Dec-26	In progress	60
#7	Adopt and deliver a new Sustainability Strategy for council with outcomes supported by the directive.	Implement and undertake all projects identified under the Sustainability Strategy Implementation Plan. Refer direct to plan for further detail. * Focus area 3 - Sustainable Procurement * Focus area 4 - Resource Recovery and Waste	Waste Management Plans adopted on all projects Reduction in council waste volumes going to landfill. Increased number of projects utilising recycled product and promoting circular	IED E&S - Sustainability Section	Council Industry Community	Medium		Dec-21	Dec-26	In progress	15
#2, #7	Establish a program for best practice recognition for the industry.	Encourage best practice and leading by example with new initiatives and outcomes by establishing an incentive program to recognise the good performance and actions	The industry continues to forge forward with new technology and practices in order to achieve better outcomes and efficiencies.		Industry Community	Long		Dec-24	Dec-28	Not started	0
#8, #9	Maintain awareness for state and national funding and grant opportunities for both Council and the industry.	Actively seek out funding opportunities for Council to continue to deliver quality and leading recovery services and facilities.	Delivery on infrastructure funded by external opportunities. Increase in new circular economy and recovery development supported by economic stimulus through grants. Return for the community through additional funding to improve general infrastructure	Council - various	Council Industry Community	Long		Jun-21	Dec-30	On-going	10
#8, #9	Maintain awareness for state and national funding and grant opportunities for both Council and the industry.	Actively seek out funding opportunities for Council to create a return for the Ipswich community in investment in other infrastructure.	Delivery on infrastructure funded by external opportunities. Increase in new circular economy and recovery development supported by economic stimulus through grants. Return for the community through additional funding to improve general infrastructure	Council - various	Council Community	Long		Jun-21	Dec-30	On-going	10
#8, #9	Maintain awareness for state and national funding and grant opportunities for both Council and the industry.	Establish working relationship with Economic Development to increase awareness of available funding opportunities to the industry.	Delivery on infrastructure funded by external opportunities. Increase in new circular economy and recovery development supported by economic stimulus through grants. Return for the community through additional funding to improve general infrastructure	CC&ED ED P&RS GM	Industry	Long		Jun-21	Dec-30	On-going	10
#8, #9	Maintain awareness for state and national funding and grant opportunities for both Council and the industry.	Prepare and advocate to the government and other external sources for increased funding through Economic Development and Major Projects work to fund better infrastructure and returns for Ipswich.	Delivery on infrastructure funded by external opportunities. Increase in new circular economy and recovery development supported by economic stimulus through grants. Return for the community through additional funding to improve general infrastructure	CC&ED ED P&RS GM	Industry	Long	Economic Development Plan and Advocacy documents	Jun-21	Dec-30	On-going	10

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#9	Seek to reduce the Waste Levy payable by council and increase the return for Council.	Respond to the State Government Waste Levy Report	Reduction in amount of waste levy payable over the next 10 years. Reduction in waste volume reporting. Success in seeking return funding through the levy for Council.	P&RS GM	State Government Council	Short		Jun-21	Oct-21	Complete		100
#9	Seek to reduce the Waste Levy payable by council and increase the return for Council.	Changes in the domestic waste collection under the Resource Recovery Implementation Plan.	Reduction in amount of waste levy payable over the next 10 years. Reduction in waste volume reporting. Success in seeking return funding through the levy for Council.	IED E&S - Resource Recovery Section	Community	Medium	Resource Recovery Implementation Plan	Jul-21	Dec-23	In progress		50
#9	Seek to reduce the Waste Levy payable by council and increase the return for Council.	Work with internal areas of council on better waste management processes to improve construction waste practices and reduce internal cost of Waste Levy driven through the Sustainability Strategy.	Reduction in amount of waste levy payable over the next 10 years. Reduction in waste volume reporting. Success in seeking return funding through the levy for Council.	IED E5 - Sustainability Section / Resource Recovery Section	Council	Short	Sustainability Strategy	Jun-22	Jul-23	In progress		15
#9	Seek to reduce the Waste Levy payable by council and increase the return for Council.	Ensure Council gets the best return for the community through leveraging Government Waste Levy initiatives and grant funding.	Reduction in amount of waste levy payable over the next 10 years. Reduction in waste volume reporting. Success in seeking return funding through the levy for Council.	Council - various	Council Community	Long	Sustainability Strategy	Jul-21	Jul-30	On-going		30
#9	Determine opportunities to gain better returns for Ipswich through legislative avenues and levies charged by Council.	Review the differential rate to determine if increases are required in certain areas based on managing large volumes of waste from outside of Ipswich (transport, infrastructure).	Increase in available council investment to local infrastructure surrounding industry sites for asset maintenance purposes.	CS F P&RS GM	Council Industry	Short		Mar-22	Jun-23	In progress		10
#10	Council to assess and respond to all application enquiries inline with the directive and which supports new and continued industry in Ipswich.	Undertake review and assessment of any pre-lodgement enquiries, applications or State Government special projects as required. Seek assistance as necessary from specialist advisors to provide additional advice and	Keep abreast of all new industry proposals submitted to both the State Government as special interest projects and council to ensure proper evaluation, community engagement and support where applicable.	P&RS - various	Council Industry Community	Long	Development Applications Shape your Ipswich Consultation	Jun-21	Dec-30	On-going		15
#10	Council to assess and respond to all application enquiries inline with the directive and which supports new and continued industry in Ipswich.	Undertake community consultation to inform the community adequately of any proposals.	Keep abreast of all new industry proposals submitted to both the State Government as special interest projects and council to ensure proper evaluation, community engagement	P&RS - various CS - various	Council Industry Community	Long	Shape your Ipswich Consultation page	Jul-21	Dec-30	On-going		15
#10	Ensure consideration of future planning and legislation in the instance of major disaster events.	Work with State Government and other local councils to establish appropriate planning controls and emergent legislation for the future development of Resource Recovery precincts. In addition, address immediate	In the event of a major disaster planning documents and legislation allows for emergent decisions to be made to deal with any current event.	Council - various State Government CoMSEQ	Council Industry	Medium		Jun-22	Dec-23	On-going		50

Doc ID No: A10532769

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESILIENT RIVERS  
INITIATIVE THROUGH SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF MAYORS

AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 15 AUGUST 2024

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is a report concerning Ipswich City Council's financial contribution to the Resilient Rivers Initiative through Council of Mayors (SEQ).

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

**That Ipswich City Council pay Council of Mayors (SEQ) the sum of \$224,263 as its financial contribution to the Resilient Rivers Initiative for the 2024-2025 financial year.**

### **RELATED PARTIES**

Council of Mayors (SEQ) and its member councils.

### **IFUTURE THEME**

Natural and Sustainable

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

Ipswich City Council has been working alongside the Council of Mayors (SEQ) as part of the Resilient Rivers Initiative (RRI) since 2014. Council has helped guide the process of developing a catchment-based investment mechanism and more recently the investment strategy (Attachment 1) through officer involvement in consultative and Steering Committees throughout this time.

To date Council has received more than \$350,000 in financial contributions to carry out waterway and landscape improvements in the Black Snake Creek Catchment. This funding provided through the RRI, with Brisbane City Council as the main funding contributor over the first 5 years, acknowledging the benefits to be gleaned to the city by investing in upstream Catchments.

Over this period Council has contributed 'in kind' to the management and delivery of on-ground works within the focus catchments as well as \$30,000 annually to the support and wages of the Bremer Catchment Officer who is hosted 1-2 days a week at 1 Nicolas Street (this was paid by agreement to Scenic Rim Council who administer the position).



Over the last 2 years Council officers have been in discussions regarding the option of making an annual financial contribution to the RRI in line with other contributing Council members, including Logan, Brisbane, Scenic Rim, Moreton Bay, Redlands and Gold Coast

At the end of the 23-24 financial year, the Resilient River Initiative completed a review, published the new investment strategy, and introduced new governance structures and terms of reference for the governance groups to prepare for the upcoming City Deal commitment. This will see \$40M invested into the region's waterways over the next 5 years through the Resilient Rivers Initiative as part of a cooperative partnership between the three levels of government.

Presently, an agreement and or contract between COMSEQ and the member councils is being considered and under development by COMSEQ officers. In the absence of this agreement, a council resolution is sought to support the payment of this year's contribution.

Environment and Sustainability Department's operational budget for 24/25 includes the sum of \$250,000 to cover council's contribution to the RRI for this year. Each Council will be making a per-capita-based payment to cover the local government level commitment.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:  
*Land Act 1994*

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There is no direct policy implications or relevant material to address this matter.

The objectives of the Resilient Rivers Initiative, and by extension the funding, align with the objectives and intent of the Natural Environment Policy.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There is a risk that in not being a contributing member to the RRI, Council may not in turn be eligible to receive the associated leveraged funding through the City Deal to deliver waterway improvement works for the Ipswich Local Government Area.

There is a further long-term financial risk that the lack of a contribution could limit the delivery or extent of works that could benefit Ipswich's waterways and by extension the entire region.

There are minor risks associated with making a contribution in the absence of a formal legal contract or agreement outlining the specific terms and conditions, that Council would not have legal recourse if the monies were mismanaged. This is mitigated through Council representation at the Mayor and Senior Management level on the RRI Taskforce, Program Control Group, and sub-regional steering committees. This risk is also mitigated through Council's resolved membership of Council of Mayors (SEQ).

The risks associated with not approving this recommendation centre around following of appropriate and transparent probity process in regard to the expenditure of public funds and documenting and recording decisions. This will best mitigate the risk of any recourse or future questions around the management of council monies.

### FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The contributions of \$224,263 is within the approved Environment and Sustainability budget for this financial year. It is envisaged that Council and the local/regional waterways will receive between 1-3x return on investment through the additional leveraged funding.

This payment will also supersede the need to make the annual labour contributions for the Bremer Catchment Officer as it will be included as part of this amount.

It is envisaged that this is likely to be a recurring annual payment for the duration of the City Deal and beyond.

### COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The development of the investment strategy, governance and program planning for the RRI has been done over several years with Member Councils, relevant Queensland Government Departments, Natural Resource Management groups, and other relevant stakeholders.

### CONCLUSION



In order to progress as active members of the Council Of Mayors (SEQ) Resilient Rivers Initiative for the 2024-2025 financial year it is recommended that Council resolves to make a financial contribution to the program, in line with other SEQ councils. This in turn will allow Council access to the funding from other levels of government and other member councils through the City Deal for investment in our local and regional waterways in line with the Resilient Rivers Initiative: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy.

### HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	That Ipswich City Council pay South East Queensland Council of Mayors the sum of \$224,263 as its annual financial contribution to the Resilient Rivers Initiative for the 2024-2025 financial year
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by this decision
(c) How are the 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.
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#### ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Resilient Rivers Initiative SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy  
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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”***



# resilientRIVERS

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

**Resilient Rivers Initiative:**  
SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy



# Contents

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Resilient Rivers Initiative recognises, respects and values the knowledge of waterways and wetlands management held by First Nations people, which has evolved over generations of living on and managing custodial responsibility for Country, as well as their rights and interests in Country.

Council of Mayors (SEQ) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land of the Badtjala, Barunggam, Bundjalung Dungibara, Giabal, Gubbi Gubbi, Jagera, Jarowair, Jinibara, Kabi Kabi, Kitabul, Quandamooka, Turrbal, Ugarapul, Wakka Wakka, Yugambeh, Yugara/ Yagara and Ugrarapul people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture, and the contribution they make to the life of this region. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.



**Stakeholder Acknowledgement:**

This document was developed through generous contributions from elected members, environment officers, staff, and First Nations people from across the region. Thank you for your input, discussions, and ideas.

Brisbane City Council, Noosa Shire Council, Sunshine Coast Council, City of Moreton Bay, Redland City Council, Logan City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, Seqwater, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Department of Environment and Science, Urban Utilities, Healthy Land and Water, Port of Brisbane, Unitywater, Danggan Balun Aboriginal Corporation, Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Group Inc, Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, Kabi Kabi Aboriginal Corporation, Kombumerri Rangers, Munujali Nation, Maibin Jahyilah Yahgilah Inc, Ngarang-Wal Gold Coast Aboriginal Association Incorporated, Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, Turrbal Nation, Wakka Wakka Nation, Wirrinyah Conservation Services, Yugambeh Nation, Yugarabul Nation, Yuggera Nation.

**Cover image:** Photo by Gary Cranitch @ Queensland Museum.

**Funding Partners:**



**Acknowledgement of Country**

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# Lord Mayor’s Message

South East Queenslanders have a strong affinity with our waterways. From Moreton Bay and its islands, to our dams, rivers, creek and coastline - our waterways and wetlands are an important part of what South East Queenslanders love about where they live.

Across the south east they provide a place to relax and recreate; they support food production, local business and our economy; they sustain local ecosystems and life; and they provide the perfect backdrop to eat, dine and catch-up with family and friends.

But our waterways are under increased pressure from population growth and natural disasters. That’s why the Resilient Rivers: South East Queensland Waterway and Wetlands Investment Strategy (the Strategy) is so important.

That’s why the Resilient Rivers: South East Queensland Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy (the Strategy) is so important.

The Strategy provides a coordinated approach to how we manage and invest across the south east. It will drive improved collaboration and provides a framework for all levels of government, utilities, industry, investors and communities to work together to improve the health of the waterways we all share.

It will deliver targeted improvements to waterway health, enhanced flood resilience and work with local communities, landowners and First Nations people to improve land, waterway and wetland management outcomes across our region.

As we look to the future, the Resilient Rivers Initiative has been highlighted as a key program in the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Strategy – Elevate 2042. It has also been supercharged with new investment from the Australian Government and Queensland Government through the SEQ City Deal.

This Strategy will help to ensure we leverage these opportunities to deliver significant benefits for South East Queensland’s waterways and wetlands before and after the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner

Chair  
Council of Mayors (South East Queensland)



# Minister’s Message

Water sustains all life, but here in South East Queensland it also defines our lifestyle and economy. Whether it’s camping on the Stanley River, irrigating the Lockyer Valley, sailing on Moreton Bay, generating power at Wivenhoe Dam, fishing at Moogerah Dam, swimming at Mooloolaba beach, exploring the waterfalls of the Scenic Rim, bird watching at Boondall Wetlands or wandering through the River City, water is intrinsic to our life and lifestyle.

The Resilient Rivers Initiative is a generational commitment that signals a transformative era for the sustainability of South East Queensland’s waterways headlined by a \$40 million investment through the SEQ City Deal, led by the Council of Mayors (SEQ), Queensland Government and the Australian Government. The Resilient Rivers: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy provides a comprehensive plan to improve the health of our catchments and waterways by increasing native vegetation, fortifying erosion control and enhancing bank stability all the way from our hinterlands out to Moreton Bay.

In the face of challenges like rapid population growth and increasingly severe natural disasters, it’s essential that we take a holistic approach to the management of South East Queensland’s waterways and wetlands. Because the best way to protect the delicate Moreton Bay marine ecosystem from the impacts of downstream sediment runoff is to address these issues upstream at their source.

This work will unite government and multiple stakeholders together to improve South East Queensland’s water security, lifestyle, and disaster mitigation. I thank all involved for stepping up to the mantle of addressing tomorrow’s challenges today.

## Leanne Linard MP

Minister for the Environment and the  
Great Barrier Reef  
Minister for Science and Minister for  
Multicultural Affairs



# The Resilient Rivers Initiative: a decade of coordination and success

The Resilient Rivers Initiative (RRI) has been a successful partnership between Council of Mayors (SEQ), the Queensland Government, water utilities, key regional waterways and catchment organisations and the community for almost 10 years. It has delivered coordinated catchment management to improve the health and resilience of South East Queensland’s catchments, waterways and the internationally significant Moreton Bay.

The Resilient Rivers Initiative was established as a response to the devastation of the 2011 and 2013 floods in South East Queensland, through recognition that coordinated catchment management is needed to protect our water and keep soil on land and out of waterways. At its core, the Resilient Rivers Initiative recognises that we can deliver more through collaboration, cooperation and coordination than working alone.

The Resilient Rivers Initiative was launched with the development of a South East Queensland Resilient Rivers Initiative Regional Strategy 2015-2025. The Resilient Rivers Initiative Regional Strategy set the direction for management of waterways and has guided the successful delivery of more than \$8.3 million of investment to deliver priority works to protect and improve SEQ’s waterways, working collaboratively with its partners and the community.

An economic study undertaken in 2020 revealed that the \$4.3 million worth of investment that had taken place at that point in time provided an additional \$3.8 million of returns for local government area regions, in the form of local capital and employment.

## A new era of opportunity

The success of the RRI, and its ability to have even greater success, has been recognised by significant further investment through the South East Queensland City Deal (SEQ City Deal, 2023). The SEQ City Deal is a tripartite commitment between the Australian Government, Queensland Government and Council of Mayors (SEQ) to positively transform SEQ by delivering a significant package of initiatives generating thousands of local jobs, boosting digital and transport connectivity, supporting the local environment, enhancing liveability and creating thriving communities.

The SEQ City Deal commits \$40 million over the next five years (until 2028) to fund works to improve the health and resilience of the region’s rivers and waterways. Under the SEQ City Deal, the RRI aligns within the outcome for a more livable SEQ, which aims to deliver a healthy, sustainable and livable region through new investments in urban amenities and blue and green environmental assets.

Additionally, CoMSEQ is working closely with Department of Environment and Science (DES) to ensure RRI aligns with and complements other programs for healthy waters and wetlands in SEQ. This includes objectives under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

As SEQ prepares to host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, there is a unique opportunity to build on these successes and drive a transformational shift in delivering the much-needed improvements in our catchments and waterways.

To realise this opportunity, and the many local and regional benefits that will be delivered from increased investment in the protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of the region’s waterways, the Resilient Rivers Initiative – SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy (the Strategy) (this document) has been developed.

# The Resilient Rivers Initiative: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy

This strategy will guide the delivery of the enhanced Resilient Rivers Initiative under the SEQ City Deal, enabling transparent, efficient and effective decision making for investment in on-ground action that achieves real outcomes for the region. The Strategy adopts a whole-of-system, values-based approach to management, which considers management at multiple scales in the context of the ecosystem services and values provided by waterways and wetlands. Developed through comprehensive consultation across 19 organisations and with First Nations peoples, the Strategy recognises people as central to decision making and promotes management responses that achieve multiple objectives.

In addition, the Strategy recognises opportunities to leverage additional funding and investment through the collaborative partnership model that underpins the RRI, for the betterment of SEQ’s waterways and wetlands, creating regional jobs, supporting local communities and facilitating economic growth and development.

This Strategy **builds on the success** of the Resilient Rivers Initiative to date, captured within case studies which celebrate the innovation, hard work and collaboration of **local people all over South East Queensland.**

The Strategy aligns with and advances the objectives of numerous regional, State and international plans and policies. At a regional scale, the 2023 update to the *South East Queensland Regional Plan, Shaping SEQ 2017*, directly calls out the Resilient Rivers Initiative to provide water sensitive communities with a strategy to protect and sustainably manage the region’s catchments. The Resilient Rivers Initiative is also identified as a key program to achieving the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Strategy, Elevate 2042. This strategy recognises the intrinsic importance of healthy lands and waterways, seeking continual improvement in riverine, estuarine and marine water quality, and provides further opportunity for investment spurred by the upcoming Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The improved coordination and management of SEQ catchments through this Strategy will also support the maintenance and improvement of the ecological character of South East Queensland’s internationally listed Ramsar site - Moreton Bay.





About SEQ and our waterways

For more than 60,000 years the waterways of SEQ have been the source and support of life for First Nations People, living in close harmony with the land and water of the region. This relationship with waterways and wetlands continues to be critical for the people of South East Queensland today, as the only major Australian settlement built substantially on floodplains. The topography of the region has resulted in 19 relatively short catchments flowing from the nearby Great Dividing Range into the internationally recognised Moreton Bay.

SEQ has grown to be home to more than 3.8 million people, and is the fastest growing region in the country with thriving industry and business offering new opportunities for employment, lifestyle, and investment. The region's success is intrinsically linked with its waterways and wetlands and the ecosystem services and values they provide to the people of SEQ. Significant post-European modification and disturbance of the waterways and wetlands, including dredging of the lower estuaries for shipping, extensive land clearing, industrial pollution, resource extraction and rehabilitation, has negatively impacted these ecosystem services and values.

The current gross domestic product (GDP) of the region is \$1.5 billion, half that of Queensland. The capacity of SEQ to continue to grow its population, its economy and employment, whilst maintaining the quality of life for which the region is renowned for and that is desired by the community, is directly linked to the capacity of its waterways, wetlands, and catchments to support this growth.

The impacted state of the region's waterways and wetlands is leading to losses of productive agricultural lands, reduction in climate resilience and impacts on the receiving environments – ultimately impacting their associated ecosystem services and values such as tourism, recreation and resource availability (e.g. water supply and fisheries). Protecting, managing, restoring and rehabilitating SEQ's waterways and wetlands is critical to maintaining the ecosystem services and values that underpin the lifestyle and economy of the region.





# Resilient Rivers Initiative

## Vision, Aims, Values

*Our region's waterways and wetlands are **healthy and resilient**, sustained through regional partnership and the community's stewardship to preserve and **enhance their cultural, economic, and life-sustaining value.***

### Aims

The above vision is underpinned by key goals that support achievement of the vision. The Strategy focuses on elevating above the business-as-usual activities of our partner's effort to achieve outcomes at a regional scale where cross-boundary and cross-jurisdiction coordination and partnership is essential for success.

**The Resilient Rivers Initiative aims to:**

- Prioritise action that will protect, maintain and enhance the ecosystem services and values provided by the region's waterways and wetlands, using robust information, science and knowledge
- Promote partnerships with strong leadership and good governance to influence planning and policy in the region to support achievement of the vision
- Facilitate landholder, community and industry stewardship of waterways and wetlands
- Incorporate First Nations cultural values and ecological management for waterways and catchments through robust engagement and collaboration
- Be a beacon for waterway and wetland investment in the region, working in partnership to realise desired environmental outcomes and investors needs



Photo by Gary Cranitch @ Queensland Museum.

### Values

To achieve the vision, we must understand the intrinsic and existence values and ecosystem services being provided by waterways and wetlands. Through stakeholder engagement six overarching categories of ecosystem services and values that are important to the people of SEQ were identified. These underpin decision making for management intervention investment for the Resilient Rivers Initiative.



#### Resilience

Resilience means that waterways and wetlands (being the rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, estuaries and their catchments) can adapt to pressures (e.g. a growing population and climate change) and are prepared for threats (e.g. floods and droughts) enabling them to continue providing functions and values (e.g. water quality, biodiversity and amenity) that are indicative of good condition.



#### Biodiversity

South East Queensland is one of the most diverse bioregions in the world with a number of ecological features (such as waterways, rainforests, fauna) of international significance which are loved by the community and tourists alike. Hundreds of threatened and migratory species depend on the extent and connectivity of natural areas in the region for their survival and the regions' waterways support a number of iconic species such as dugongs, turtles, whales, platypus and lungfish.



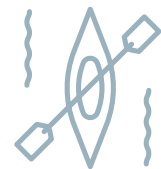
#### Water and Food Security

Waterways and wetlands sustain our lives, livelihoods and lifestyles providing fit-for-purpose water, both in terms of quality and quantity, to grow the food we eat, the materials we manufacture and the water we drink.



#### Cultural

For First Nations peoples, the waterways are the arteries of the land. Land, sky, water and people are connected and inseparable. Water is of critical importance for the health of Country and its people.



#### Social and Amenity

Our unique waterways support our quality of life as well as our mental and physical wellbeing. The natural scenic amenity of the region's waterways and their biodiversity value is one of its greatest assets for tourism and migration, being highly sought after for its recreational opportunities such as fishing, watercraft, swimming and nature immersion.



#### Scientific and Research Excellence

The uniqueness and richness of the SEQ region makes it an ideal location for study and the pursuit of knowledge. It is a center of scientific excellence with a high quality of understanding of the functions and processes that shape the region, which brings confidence and trust for investors interested in influencing its condition.

## Strategic Focus Areas

There is clear evidence that a whole -of -system approach is needed to fully integrate the economic, environmental, and social aspects of waterway management in SEQ. A number of strategic focus areas are proposed to drive this intervention and achieve the vision and goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative.

The core work of the RRI is delivering high-impact on-ground projects across all relevant local government areas. The other strategic focus areas are designed to support and enable this to occur.



### Strategic focus 1: Improving information and data

**Objective:** Up-to date, scientifically robust and integrated information is available for evidence-based decision making and informing best practice protection, management and rehabilitation of waterways and wetlands.

Effective, efficient protection, management, rehabilitation and restoration of waterways requires robust scientific information and tools. This information includes understanding the components and processes of a system, the services it provides, how people value them and how they respond to pressures. Knowing where they are (i.e. mapping), and their condition is also important. This information can be used to inform management action locations and activities, monitoring of management activities, targeting investment, assisting with land use planning and improving education and awareness. Improving information available for decision making involves building on existing information, developing and integrating new information and making that information available.

- Action:** Work with Partners to identify data and information needs and gaps and to design a program for delivery.
- Action:** Adopt existing best practice standards and guidelines for the management and rehabilitation of waterways and wetlands and develop or contribute to the development of new ones as required.
- Action:** Work with partners to improve waterway and wetland mapping to ensure activities are focused on key priorities.



### Strategic focus 2: Planning and governance

**Objective:** The region's planning and policy frameworks and governance supports desired outcomes for waterways management

The two greatest risks to waterway health and resilience are climate change and population growth. It is important to ensure that the expansion of our urban and regional footprint, is underpinned by policies and frameworks that support outcomes for waterway health and resilience in the face of these pressures. Planning and regulatory processes directly influence activities which impact (both positive and negative) on waterway health and resilience. In Queensland, the complex nature of managing waterways and wetlands is further exacerbated by complex statutory arrangements for waterways. Efforts to manage, rehabilitate, protect and build resilience in waterways and wetlands must be accompanied by policy and legislative tools that support them. The Resilient Rivers Initiative provides an opportunity for Partners to develop a shared understanding of these impacts to inform the development of planning and regulatory processes that appropriately consider the health and resilience of waterways. It also provides an opportunity to develop a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities amongst government, industry and other stakeholders. Therefore, the RRI will be innovative in its approach to implement a robust and effective governance model to advocate for waterways and wetlands in the policy and planning landscape.

- Action:** Implement governance arrangements and delivery model.
- Action:** Investigate opportunities to streamline approval process for projects that deliver ecosystem services and wise use of waterways and wetlands outcomes.
- Action:** Work with partners to maximise the opportunities for waterway ecosystem service delivery.





*Strategic focus 3: Investment*

**Objective:** Attract investment from public and private sector to accelerate the rehabilitation of waterways and wetlands in SEQ.

Building the resilience of SEQ’s waterways and wetlands is an urgent challenge and meeting that challenge is likely to require significant investment. Globally, the current level of investment in restoring ecosystems and building resilience comes predominantly from public and philanthropic investors and is considered nowhere near the scale to meet the challenge. RRI seeks to attract significant additional public and private investment, including opportunities through emerging markets, such as natural capital investment, to the region to accelerate and upscale activities that protect, manage, rehabilitate and restore waterway health and resilience. Key principles for this investment will include:

- Long term sustainability: prioritise the long-term sustainability of projects as rehabilitation and conservation efforts require long-term commitment;
- Investment incentives: encourage private investment in catchment and waterway environmental projects.
- Collaboration and Partnerships: between different stakeholders, including co-investment between government agencies, non-profit organisations, private sector entities, and local communities.
- Risk sharing: mitigate the financial risks associated with environmental projects and share the risks associated with the project among the participating partners.
- Transparency and Accountability: clear accountability in the allocation and use of funds.
- Flexibility and innovation: adapt to changing environmental challenges and community needs and to support new ideas and approaches that can drive positive environmental outcomes.
- Best value for money: careful and considered use of funds to achieve the best outcome and highest return on investment.

To support ongoing investment, sharing real-life stories and showcasing the tangible impact of that investment will be a powerful way for RRI to grow. Highlighting success stories and the positive change that has come about through previous investments can help build trust and encourage future investment.

**Action:** Investigate options for attracting investment to maximise outcomes of the Strategy.

**Action:** Develop a prospectus to attract investment.

*Strategic focus 4: On ground activities to protect, manage, restore and rehabilitate*

**Objective:** Implement on-ground activities that protect, manage, rehabilitate and restore the health and resilience of SEQ’s waterways and wetlands.

Actions under this theme will seek to protect, manage, rehabilitate, and restore the key ecosystem services and values identified by stakeholders via catchment management planning processes. Management intervention options may include a mix of Best Management Practice including pressure reduction, systems repair, engineered solutions, and engagement extension and education.

**Action:** Review and update the Catchment Action Plans using the whole-of-system values-based approach.

**Action:** Prioritise projects based on their contribution to achieving the vision and alignment with the key values of the Strategy to maximise positive environmental and community outcomes.

**Action:** Plan and deliver projects using the Aquatic Ecosystem Rehabilitation Process.



Photo by Gary Cranitch @ Queensland Museum.





**Strategic focus 5:** Engagement, education, communication, advocacy and capacity building

**Objective:** Improved awareness of the value of waterways and wetlands enhances stewardship of our waterways by the community.

The communities of SEQ are intrinsically connected to the region’s waterways. The community benefits from the services waterways and wetlands provide (such as food and water supply, recreation and culture) but also are impacted by the declining state of waterways and wetlands through outcomes such as poor water quality, habitat destruction and flooding that impact on these services. Most of the region’s waterways run through privately owned land. The actions of landholders and those of the community, can positively and negatively impact the health and resilience of SEQ’s waterways and wetlands. Commitment from landholders and the community to undertaking the long-term management and care for the rehabilitation sites is critical to ensure that long term outcomes are achieved. SEQ landholders and the community will play a significant role in the protection, management and rehabilitation of the health of waterways and wetlands. Engagement, education, communication, advocacy and capacity building are critical success factors to creating a shared understanding, driving innovation and action and encouraging best practice management of waterways and wetlands.

First Nations people in SEQ have an intrinsic connection to the land and water, grounded deeply in their cultural, spiritual and historical identity. Dispossession and rapid urban development have broken their engagement with these lands, restricting their cultural practices and decision-making power. This has led to changed ecosystems, loss of traditional knowledge and impacts on sites of cultural importance. The Resilient Rivers Initiative has started on the journey towards collaborating with First Nations people (see Case Study 2). There is now an opportunity to continue this journey of collaboration with First Nations people to increase their participation in and the incorporation of their traditional knowledge and practices into land and water management in SEQ.

- Action:** Develop and implement an education, engagement, communication, advocacy and capacity building plan.
- Action:** Identify and harness regional opportunities to work with First Nations peoples in the delivery of the RRI.



**Strategic focus 6:** Monitoring, evaluation, reporting

**Objective:** An adaptive and effective monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework is implemented to improve waterways management.

Measuring the full impact of management intervention in the natural environment is a challenging proposition as it generally takes a significant time to effect change and the natural variability of the environment leads to uncertainty of the impact. However, monitoring and evaluation are essential to determine whether management intervention is implemented correctly and performing as expected so that the intended outcomes are achieved. This also allows for continual improvement and best practice management by feeding the learnings from this process into the overall approach, to drive focus areas for science and understanding and improve guidance and standards for delivery.

- Action:** Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and the efficiency of the implementation of the Strategy.
- Action:** Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects delivered as part of the Strategy.
- Action:** Work closely with Partners to monitor and evaluate the extent, condition and ecosystem services being delivered by waterways and wetlands.





Catchment Action Plan: Mid Brisbane  
Site: Glamorgan Vale Rd  
Area: 8 ha  
Date Planted: May 2022

Case Study 1:  
Black Snake Creek collaborative  
transformation

In 2014 Ipswich City Council (ICC), in partnership with multiple stakeholders and the local Marburg community, produced the Upper Black Snake Creek Improvement Plan (UBSCIP). A whole-of-system values-based approach identified catchment salinity as a key threat to water quality of the Brisbane River and the Mount Crosby Treatment Plant, potentially impacting on water supply. Seqwater monitor this threat at multiple sites on Black Snake Creek and downstream of the confluence with the Brisbane River. The UBSCIP identified multiple objectives: for this project including reducing salinity and sediment, as well as flood risk.

A site investigation and an implementation plan were undertaken, with the initial work site chosen primarily because the landholders had an interest in rehabilitating country. The site is highly visible, with a broad channel arrangement and significant exposed earth, so any changes due to the rehabilitation efforts will be pronounced. A geomorphic investigation of the site was undertaken.

The investigation identified most of the degradation within the channel and floodplain was likely due to subaerial erosion processes primarily from cattle impacts. Cattle pugging can strip topsoil and groundcover, creating concentrated flows within the floodplain and stream banks. The lack of groundcover in these impacted areas makes them prone to the impacts of rainfall splash, runoff and stream flow, leading to degradation of the channel and floodplain. There was no major evidence of fluvial scour or mass failure processes within the channel, most likely due to the low stream power and low bank heights.

Based on this assessment, catchment officers recommended the removal of stock from the floodplain and riparian zone. Riparian and floodplain vegetation was planted to improve the bank and floodplain condition over time, and ultimately reduce erosion and improve flood mitigation. Planting included deep-rooted vegetation to lower the saltwater table and reduce salinity downstream over time.

The planting area was fenced and cattle removed; with an initial planting flooded soon after being laid down. The flood did minor damage and required debris removal but as it was slow moving, across a broad floodplain, the flood is now seen in hindsight as an element of the success of this planting. The areas planted and flooded have achieved exceptional growth in comparison to other sites in the district and those planted on this site shortly after the rain event.

A spectacular aspect of this project is the recovery of the landscape and the coverage of the couch grass once the cattle were removed. The improved health and vibrancy of the site post-rehabilitation can be seen by the diversity of flora and fauna now observed at the site.

Twelve months after completion the **entire exposed area is now completely covered**. This high level of cover will **reduce erosion and improve flood mitigation** in future rainfall events.

Now in its fourth phase, projects under the UBSCIP have led to more than 40,000 trees being planted across 10 properties. Critical success factors for this project were clarity of communication with landholders as well as project partners and contractors, quality site investigation to inform robust design for the site, oversight of the contractor in the implementation of the site preparation, and planting to ensure the design was implemented appropriately while meeting landholder needs.

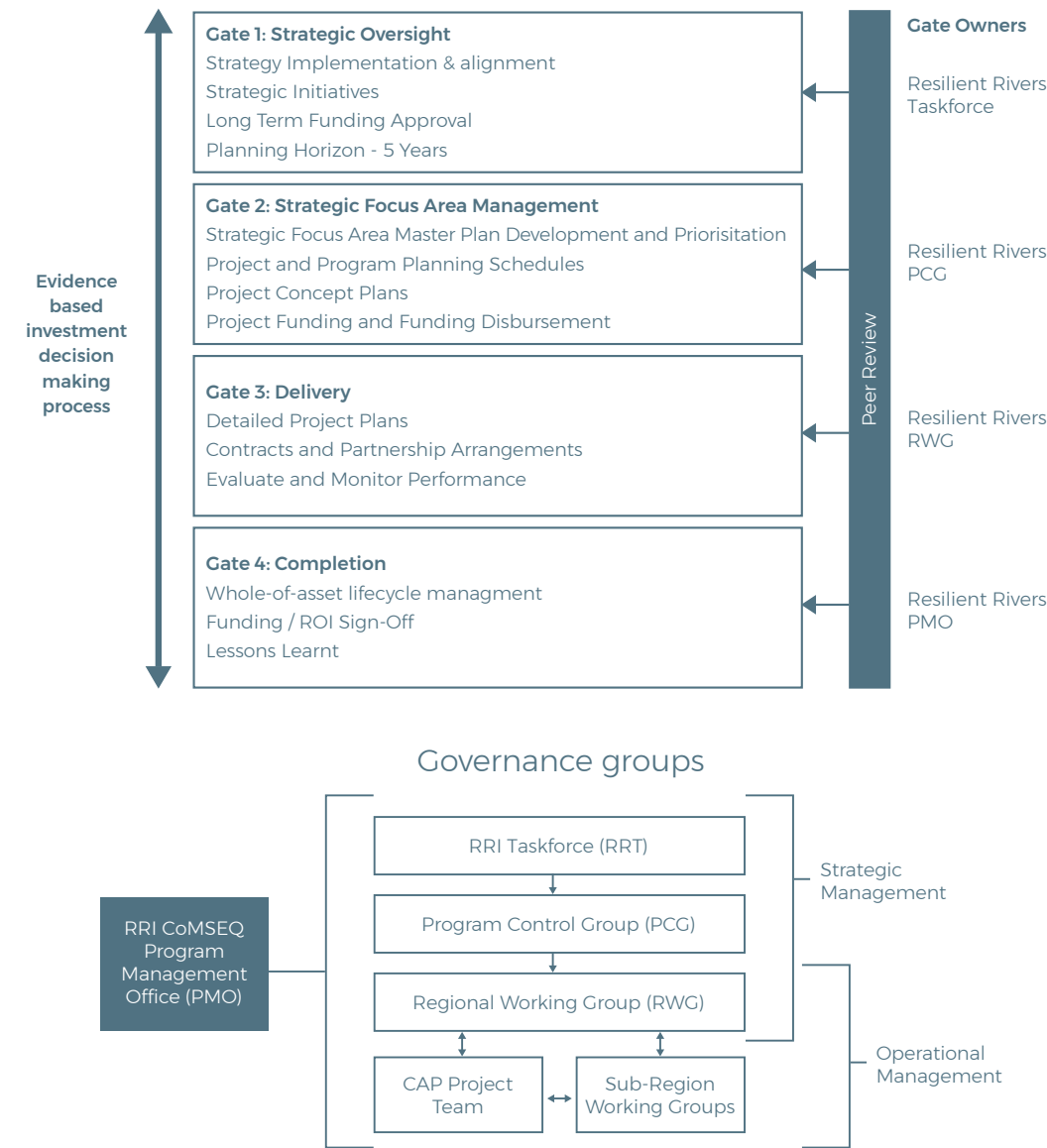


Governance Framework

Responsibility for the delivery of the RRI is led by the Council of Mayors (SEQ) - CoMSEQ, representing councils across the SEQ. CoMSEQ will deliver against this Strategy, including leading the RRI Project Management Office (PMO).

The RRI PMO provides overall leadership and coordination, supporting the Resilient Rivers Taskforce (RRT), a Program Control Group (PCG) and a Regional Working Group (RWG). The RRT provides the highest level of governance for the RRI, supported by the PCG which has a regional focus on master plan development and prioritisation. The PCG sets the direction for the RWG which coordinates development and delivery of the Catchment Action Plans (CAPs).

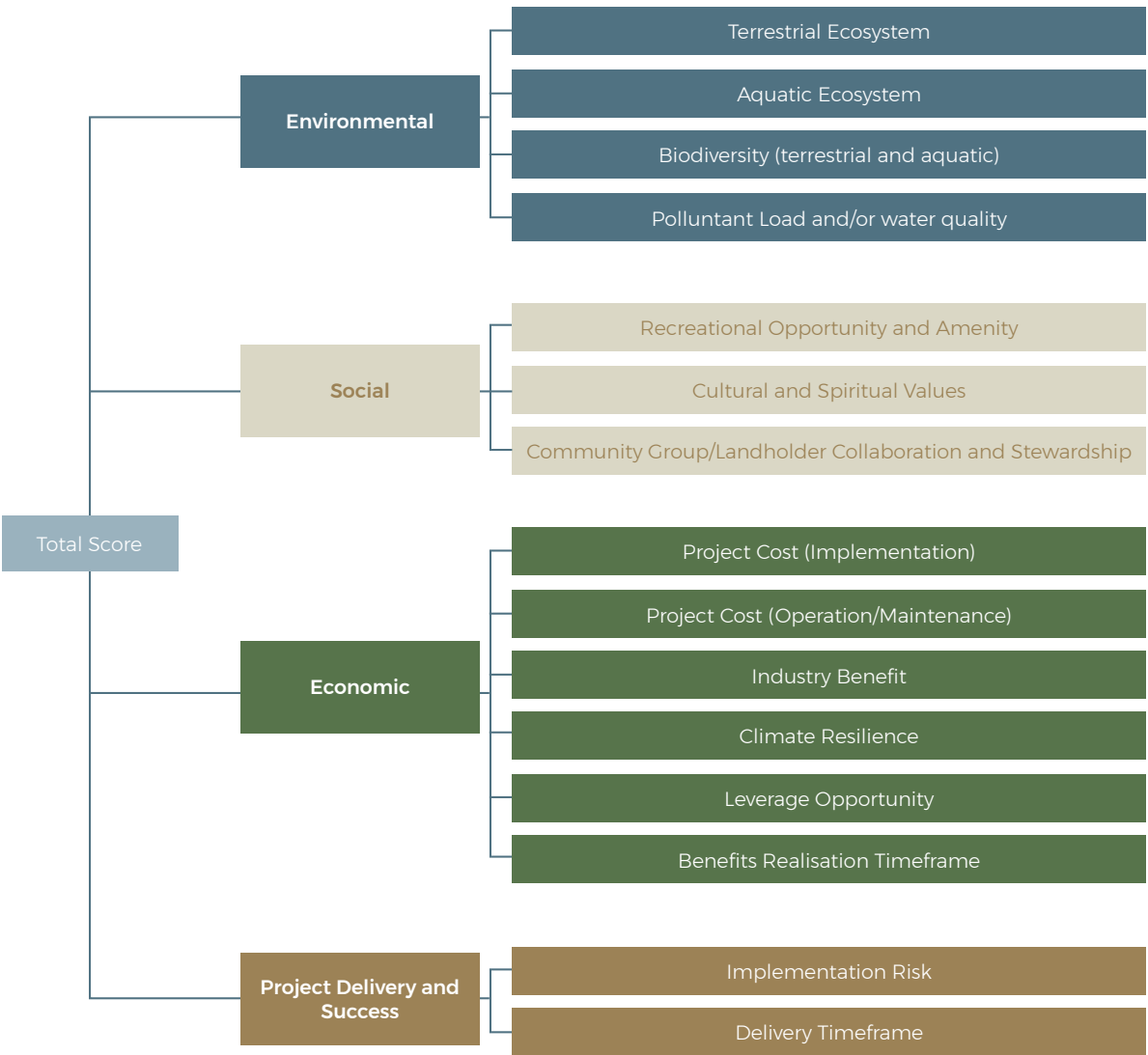
Operations groups may also exist (such as Catchment Action Plan working groups and sub-regional focus groups) coordinated through the RWG.



Prioritisation Process

Projects undertaken by the Resilient Rivers Initiative will align with the strategic focus areas of the Strategy. The prioritisation process will be adaptive and will enable the PCG and RWG to make informed, consistent and transparent decisions on projects that will be selected for funding, independent of catchment area.

Projects will be prioritized based on their contribution to the achievement of the overarching vision and their ability to achieve multiple objectives that align with the six key values of the Strategy and maximise outcomes from investments for the benefit of the environment, the community and future generations. The process is designed to provide confidence to investors that investment in on-ground works will be made in those projects that contribute the strongest overall outcomes for the waterways and wetlands of SEQ.







Catchment Action Plan: Lockyer  
Site: Park Lea, Placid Hills  
Area: 7 ha  
Date planted: April - June 2023

## Case Study 2:

### Investing in revegetation for multiple benefits

Management interventions that focus on revegetation and avoid civil works (where possible) are understood to be the best value-for-money and most effective rehabilitation approaches for riverbanks. Using this guiding principle, an investigation was undertaken to determine the best approach to revegetate an 8km reach of the Lockyer Creek near Gatton, looking for high value, low risk stream bank and bench stabilisation planting opportunities. The investigation examined geomorphic and hydrological components and processes to determine erosion risks associated with high flow flood events. Several priority sites were identified, including Council-owned Parklea reservation. This site was part of the creek floodplain that had become overrun with weeds and had suffered extensive damage from cattle grazing.

This site has high community value, both for the township of Gatton but also for the local First Nations community. Building on the work undertaken to identify the site, a collaborative approach was taken to researching, designing, and delivering the rehabilitation project. This included extensive and direct collaboration with Wirinyah First Nations Services, the wider Gatton community, and investment partners Greening Australia.

The project was researched, designed and planned following the Department of Environment and Sciences Aquatic Ecosystem Rehabilitation Process and included the incorporation of First Nations traditional land management practices. As the site was located close to urban development objectives in addition to revegetation to reduce erosion included flood resilience, bush fire resilience, and creating green space for the community to connect with nature. In addition to the initial investigation, an extensive bush fire risk investigation was also undertaken at the site and applied

a rigor over the proposed revegetation design. The outcomes and recommendations of the report influenced the planting design (layout, density and species selection) so that the future revegetated site did not significantly increase bush fire hazard to the neighbouring residents. In consultation with the traditional owner group, cultural burning practice was considered for the site and future site management will include elements of this in the longer term. Other considerations included in the planning and design phase due to the proximity of the site to houses included vegetation slashing requirements to reduce immediate risks associated with overgrown vegetation on the site.

Assessing potential flood impact from the proposed revegetation is always critical, particularly when sites have close proximity to creeks, floodplains and residences. The investigation tested various planting designs using the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Flood Model. A design was selected that had no impact on downstream residences, while still reducing flood velocity and erosion potential.

Finally, reinstating koala habitat and increasing biodiversity were also objectives included in the design and planning phase.

The Resilient Rivers Initiative partnered with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Greening Australia to deliver the project, with Greening Australia contributing substantial investment from corporate and philanthropic donors looking to invest in long-term land restoration projects.

*A key part of the project implementation and **successful community engagement** was delivery of a community tree planting day held on **Earth Day** for the launch of the on-ground works.*

During this event the traditional owner groups representing the Yuggera and Barunggam people provided the welcome to country and cultural dances to welcome community, introduce the site and the project. A total of 1,200 trees and shrubs were planted on the day. The event provided local community and project funding representatives an opportunity to engage firsthand with environmental restoration, establish a connection with this site and its ecological importance on the landscape. Attendees on the day expressed how much they enjoyed the experience.

The investigation, methodical approach and process applied to building this project sets the standard to be implemented to all RRI projects and programs in the future.

The process and partnership approach was seen as attractive to investors and a commitment has been entered into to co-fund this site as well as another planting site on Lockyer Creek, to be planted in early 2024.







CAP: Logan Albert Catchment  
Action Plan 2017-2020  
Site: Various within the Mid Logan

**Case Study 3:**  
Facilitating knowledge sharing,  
co-ordination, collaboration, and action in the  
Logan River Catchment

The actions and achievements in the Mid Logan River catchment have been acknowledged for providing leadership and being a catalyst for cohesion, collaboration, efficiency and change.

Bordering both the Logan City Council (LCC) and Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRRC), the Logan River has historically presented issues for landholders, particularly those who straddle both sides of the river. One of the drivers of landholder concern has been a lack of consistency in approach to land restoration, as well as a lack of clear on-ground deliverable outcomes, leading to justified landholder cynicism when approached to be involved in restoration projects. To overcome this, the Resilient Rivers Initiative has taken a different approach: rather than multiple agencies delivering their own singular projects with limited coordination, RRI catchment officers facilitated coordination, collaboration, and action among involved groups.

An early example of the effectiveness of this collaboration was when RRI catchment officers approached the largest landholder on the Mid Logan with a proposal to undertake a range of work along reaches of their property. Initially the landholder was clearly skeptical and disinterested, however, through genuine engagement, historical issues that were concerning him were raised. Top of mind was the unwanted legacy of mesh fences across the property, installed along easements

established for and from Wyaralong Dam to the Logan River, that were overgrown and had recently caused the loss of a valuable bull. RRI catchment officers, as the collective representatives of the Councils, Seqwater and the NRM groups, agreed to investigate. Seqwater responded that the fences were no longer required and through a collective effort led by the RRI catchment officers the fences were removed within days. This timely action changed the dynamic with this landholder, from distrust to interest. On the back of this came a willingness from the initial landholder to engage and in time more landholders across this catchment have also willingly engaged. This same landholder has since installed over a kilometer of top of bank fencing to restrict cattle from the bank and the river, whilst also supporting the revegetation of 6 hectares of riparian planting through collaboration with the NRM group and co-investment from Seqwater’s Multi-catchments Sourcewater Protection Project. RRI catchment officers have now engaged with nearly 100 landholders in this catchment from lifestyle blocks to commercial farmers and are working on over 20 properties providing support, information, connection and on ground actions.

Another project of significance in this catchment was working with turf farmers and Turf Queensland (TQ) to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for turf farms. Turf production is a dominant land use in the Mid Logan and also more broadly across SEQ. Many turf farms are close or adjacent to sensitive riverine environments.

*The Resilient Rivers Turf Production Environmental Management Plan Template was developed to assist turf producers with the preparation or improvement of a plan for their farm. This helps ensure that the environmental values and responsibility, relevant to each farm, are identified, understood, adequately protected, and enhanced.*

TQ actively supported our efforts to work with a cross section of farms to gain an in-depth understanding of the various practices and needs, to develop a document that would provide a review point in regard to practices relating to on and off farm nutrient management. This has acted as a catalyst for broader understanding of this issue, to improve the timeline with Councils when applying to make modifications to farms and also advance the awareness and readiness for future challenges. This approach proved successful as RRI catchment officers worked with farmers, in the pursuit of mutual benefit, we were able to engage openly and honestly, actively deliver learnings and management plans. The management plan is now also available SEQ wide and through the TQ website. Using this approach catchment officers have developed ongoing working relationships with numerous turf farms, and their neighbours, working together on nutrient, livestock, weed and erosion management.











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