



**City of
Ipswich**

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15 October 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

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

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No.	Item Title	Page No.
	Welcome to Country or Acknowledgment of Country	
	Declarations of Interest	
	Business Outstanding	
	Confirmation of Minutes	
1	Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2024(04) of 3 September 2024	7
	Officers' Reports	
2	Ipswich City Council Membership to Healthy Land and Water 2024 - 2025	11
3	** Board Appointments of Greenovate Pty Ltd Non-Confidential Report	80
	Notices of Motion	
	Matters Arising	

** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(05)

15 OCTOBER 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(04) OF 3 SEPTEMBER 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 3 September 2024 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TO HEALTHLY LAND AND WATER 2024 - 2025**

This is a report concerning Ipswich City Council and the regional Natural Resource Management group for South East Queensland - Healthy Land and Water, specifically the current and future membership and funding arrangements which have been under review for 2 consecutive years and the value it offers to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council resolves to cease its membership of Healthy Land and Water and no longer make an annual financial membership payment.

-
3. ****BOARD APPOINTMENTS OF GREENOVATE PTY LTD NON-CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**

This paper serves as a covering report for the Council to resolve to appoint the preferred candidates for the Board Members of Greenovate Pty Ltd, the personal and private details of the candidates and recruitment process are detailed in the multiple attached confidential papers.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(a)(1) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.2(a) and 5.4 (a)(1) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 1 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of four (4) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.
- B. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(b) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.4(a) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 2 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of three (3) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.
- C. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(b) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.4(a) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 3 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of three (3) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.
- D. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(b) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.4(a) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 4 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of three (3) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.

- E. If Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council and Redland City Council do not resolve to appoint at least two (2) Independent Directors to Greenovate Pty Ltd by 6 November 2024, the shareholder representative for the Council is authorised to:
- a. execute a variation to the SHA in accordance with the amendment set out in Attachment 7;
 - b. pass a Securityholder resolution to replace the Constitution of Greenovate Pty Ltd with the amended Constitution as set out in Attachment 6; and
 - c. pass a Securityholder resolution appointing the Chief Executive Officer of Redland City Council, as an interim director under Rule 7.6 (a) of the Greenovate Constitution and clause 5.1(c) of the Security Holders Agreement.
- F. That upon the winding up of Greenovate Pty Ltd, the confidential attachments to the report titled Greenovate Pty Ltd Board Chair, be placed in the public records.

**Due to the confidential nature of these appointments and until such time as the other Councils have adopted their recommendations, the names of the proposed directors will be held in confidence.*

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(04)

3 SEPTEMBER 2024

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

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

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), Disaster and Natural Hazards Manager (Matthew Pinder), Manager Natural Environment (Phil A Smith), Chief of Staff – Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator (Heike Bell), Program Officer (Environmental Education) (Kimberley Hare), Team Leader - Environment and Sustainability Education and Awareness (Stephani Grove), Senior Media Officer (Darrell Giles), Coordinator Communications (Lucy Stone) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

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

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(03) OF 13 AUGUST 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:
Seconded by Councillor Pye Augustine:

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

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden
Antoniolli
Harding
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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 years and the plan for the future.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Antoniolli:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

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

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden
Antoniolli
Harding
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:
Seconded by Councillor Pye Augustine:

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

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
Councillors:	Councillors:
Madden	Nil
Antonioli	
Harding	
Jonic	
Madsen	
Augustine	

The motion was put and carried.

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

Moved by Mayor Teresa Harding:
Seconded by Councillor Pye Augustine:

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

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
Councillors:	Councillors:
Madden	Nil
Antonioli	
Harding	
Jonic	
Madsen	
Augustine	

The motion was put and carried.

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

Moved by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:

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.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden
Antonioli
Harding
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 12.46 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.04 pm.

Doc ID No: A10691412

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TO HEALTHLY LAND AND WATER 2024 - 2025

AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning Ipswich City Council and the regional Natural Resource Management group for South East Queensland - Healthy Land and Water, specifically the current and future membership and funding arrangements which have been under review for 2 consecutive years and the value it offers to Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Council resolves to cease its membership of Healthy Land and Water and no longer make an annual financial membership payment.

RELATED PARTIES

Healthy Land and Water

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Healthy Land and Water (HLW) is the recognised regional natural resource management (NRM) body that is focussed on improving and protecting Southeast Queensland's environment, catchments, and waterways. As a non-government organisation they are financially supported through membership and partner contributions, State and Commonwealth Government funding and grants, as well as running a commercial 'fee for service' business.

The remit of Healthy Land and Water currently includes:

- Provision of design and best practise stormwater and erosion and sediment control advice for urban stormwater management through the Water By Design Program (including the recent audit of Ipswich City Council's Erosion and Sediment Control compliance function)
- Economic, Social and Ecological monitoring and modelling of catchment condition
- Estuarine marine and freshwater environmental condition data collection, storage, and provision

- A number of expert panels and the hosting of the Southeast Queensland Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee
- Production and publication of annual report cards and waterway health grades
- Provision of advice and guidance around recreational risk from water quality through the healthy waterway program

Council's contribution goes towards the provision of a range of regional services and products. Primarily, membership covers the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program and the associated report card into the health of the Bremer River. These results are published along with all other report cards for catchments across Southeast Queensland to provide a regional context of the health of the waterways and Moreton Bay.

Council has generally provided annual membership payments as part of a three-year funding agreement as proposed by HLW. For the past 2 years, Council has supported a move to a one-year commitment on the provision that officers assess and measure the value of the membership and the services provided directly in relation to the needs of council. An assessment was carried out by officers in 2022 (Attachment 1). Specifically in the context of its requirements for waterway monitoring to inform current and future investment, management actions and their efficiency.

After broad internal and intra-council consultation throughout this period and the synthesis of a needs report (Attachment 3), it is the opinion of the subject matter experts that, in relation to informative monitoring and reporting Council does not receive value for money in investing in the regional EHMP program. Its needs are not being met, nor can they, through the regional temporal and spatial scale and regional focus of the program. Rather than duplicate investment in monitoring, it is recommended that the membership payment not be paid and focus be placed on working with consultants and the broader stakeholder working groups to design and cost a localised program to meet Council's needs moving forward.

Council's roles and needs have changed throughout the life of the EHMP program. As has the local context and pressures on our waterways and the urgency with which this needs to be addressed. At inception, Moreton Bay and Catchments Water Management Partnership established: 1998, known later as Healthy Waterways, was initiated by the Policy Council of the Brisbane River Management Group in response to the objectives and scientific strategies found in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay Wastewater Management Study program.

The Healthy Waterways program (later to become Healthy Land and Water) developed the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program and report card which served to unite the South East Queensland Councils, State Government and Utility suppliers with common goal focussed on improving and protecting Moreton bay, an invaluable and internationally renowned wetland marine sanctuary. In its first few years the monitoring and report card successfully identified point source pollution from sewage treatment plants as a driving factor for the health of the regions waterways and Morton bay. Highlighting and publishing this in turn resulted in the upgrade of many of the treatment plants and subsequently saw some of the biggest individual improvements in the health of SEQ Waterways over the last 40 years.

Since this time, the role and mandate of both Healthy Waterways and Local governments has changed considerably. June 2016 saw the amalgamation of Healthy Waterways and SEQ Catchments to form a new joint NRM body in Healthy Land and Water. Councils across SEQ have grown and developed capacity and capability as well as inherited responsibility for waterways and catchment management through the delivery of on ground projects and the provisions under the State Planning Policy around managing Stormwater and Environmental Values.

As a result councils across the region have monitoring and evaluation needs of their own to inform future investment, management intervention or identify sensitive or valuable areas that may require protection through the likes of the planning scheme or voluntary conservation agreements. One such contemporary example of this is the ICC platypus eDNA monitoring program tracking the presence or absence of our platypus populations in response to erosion and sediment inputs, floods and developmental pressures. Another example is the requirements to understand and quantify the catchment conditions and nutrient input for Councils Offsite Stormwater Improvement program (OSQIP) which has seen \$11 million invested over the past 10 years on reducing pollutants.

These requirements are likely to increase as we move forwards with other major investments streams and programs such as the Resilient Rivers Initiative through the Council of Mayors and the federally funded urban rivers program, each of which will have their own monitoring and evaluation needs. These needs will not be met by the EHMP in its current form.

EHMP as a standalone regional monitoring program and a flagship reporting program set a standard for regional waterway/ecological reporting which has been instrumental in understanding Moreton Bay and paved the way for similar reporting programs across the world. It is delivered in partnership and behalf of State and to that end is of more value to the Queensland Government than local Councils.

As per a committee report tabled for the 22/23 Financial year, council took the step of moving away from the previously supported and regular agreement of Funding HLW in favour of a 12-month agreement. This was subject to council reviewing the value for money that the previous agreement offered to council specifically regarding the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) and report card.

During that year a value assessment was produced (Attachment 1) and an informal discussion group was established between local government officers in this space to discuss our individual needs and requirements. Those discussions have been constructing and have continued into guiding the development of the monitoring plan for ICC.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None were identified

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is reputational risk associated with the public perceptions of removing annual funding to Healthy Land and Water as the acknowledged Regional NRM group, as a negative environmental stance. However considerations around the financial position of both organisations and the management of public funds suggests that these perceptions would not be justified.

Council's partnership payment of approximately \$100,000 per year constitutes less than 1% of the annual revenue of Healthy Land and Water which in 2022 year received a total income of \$17,747,620 17.

Based upon the 2022/2023 year the combined local government contributions accumulate to around 10% of the total revenue.

Council's tactical and strategic investment in managing waterways and catchment health continues to grow and in doing so, so do its requirements to demonstrate that its investment is offering value for money to the rate payer both in terms of where that money is directly placed on-ground and also to monitor and manage the impacts of that investment.

The decision to not fund the membership payment will not impact Council's ability to engage or partner with Healthy Land and Water on a case-by-case business or partnership opportunity basis. It is assumed that Healthy Land and Water will engage with councils each year to understand the status of the membership and future intentions.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The annual membership payment saving will be used to fund a local water quality monitoring program that will be of great value to council in measuring the condition of Ipswich's waterways.

Internal and external considerations were given to the value offered through membership investment and it was determined that this funding is better expended to provide local ongoing improvement and or monitoring at a scale which provides meaningful feedback to guide targeted future investment.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Council officers have engaged with Healthy Land and Water over the past 12 months regarding their value proposition.

Council officers have engaged with other SEQ councils, some of whom have also withdrawn membership.

CONCLUSION



It is recommended that Ipswich City Council does not continue to contribute an annual membership payment to Healthy Land and Water. More effective and efficient ways of monitoring and evaluating water quality to guide current and future investment in waterway and catchment management can be achieved through a local monitoring program.

Stepping back from the membership contributions does not preclude or limit Council's ability to work with the NRM group in particular projects, programs or partnership initiatives on a case by case or fee for service basis.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	That Ipswich City Council do not pay the Healthy Land and Water Membership contribution for the 2024-2025 year.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights impacted.
(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.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program Value Assessment October 2022 ↓ 
2.	Final Report March 2024 ↓ 

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"

Wednesday 5 October 2022
Environment and Sustainability

Discussion Paper:

A high-level assessment of the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program's (EHMP) value to Ipswich City Council (ICC)

Objective

Provide an assessment of the EHMP's value to the ICC with the aim of supporting any decisions related to the continued financial support of the program.

Background

The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) is a regional waterway monitoring program established over 20 years ago to assess the health of South East Queensland's major catchments, river estuaries and Moreton Bay. The Program is coordinated by Healthy Land and Water (HLW) and is supported largely by the state and local governments. As described below, the EHMP broader aims are to inspire action, prioritise areas for investment and assess effectiveness of the management actions towards targets. The EHMP also helps ensure the State government meet its REMP requirements. Every year, the results are synthesised and communicated through the Healthy Land and Water Report Card.

Ipswich City Council has supported the EHMP since its inception in 2001, with the primary deliverable from this partnership being the annual report card grade for the Bremer River and mid-Brisbane River. While the Bremer River is the worst performing catchment in SEQ according to the report card, grades have improved slightly from an F to a D+ over the 20-year program duration. The key drivers of the poor health in the Bremer River are high Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Turbidity and the resulting low dissolved oxygen levels.

The EHMP has supported a coordinated, regional scale catchment management approach through the Council of Mayor Resilient River's Initiative (RRI). Under the Resilient Rivers Initiative banner, Ipswich Council has been involved in the development and implementation of the Mid Brisbane River and the Lower Brisbane River Catchment Action Plans and was the lead organisation in the development of the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan (CAP). The CAP's set a range of management actions to achieve the goals of the RRI by all relevant stakeholders.

As a partnership program the EHMP on its own merit could be considered value for money. For example, it would cost ICC significantly more that we currently pay to undertake the same amount of monitoring. However, the question arises for ICC, are (a) how much value do we actually gain from the monitoring program in relation to supporting ICC plans and strategies; in other words, what value do we gain from supporting a regional scale monitoring program; (b) with limited ICC resources direct to environmental monitoring, would the funds currently being provided to HLW be of more value directed towards establishing a monitoring program that is more closely aligned with assessing the effectiveness of our plans and strategies.

It should also be noted that ICC is not the only program partner assessing the value of EHMP and ongoing support. In recent years both Seqwater and Gold Coast City Council has withdrawn from the program and we are in communication with BCC who are reviewing their position.

In recent months HLW has reached out to ICC to establish another 3-year agreement to support the EHMP. Given waning partnership support of the program, and our own long-standing reservation of the EHMP's value to ICC, we are questioning whether ICC should be locking into another 3-year

Wednesday 5 October 2022
Environment and Sustainability

agreement at this stage. The purpose of this position paper is to provide a high-level assessment of EHMP's value to the ICC, with the intent of providing support to: (a) only commit to a one year agreement with HLW; (b) using the current financial year to undertake a more detailed value assessment; (c) work with HLW to determine if there are options within the EHMP to improve the value of EHMP to ICC; (d) more clearly define ICC local waterway monitoring program needs in support of local actions, plans and strategies.

EHMP Goal

In assessing the value of EHMP it is important to understand the goal of the program and approach taken to meet the goal. As stated on the EHMP website and Annual Report, these are:

EHMP Regional goal for waterways: *Enhance community quality of life by fostering stewardship to protect and restore waterway health*

The EHMP is designed to achieve these goals by:

- *Inspire action.*
- *Identify priority areas for investment and support members to identify and implement actions.*
- *Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of management actions and progress towards targets.*
- *Provide data relevant for researchers, managers and the wider community that contributes to greater waterway understanding.*

EHMP Review

The EHMP has been reviewed approximately every five years since 2010 with the aim of ensuring the program continuously improves and adapts. Most recently, a review was completed at the end of 2021 with aim of ensuring alignment of the EHMP with member needs, while retaining program integrity and expanding the scope to align with future monitoring and reporting frameworks. Through a series of stakeholder workshops the review assessed and made recommendations in four dimensions of the program, these being; Data and Information; Evaluation, Engagement and communication; and Action and Achievements.

Of significance to this position paper was the statement that:

"...the role of EHMP in South East Queensland has changed over the past 20 years. Local councils are much better equipped to develop "in-house" policy and programs and subsequently may have less of a reliance on EHMP for this input. However, it was noted that EHMP still has a critical role in connecting and convening those in South East Queensland developing policy and programs with each other for information sharing"

This statement touches on the core issues at hand, that being local council needing to establish "in-house" monitoring programs to support their specific plans and strategies, while at the same time being requested to support a regional scale monitoring program (EHMP), all within a tight fiscal environment.

The program review did however include several recommendations that may lay a path forward (at least from an operational context) for increased alignment of the regional scale EHMP to local council in-house monitoring requirements. These recommendations include;

Wednesday 5 October 2022
Environment and Sustainability

- Use third-party data, even when not consistently available across all regions (assuming data is of high quality).
- Use third-party data for reporting at a finer geographic scale.
- Develop geographically finer-scale recommendations to assist implementation of actions by groups working on-the ground.
- Increase linkages between report card results and on the ground actions, population growth and climate change.

In relation to ICC potential future direction, these recommendations acknowledge that finer scale monitoring is needed and that any future monitoring undertaken by ICC could be integrated into the report card. The result being that future report cards could be based on both the regional scale EHMP supporting REMP requirements and local council scale monitoring that supports council catchment management plans and strategies.

ICC waterway monitoring needs

A waterway monitoring program is an essential element of any catchment management program, providing the scientific evidence needed to assess effectiveness of restoration and protection actions as well as identifying any emerging issues. To provide timely and informative information into adaptive management process a monitoring program's design must consider aspects such as; (i) the spatial and temporal scales at which trends may be detected; (ii) what environmental indicators are most appropriate to monitor; (iii) how the monitoring data will be analysed and interpreted to inform catchment management; and (iv) available resources to support the monitoring.

ICC currently has limited capacity to monitor waterway health, with the resources available typically being used for ad hoc reasons such as monitoring after a flood event or to assess effectiveness of an individual restoration project such as the removal of a fish barrier. Given the monitoring programs current level of funding it is not realistic to expect a program beyond what is currently being delivered, however it is recognised that a more comprehensive monitoring program is needed if we are to effectively inform and track progress of implementing our Integrated Catchment Strategy. While the cost of such a monitoring program is yet to be determined, experience in other jurisdictions shows that the cost is minor in relation to the overall investment in catchment management, yet provides significant value in ensuring the available funds are being appropriately allocated and demonstrating to stakeholders what progress is being made.

Cost of Supporting the EHMP

Year	Core Membership	Clean up Program	Total	\$ Change	% Change
2016/2017	\$76,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$92,000.00		
2017/2018	\$75,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$91,000.00	-\$1,000.00	-1.10%
2018/2019	\$73,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$89,000.00	-\$2,000.00	-2.25%
2019/2020	\$77,200.00	\$20,000.00	\$97,200.00	\$8,200.00	8.44%
2020/2021	\$78,700.00	\$20,000.00	\$98,700.00	\$1,500.00	1.52%
2021/2022	\$80,420.00	\$20,000.00	\$100,420.00	\$1,720.00	1.71%
2022/2023	\$83,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$103,000.00	\$2,580.00	2.50%
2023/2024	\$87,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$107,000.00	\$4,000.00	3.74%
2024/2025	\$91,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$111,000.00	\$4,000.00	3.60%
Total	\$721,320.00	\$168,000.00	\$889,320.00	\$19,000.00	120.65%

Wednesday 5 October 2022
Environment and Sustainability

EHMP's value to ICC is assessed in relation to both the programs aims and the deliverables identified in the proposed 2022-23 member agreement. As highlighted in Table 1, EHMP's stated aims align strongly with ICC needs, however, the overall value received by ICC is considered to be of low to moderate value. This speaks to the broader narrative of this position paper, that this regional monitoring program is not supporting local decision-making.

Table 2 highlights value of EHMP deliverables in the proposed 2022-23 member agreement. The table highlights that for the most part the deliverables are of moderate to low value to ICC. As an aside, it should be noted that it is not clear how the program deliverables support the program aims.

Table 1: EHMP's Aims – values received by ICC

Aim	ICC Need	ICC Value received	Comment
Inspire action	High	Moderate	While the EHMP Report Card has inspired action such as the Resilient Rivers Initiative, its potential value to ICC is assessed as moderate considering only a single report card grade for an entire river is provided and that the Report Card grades varies little from year to year i.e. hard to inspire action if no improvement shown at this broad scale.
Identify priority areas for investment and support members to identify and implement actions	High	Low	Current program helps identify regional priorities (i.e. Bremer River as a priority against other SEQ waterways) but has not supported ICC identify priority areas within the Bremer, nor support optimised delivery of ICC plans and strategies.
Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of management actions and progress towards targets	High	Low	Design of EHMP (e.g. location of monitoring stations) is not linked to specific ICC catchment plans or strategies. Monitoring undertaken at locations where timely response to management actions would not be expected due to cumulative impacts in relation to management intervention.
Provide data relevant for researchers, managers and the wider community that contributes to greater understanding of waterways.	Moderate	Moderate	While somewhat difficult to accurately define what value is received, the importance of EHMP monitoring data to researchers and broader community is recognised.

Table 2: Value of Deliverables to ICC

Deliverable	Description	ICC value received	Comment
Science Committee and Scientific Expert Panels	Access to Science Committee and Scientific Expert Panels. Membership of Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee.	Moderate	Membership of MESC provides opportunity to network. Most recently the science panel have guided on the methods for the EHMP

Item 2 / Attachment 1.

Wednesday 5 October 2022
Environment and Sustainability

Environmental Condition characterisation	Monitoring Bremer River estuary water quality (x # sites in ICC), monitoring freshwater biological health (y). Access to annual trends	Moderate - Low	Location of sites is not optimised for local ICC needs. E.g. ICC does not require as many sites in the estuarine reach of Bremer River. Relocating these sites to ICC Creeks such as Bundamba Creek would be of greater value.
Community benefit assessment	Access to social data collected from residents in the includes the frequency and type of waterway-based recreation, the barriers that prevent waterways recreation, respondent's perception of the condition of their waterways.	Moderate	Provides some understanding on how the community in the area value their waterways.
Modelling	Maintain integrated catchment and receiving water quality models enabling catchment management scenario modelling	Low - Moderate	Have only ever used outputs as a guide. Very Course and regional scale and require Council to do further
Decision support tools	Update and maintenance of EHMP Report Card Website.	Moderate - Low	While the value of the EHMP report card website is acknowledge as an important tool for reporting grades, it is not actively used by ICC staff in delivery of our plans and strategies.
Engagement and communication	Annual release of report card including ICC brief, media release	Moderate	Annual release helps ensure continued focus on restoring and protecting regional waterways, although similar grade from year to year has resulted in waning political and community interest.
Research and development	Various initiatives including future card, pilot REMP and methods improvement	Unknown	Outcomes of EHMP R&D have not been clearly communicated to ICC. Some good guidelines and outputs from Water by Design. Not directly EHMP related

Conclusion and recommendations

The EHMP has been in existence for over 20 years with ICC supporting the program since its inception. The longevity of the program highlighting the need for a regional scale monitoring program to support regional scale planning. In a bid to remain relevant to its partners the program has undertaken periodic reviews and evolved in response to these reviews. Notwithstanding EHMP's continued evolution and value at a regional scale, the overarching questions that ICC needs to consider are: Firstly, does the program meet our environmental monitoring needs, and if not, would available funds be more appropriately redirected towards developing a robust in-house monitoring program. Secondly, are the broader benefits of participating in this high-profile program (e.g. exposure received during released of the report card grades) greater than the benefits of developing an in-house monitoring program. Thirdly, is there an opportunity to continue supporting both the EHMP and a robust in-house monitoring program (with the potential that one supports the other).

This high-level assessment identifies that for the most part EHMP's value to ICC is low to moderate, however a more thorough evaluation is needed, especially in relation to development of an alternate local monitoring program. In response to this high-level assessment of EHMP's value to ICC the following steps are recommended:

Wednesday 5 October 2022
Environment and Sustainability

1. Proceed with a one-year agreement with Healthy Land and Water (HLW) for support of the EHMP program in 2022/23. HLW be advised why ICC is not progressing with the requested three-year agreement and that future support is pending a more detailed review to be completed over the next 12 months (see recommendation #3).
2. Scope a waterway monitoring program in support of our integrated catchment strategy. This scoping exercise to identify if and how EHMP monitoring can support ICC specific monitoring needs and how this program could support EHMP's potential evolving direction.
3. Undertake a more detailed assessment of EHMP value. This assessment to incorporate the monitoring needs identified in recommendation #2, discussions with HLW to determine their intent to align EHMP to local council needs and understanding of the broader value of supporting EHMP to ICC. This work to be undertaken in time to support 2024/25 budget development.

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IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

SEQ Catchment and
Environmental Management:
Local Council Data and
Program Needs

Final Report / MARCH 2024

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....3

1.1 Project purpose and approach 3

2. Council needs.....4

2.1 SEQ local council representation 4

2.2 Council environmental program and project needs 4

3. Gaps assessment of existing data and programs7

3.1 Existing data and programs 7

3.2 Priority gaps assessment 13

4. Opportunities to address gaps17

5. Summary and next steps21

Attachment 1 – Council meeting notes

Attachment 2 – Council workshop slides

Attachment 3 – Council workshop notes.....

1. Introduction

1.1 Project purpose and approach

E2Designlab were engaged to assist Ipswich City Council (ICC) facilitate a discussion with a large group of SEQ local council stakeholders to:

- Understand the common needs across the local councils in terms of the delivery of their environmental and waterway programs.
- Understand the existing data and programs which are currently used by the local councils to fulfill these needs.
- Identify the gaps where the existing data and programs are not meeting the current needs.
- Identify potential opportunities and next steps to address these gaps.

A series of meetings with individual councils followed by a council stakeholder workshop were undertaken to inform the information presented in this document.

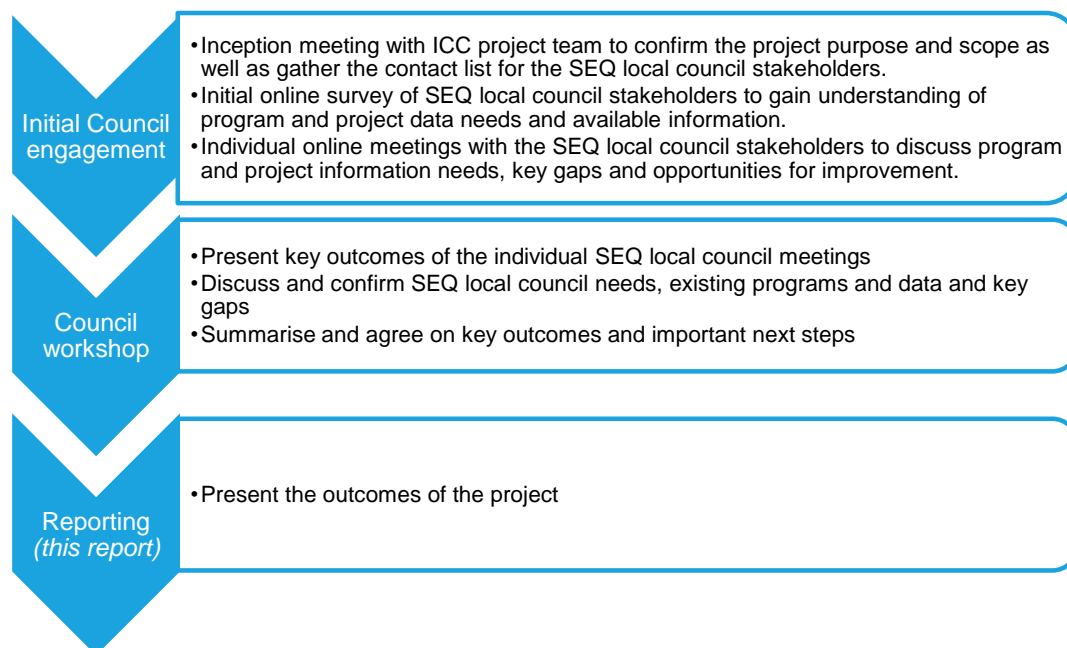


Figure 1
Project approach

2. Council needs

2.1 SEQ local council representation

Representatives from the following SEQ local councils were engaged throughout this project:

- Ipswich City Council
- City of Logan
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Brisbane City Council
- City of Moreton Bay
- Somerset Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Council
- Redland City Council

City of Gold Coast were also invited to attend the council workshop but were unable to attend.

The representatives were from departments and branches which are responsible for the following main types of environmental programs and projects:

- Catchment planning
- Waterway health
- Natural areas management
- Riparian rehabilitation
- Species conservation
- Community environmental education and engagement.

2.2 Council environmental program and project needs

The survey, meeting and workshop identified that the SEQ local councils will ideally have data and other supporting information to inform the types of project and program needs outlined in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of SEQ local council environmental project and program needs

Key project / program need	Examples
Understanding condition and threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding condition of local waterways, waterbodies, native vegetation and native fauna Understanding the key threats to local waterways, waterbodies, native vegetation and native fauna
Local government planning and policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informing the development of strategic environmental plans and documents (e.g. development of strategic environmental objectives / targets) Informing planning scheme requirements (e.g. to improve protection of existing environmental values) Ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements (e.g. wastewater discharge requirements, identification of illegal vegetation clearing, other water quality issues resulting from illegal discharges or poor erosion and sediment control)
Project prioritisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streambank stabilisation Riparian rehabilitation Water quality improvement Native species conservation (e.g. flora and fauna) Natural asset management
Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluating strategic environmental plans and documents (e.g. measurement of performance against environmental objectives / targets) Monitoring and evaluating the performance of projects which have been delivered
Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental education Community events Landholder environmental programs and programs Input into environmental projects and plans
Attracting investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of investment plans for environmental projects Grant funding applications
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating for strengthened State and Federal policy and requirements.

2.2.1 Priority common needs

When asked in the workshop to identify the importance of having the above data and other information to support these key needs, the participants identified that while all were important, the following needs were of most importance:

1. Understanding condition and threats
2. Project prioritisation
3. Monitoring and evaluating projects
4. Attracting investments / advocacy.

Figure 1 presents the Menti poll results in more detail.



Figure 1
Council workshop Menti poll identifying participant responses to "how important is it to have data and programs in place to support the following needs?" (16 respondents)

This poll also highlights that there is a broader spread of response for some of the project and programs needs which indicates that a number of needs are not uniform across the local councils.

For example, Sunshine Coast Council's *Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023* has the following target for its Waterways and Wetlands:

Maintain and improve the ecological health of waterways and wetlands across each of the river catchments to a good or excellent grade by 2041.

The EHMP report card scores are used to monitor and evaluate this strategic document target. This is therefore an important need for Sunshine Coast Council which may not be the same priority for other councils who do not have a similar strategic document and target.

Compliance was another need which was identified as more important for some councils (e.g. those who have water utilities within them who used EHMP data to assist with compliance).

3. Gaps assessment of existing data and programs

3.1 Existing data and programs

The survey, meetings and workshop highlighted that there is a vast amount of existing data and programs available which can support SEQ local councils in the delivery of their environmental programs and projects. These datasets and programs include:

- Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP)
- Queensland Government data
- Community data
- Research data
- Utilities / Port of Brisbane data
- Walking the landscapes
- Resilient Rivers Initiative
- Other Healthy Land and Water Programs
- Council data and programs.

These datasets and programs were all discussed in the council meetings and workshop, which identified their relative strengths and weaknesses in terms of meeting the needs of local councils' environmental programs and projects. The summary of these discussions is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2

Summary of existing data and programs and their effectiveness in supporting the delivery of council environmental projects and programs based on the outcomes of meetings and workshop with SEQ local council representatives

Existing data / program	Summary description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Council's response
Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP)	<p>The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) is a long-term (23+ years) freshwater, estuarine, and marine monitoring programs in South East Queensland. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MONITORING: Combination of event and ambient flow monitoring, estuarine marine and freshwater ecosystems monitoring and modelling, and extent and condition assessment of key habitats. • REPORTING: Annual report card for SEQ waterway catchments, synthesising and reporting on environmental data as well as socio-economic and cultural (new) data. 	<p>MONITORING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good to have a regional, long-term dataset. <p>REPORT CARD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report card scores have been beneficial to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gain funding for some council areas based on poor scores - track progress against strategies for some councils. 	<p>MONITORING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough sites / coverage for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not all catchments are included (e.g. Mary River) - Not enough sites to give good understanding of waterway condition or to inform prioritisation or monitoring of works undertaken - Some sites do not have regular water, therefore there is limited data • No analysis of the data, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No analysis of temporal and spatial trends to identify locations of key threats - No analysis of the data to identify required actions to improve scores - No breakdown or assessment of data between land use types. • While there is a rich monitoring dataset, the data is not easily accessible and councils have limited time to be able to analyse it themselves. • There are no recreational water quality measurements. • There is difficulty in aligning local council waterway monitoring programs and datasets to this regional dataset. <p>REPORT CARD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social scores collected for the report card are not used much due to the small sample size (~3,200 respondents). • Scores are heavily influenced by base Source model which is based on generic 	<p>A number of councils have their own waterway health monitoring programs to assist them in building a more comprehensive understanding of waterway condition and identify threats.</p> <p>A number of councils are also undertaking other projects such as streambank stability assessments to identify the specific locations of key threats which need to be addressed to improve waterway condition.</p>

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

Existing data / program	Summary description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Council's response
			land uses (especially upstream catchments where there are limited monitoring sites) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continual poor scores are problematic for some councils to gain support in catchment improvements, especially since it is unlikely some of the catchments will ever get high scores even if more investment in environmental improvement is undertaken. 	
Qld Government data	<p>The Queensland Government collects a range of environmental data which is publicly available on QSpatial (the Queensland Spatial Catalogue) and Qld Globe. Relevant datasets used by the SEQ local councils includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation mapping (e.g. Regional Ecosystems) Habitat (e.g. essential habitat / koala habitat) Waterways and wetlands Fish barriers Biosecurity Native fauna (Wildnet / QWildlife) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good starting point to identify areas of environmental value at a catchment scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional ecosystem mapping is coarse and can miss small locations of high value ecosystems. Data is not precise enough to be used for compliance (e.g. vegetation clearing) or operational works. No clear feedback loop to allow improvement of this regional data based on more detailed local studies. Some of the fauna data is not very easy to use (e.g. QWildlife) or has a long time-lag (e.g. Wildnet). 	A number of councils are undertaking more detailed assessments to improve their understanding of the current condition and threats to native vegetation, koalas and other key species.
Community data	<p>There are a number of programs which allow the community to create environmental datasets, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iNaturalist – online crowdsourced species identification and occurrence recording tool Atlas of Living Australia – online species occurrence records Wildnet – wildlife data provided by government, researchers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large fauna records which local Councils actively use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to areas where people have seen wildlife, so it tends to be skewed to populated areas. Some datasets (e.g. iNaturalist) are not completely verified. 	A number of councils are undertaking more detailed assessments to improve their understanding of the current condition and threats to native species (e.g. koala monitoring programs, fish assessments and eDNA assessments for aquatic

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

Existing data / program	Summary description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Council's response
	businesses, NRM groups and citizen science programs.			species such as platypus)
Research	<p>There are many research projects and programs being delivered to also improve understanding of environmental conditions and threats. Some of these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KoalaBase – online database for koala mortality and morbidity in SEQ (UQ School of Veterinary Science) • Sediment tracking – a number of research groups are able to assist in sediment tracking projects (e.g. UQ / Griffith University). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research programs can provide new approaches and methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of these programs and projects are limited by budgets. • There can be a lack of awareness of some research programs and project outcomes if the council was not a contributor to the research project. 	<p>There are some councils who are also collecting their own koala trauma data.</p> <p>A number of councils have also engaged consultants to undertake projects to identify where streambank stability is an issue within catchments.</p>
Utilities / Port of Brisbane	Water utilities such as Unity Water, Urban Utilities and SEQ Water as well as the Port of Brisbane are also undertaking their own monitoring programs and catchment studies (e.g. streambank stabilisation / riparian rehabilitation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Water Information Management (SWIM) is an online system which allows service providers to upload water and sewerage data to allow consistent and transparent reporting for the Qld water industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of the projects undertaken by the utilities across the SEQ catchments do not actively engage the local councils. • Limited data sharing between the councils and these stakeholders. • Risk of duplication for data gathered as well as identification of the same parcels of land for on-ground projects / investment. 	A number of local councils are undertaking very similar projects in the same catchments as the utilities and Port of Brisbane.
Walking the Landscape	Integrated existing data with expert knowledge which is displayed as whole of catchment maps which present existing mapping data such as vegetation and other environmental values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good example of how catchment wide datasets can be consolidated and communicated in a central online system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on existing regional datasets which does not provide the level of detail to inform more detailed condition assessments, project prioritisation or monitoring and evaluation. 	
Resilient Rivers Initiative	Program designed to support coordinated catchment management with the development of catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good example of how coordinated planning and co-investment across 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been limited to high priority catchments with a focus on the 4 main objectives of keeping soil on land, promoting 	A number of local councils have undertaken their own

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

Existing data / program	Summary description	Strengths	Weaknesses	Council's response
	<p>action plans for priority catchments which informs the delivery of co-ordinated actions which are co-invested by a range of stakeholders.</p>	<p>stakeholders can be undertaken across catchments</p>	<p>partnerships, protecting water security, climate resilience. This means that not all SEQ catchments have action plans developed and the actions do not address all environmental values and threats (e.g. habitat and biodiversity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plans are based on existing data and therefore there may be data gaps. • Some of the catchments are very large scale. • There is no consolidated list of actions undertaken or monitoring of the performance of these actions. 	<p>catchment plans and supporting catchment studies, especially for the sub catchments within the larger catchments to provide a more detailed understanding of condition, threats and actions required.</p>
<p><i>Note – this is not based on the new Resilient Rivers Initiative: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy which aims to guide the delivery of the enhanced Resilient Rivers Initiative under the SEQ City Deal and includes new strategic focus areas.</i></p>				
Other Healthy Land and Water programs	<p>Healthy Land and Water have a range of programs which they deliver in addition to EHMP including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian weed control program • Healthy waterplay • Water by design • Healthy catchments program • Protecting koalas • Brisbane catchments network online mapping tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These programs provide resources to help guide best practice approaches for different aspects of environmental management • A number of these programs results in on-ground environmental improvement works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the on-ground works undertaken through programs such as the <i>Healthy catchments</i> program and the <i>Riparian weed control</i> program are not planned or undertaken in close collaboration with the local council. This means there is a risk of duplication with similar programs being undertaken by councils. 	<p>Many local councils are undertaking their own on-ground catchment improvement works.</p>

The meetings identified that many of the SEQ local councils are collecting a range of data themselves to address key gaps in the existing data and programs to address the key council needs (Table 3).

Table 3

Summary of data which is useful to address councils' environmental program and project needs and the organisations who collect this data (please note this is based largely on the outcomes of meetings with councils and not a comprehensive list of all available datasets)

Datasets		Organisations collecting data			
Category	Subcategory	Local Councils	State Government	EHMP	Community (iNaturalist / ALA)
Fauna	Platypus				
	Fish				
	Koalas				
	Other priority native species				
	Habitat				
	Biosecurity / pest animals				
Vegetation	Vegetation types				
	Vegetation condition				
	Locally significant species				
	Pest species				
Ecological corridors					
Green infrastructure					
Waterways	Waterway extent				
	Waterway order or type				
	Riparian extent				
	Riparian condition				
	Stream erosion				
	Fish barriers				
Flooding					
Wetlands					
Water quality	Macroinvertebrates				
	Chemical and physical				
	Biological				
Coastal hazards					
LiDAR					
Social	Recreational values				
	Cultural values				

3.2 Priority gaps assessment

To help identify the key information gaps, a review of the existing data and programs was undertaken in terms of the requirements of the key phases needed to inform environmental or catchment plans which are:

1. Understanding catchment condition and threats
2. Identifying and prioritising actions and projects
3. Investing in the implementation of priority actions
4. Monitoring and evaluating the priority actions delivered

These four phases of environmental projects also align with the four common needs which were identified by local Councils in this project:

1. Understanding condition and threats
2. Project prioritisation
3. Monitoring and evaluating projects
4. Attracting investments / advocacy.

These phases are shown as a continuing cycle in Figure 2 as the monitoring and evaluation outcomes should feed into updated understanding of conditions and threats which will inform the identification and prioritisation of new actions, and so on. The following sections provide a summary of the assessment of the data and program needs for each of these phases compared to the existing data and programs to identify key gaps.



Figure 2
Summary of key phases associated with environmental projects used to inform the gaps assessment

3.2.1 Understanding condition and threats

Data / program need	Sufficient data to understand current condition and threats
Existing data and programs summary	<p><u>EHMP monitoring data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term data at specific sites High-level catchment scores (not all catchments included). No breakdown of data between land use types. No spatial assessment or understanding of what is required to improve condition. <p><u>Qld government data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation data showing location of different regional ecosystems and habitat areas. Data does not always pick up significant local species and / or condition of the vegetation. <p><u>Community data (iNaturalist / ALA):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife data is not always verified and can be skewed to more populated areas. <p><u>Walking the landscape:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of available data as "Catchment stories". No assessment of data or identification of actions needed. <p><u>Councils</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some councils are collecting additional information themselves to assist in catchment planning (e.g. streambank erosion risk studies, waterway health monitoring, fauna and flora assessments)
Key information gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of detailed regional data to pick up spatial complexity of catchments / waterways / natural areas. No breakdown of data between land use types (rural / peri-urban / urban). Lack of data assessment at the regional scale to explain results and identify key threats in different locations.

3.2.2 Action planning and prioritisation

Data / program need	Planning process to assist in the identification and prioritisation of actions
Existing data and programs summary	<p><u>Resilient Rivers Initiative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment planning of priority catchments to achieve 4 main goals with key catchment stakeholders. There is a new Resilient Rivers Initiative: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment strategy which includes new strategic focus areas but appears to be focused on implementation rather than the development of new catchment action plans. <p><u>Healthy Land and Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLW have undertaken some catchment planning projects with key stakeholders to identify priority actions (e.g. Brisbane River Erosion Source Master Plan (Lockyer and Bremer catchments priority riverbank stabilisation) with Urban Utilities). <p><u>Council catchment plans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some councils are developing their own catchment plans to identify priority actions.
Key information gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of coordinated planning on some catchments / sub catchments. Limited scope of existing programs to undertake new or more extensive catchment plans. There is no legislative requirement for these plans to be undertaken / implemented.

3.2.3 Investment and implementation of actions

Data / program need	Plan which encourages investment in the implementation of priority actions
Existing data and programs summary	<p><u>Resilient Rivers Initiative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment action plans support co-funding of actions across the catchment by multiple stakeholders. The new SEQ City Deal provides new funding for the implementation of actions. <p><u>Healthy Land and Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Land and Water undertake on-ground actions through a range of programs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Catchments Program (to reduce sediment loads in priority catchments with the Qld Government and landholders) Mid Brisbane Partnership (creek stabilisation with SEQ Water) Riparian weed control programs (weed management with SEQ water) <p><u>Utilities and Port of Brisbane</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These organisations are also undertaking their own on-ground actions to improve catchment conditions (some of these are noted in the Healthy Land and Water section). <p><u>Council projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils are also investing in their own projects and programs with council budgets or through grant funding.
Key information gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears to be limited coordination of the many on-ground actions being undertaken across catchments.

3.2.4 Monitoring and evaluation of actions delivered

Data / program need	Tracking of where actions have been undertaken and monitoring undertaken to understand success of the actions and inform an updated catchment understanding.
Existing data and programs summary	<p><u>Resilient Rivers Initiative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a map showing some locations of works undertaken but this does not include all actions and also does not monitor the success of these actions. <p><u>Healthy Land and Water</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Land and Water's programs 'measure success' which presents the key outcomes of the projects (e.g. km of creek stabilised) and includes some limited assessments of on-ground achievements (e.g. tonnes of sediment removed). They have also helped Brisbane City Council set up the Brisbane Catchments Network online mapping tool which allows actions undertaken by the Brisbane Catchment network to be tracked online. HLW also have 'catchment stories' which map different SEQ case studies. <p><u>Council projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of councils track actions delivered within catchments. Some local councils undertake monitoring of these on-ground projects.
Key information gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears that most actions undertaken across catchments are not tracked or monitored.

Figure 3 presents a summary of the key gaps in the existing data and programs to support the different phases of environmental projects.

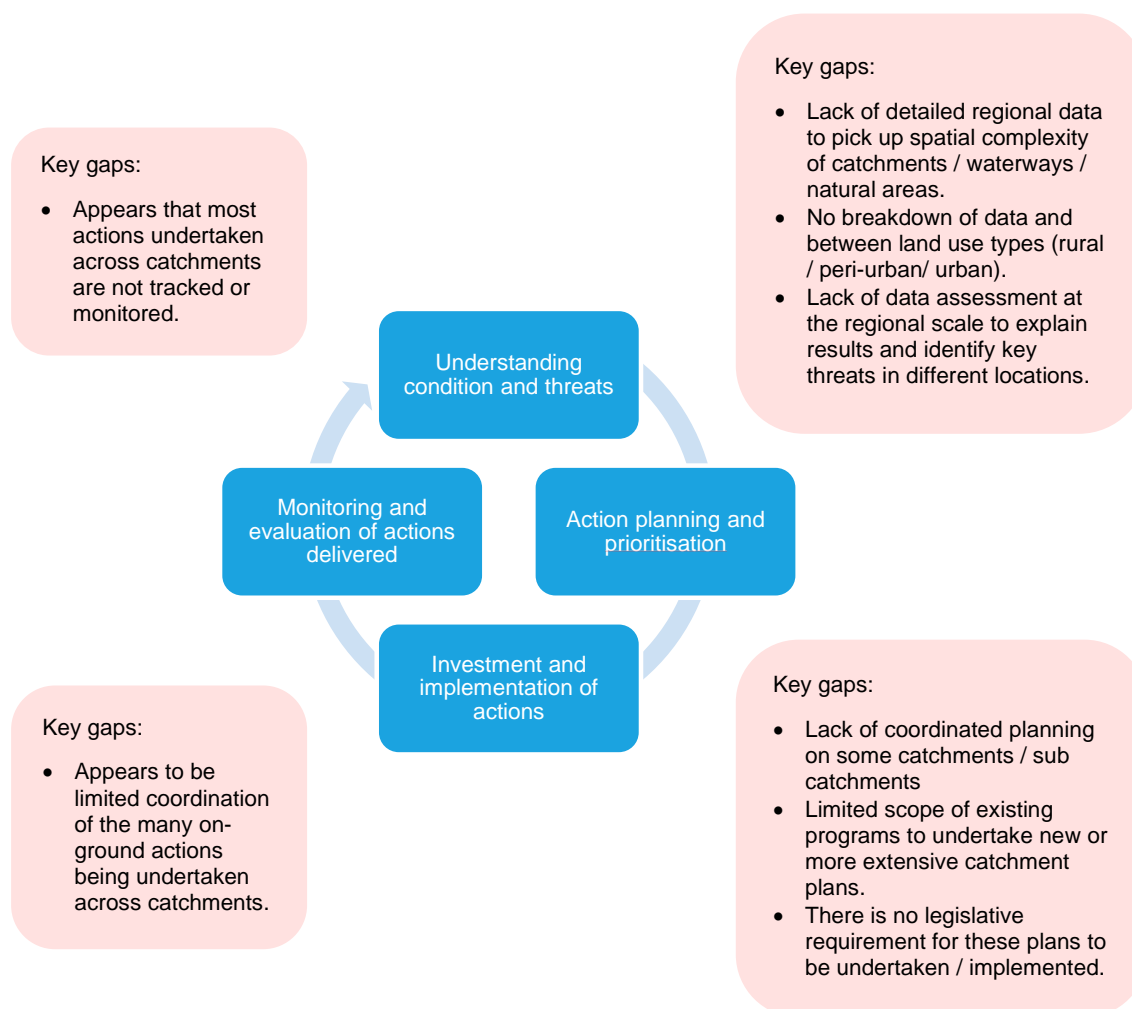


Figure 3

Summary of key gaps in existing data and programs (in red boxes) at each phase of environmental projects

4. Opportunities to address gaps

The gaps assessment was presented and discussed at the council workshop. This discussion identified two main types of gaps which should be addressed:

1. Data gap – this would address the gaps in understanding condition and threats and also monitoring and evaluation of actions undertaken.
2. Planning and investment framework gap – this would address the gaps in action planning and prioritisation and investment in the delivery of these actions across all SEQ catchments.

The following sections presents the outcomes of the discussions related to opportunities to address these two main gaps.

4.1.1 Data opportunities

The data opportunities discussions began by considering the purpose and use of the EHMP monitoring program dataset. This discussion highlighted that the EHMP dataset is still a valuable monitoring tool for specific purposes such as strategy reporting and some compliance reporting, but it does not fulfil the need of providing data to inform condition assessments, identify threats, action planning and prioritisation or monitoring and evaluation of implemented actions within SEQ local councils' environmental projects and programs.

Recommended EHMP data uses:

- ✓ Reporting against strategic objectives
- ✓ Some compliance reporting
- ✓ Regional report card.

EHMP data not ideally suited to:

- ✗ Condition and threat assessments
- ✗ Action planning and prioritisation
- ✗ Monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects.

Based on this discussion it was suggested that the EHMP monitoring program may be better funded by organisations such as water utilities and the State and Federal Governments rather than local councils. It is understood that this is how other report cards in Qld are funded.

It was recognised that an alternative regional database would be more useful to inform the local council environmental projects and programs. The form of this database was not confirmed (i.e. confirming who collects, collates and manages the data, etc) but the following were identified throughout the project as important features of this dataset:

- The monitoring program must be fit for purpose.
- The data collected across the region should be done using a standardised approach which considers existing sampling methods used across the region.

- Duplication of data should be minimised across the region and therefore existing databases should be considered and drawn from.
- Any data collation and management of data across the region must be suitably resourced with a designated role.
- Ideally the group responsible for the collation of the data could also assist in the analysis of the data to identify threats, changes over time, etc.

The *Resilient Rivers Initiative: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy* has the following relevant strategic focus, objectives and actions:

Strategic focus 1: Improving information and data	
Objective	<i>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.</i>
Relevant actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Partners to identify data and information needs and gaps and to design a program for delivery. • Work with partners to improve waterway and wetland mapping to ensure activities are focused on key priorities.

Strategic focus 6: Monitoring, evaluation, reporting	
Objective	<i>An adaptive and effective monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework is implemented to improve waterways management.</i>
Relevant actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects delivered as part of the Strategy. • Work closely with Partners to monitor and evaluate the extent, condition and ecosystem services being delivered by waterways and wetlands.

It was identified that this new Resilient Rivers Initiative strategy could be used to help develop the new database. It was also recognised that Healthy Land and Water could be involved in the collection, collation and assessment of the new database if suitably funded.

4.1.2 Planning and investment framework opportunities

The planning and investment framework discussions focused on the Resilient Rivers Initiative which highlighted that this program provides a solid foundation for simplified co-ordinated catchment planning which can drive investment on-ground. However, this project identified a number of gaps in the existing program for assisting SEQ local councils' environmental projects and programs and the following opportunities to improve this program were identified:

- Improved data used to inform the planning process and identify priority areas for investment based on latest knowledge and catchment understanding (*note – this would be addressed with the proposed new database*).

- More holistic objectives for the catchment action plans to achieve.
- Broader scope of the catchment action plans to ensure all SEQ catchments are included and therefore able to attract investment for on-ground works.
- Ideally there would be supporting legislative requirements for the delivery of these plans and implementation of the actions.

The *Resilient Rivers Initiative: SEQ Waterways and Wetlands Investment Strategy* identifies that a key aim of the project is 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.

It also defines the following categories of ecosystem services and values that should be used to underpin decision-making for management intervention investment for the Resilient Rivers Initiative:

- Resilience
- Biodiversity
- Water and food security
- Cultural
- Social and amenity
- Scientific and research excellence.

It also includes a number of strategic focus areas, objectives and actions which are related to catchment planning and investment as summarised below:

Strategic focus 2: Planning and governance	
Objective	<i>The region's planning and policy frameworks and governance supports desired outcomes for waterways management</i>
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement governance arrangements and delivery model. • Investigate opportunities to streamline approval process for projects that deliver ecosystem services and wise use of waterways and wetlands outcomes. • Work with partners to maximise the opportunities for waterway ecosystem service delivery.
Strategic focus 3: Investment	
Objective	<i>Attract investment from public and private sector to accelerate the rehabilitation of waterways and wetlands in SEQ.</i>
Relevant actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate options for attracting investment to maximise outcomes of the Strategy. • Develop a prospectus to attract investment.

Strategic focus 4: On ground activities to protect, manage, restore and rehabilitate	
Objective	<i>Implement on-ground activities that protect, manage, rehabilitate and restore the health and resilience of SEQ's waterways and wetlands.</i>
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update the Catchment Action Plans using the whole-of-system values-based approach. • 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. • Plan and deliver projects using the Aquatic Ecosystem Rehabilitation Process.

It is recognised that this strategy outlines actions to improve planning governance and attract investment and also sets direction for a broader range of ecosystem services and a whole-of systems values-based approach which will broaden the objectives of the catchment plans. However, this document only identifies that this be undertaken on a review and update of existing Catchment Action Plans to prioritise projects already identified and does not support the development of new Catchment Action Plans for catchments (or smaller sub-catchments) not already included.

5. Summary and next steps

This project has identified key needs for local councils to inform their environmental programs and projects which can also be presented as four key stages of environmental planning projects, which are:

1. Understanding catchment condition and threats
2. Identifying and prioritising actions and projects
3. Investing in the implementation of priority actions
4. Monitoring and evaluating the priority actions delivered.

This project has worked with SEQ local councils to provide a safe space and encourage open discussions to identify how effectively existing data and programs are meeting these needs. These discussions have also identified key opportunities to address the key gaps which are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4
Summary of opportunities identified in this project to address key gaps


Key gap	Opportunity
Data gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a new regional database which is fit-for-purpose to inform catchment understanding, project prioritisation and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of actions delivered.
Planning and investment framework gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated catchment planning and investment framework which uses improved database to identify, prioritise and attract investment for actions across all SEQ catchments to provide enhanced ecosystem services.

The following are recommended next steps to progress the outcomes of this project to further develop these opportunities:

1. Develop an interim working group led by SEQ local councils to:
 - Identify the data needs for a new catchment dataset.
 - Discuss the potential role that the Resilient Rivers Initiative can play in supporting / funding the creation of a new catchment dataset to underpin new catchment plans.
 - Identify the roles needed to undertake catchment data collection, planning, delivery and monitoring.
2. Engage with other stakeholders to discuss potential roles of different organisations in progressing these opportunities. Table 5 provides an initial summary of what these roles could be based on the council workshop discussions.

Table 5

Summary of potential roles and stakeholders required to progress opportunities identified in this project



Role	Potential program	Potential lead stakeholder
Overall funding and responsibility for catchment assessment and planning	Resilient Rivers Program	SEQ local Councils / Council of Mayors
Collection, coordination and assessment of catchment data to allow more detailed understanding of condition and threats	New catchment dataset	HLW / DES?
Coordinated planning of catchment priority actions using catchment datasets	Resilient Rivers Program	SEQ local Councils / Council of Mayors with other stakeholders (HLW, water utilities etc)
Delivery of on-ground catchment improvement works	HLW healthy catchment programs	HLW funded by catchment action plans
Monitoring of delivered actions	To be picked up in new catchment dataset	HLW / DES?

Attachment 1 – Council meeting notes

SEQ WQ Monitoring Needs Project

Online meeting interview notes:

Ipswich – Belinda and Jack

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streambank rehabilitation • Catchment management
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation – e.g resilient rivers program (there has been no designated monitoring and review of the action plan to-date) • Compliance – to pick up events • Prioritisation on-ground works – riparian and streambank rehabilitation (sediment, habitat, connectivity, water quality improvement projects)
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment sources / streambank stabilisation areas (note these are reports and studies (not GIS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk sediment source identification (Council project) – desktop assessments of hillslope, streambank, landscape generation likelihood + field sampling (10-20km in priority areas) to verify. Identification of key priority subcatchment. - Lidar comparison (post floods) (Council project) – comparison of years – shows sites where large volumes of sediment were lost + other criteria including Council owned land, feasibility, cost estimates, proximity to threatened species, previous investment in water quality. Excel spreadsheet of criteria and weighting of criteria. - No HLW data for this • Vegetation cover and condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RE communities (QLD government) - used to help identify suitable habitat and plant species for revegetation sites. This is quite coarse and can miss small locations of high value ecosystems. Herbarium updates this every so often. On-site assessments undertaken before works occur. - Other QLD mapping and data – Essential habitat, protected plans, vegetation reports - Riparian canopy cover (HLW provided) – no clear method so not really used - MLES – council had to do this. Would be good to have more data to justify the local corridors/ offset requirements etc. - Would be good to have vegetation cover before and after works, floods, removal etc. - Use Inaturalist, Wildnet, Atlas of Living Australia to identify rare or unique fauna

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterways and wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - waterways mapping, wetlands, fish barriers – Qld spatial • Fauna (fish, platypus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish barrier prioritisation work (QLD government) - criteria to prioritise the barrier - platypus eDNA- Council have to do this. - Fish - EHMP do this – but the methods are not great (limited habitat type, therefore not used much). - MLES – council had to do this. Would be good to have more data to justify the local corridors/ offset requirements etc. • Water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some internal Council water quality monitoring data has been undertaken adhoc. Currently looking at what a Council run water quality monitoring data would be (Jack). Has spoken to 9 of the local Councils already to understand what is currently being monitored by Councils – parameters, frequency, data distribution etc. Currently working out which parameters to monitoring etc – multiple sites within subcatchment (especially priority subcatchments where investment is likely to happen). - Would be good to have to pick up compliance issues (before and after event) - Modelling – currently used for stormwater quality offsets (Council) and the basis of many of the EHMP data (HLW) but not used for resilient rivers • Climate data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainfall etc from BOM • Lidar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each Council do this separately – Ipswich did this when they looked at where data was). Started to share this but it was generated as a secondary function as part of a project, so it wasn't fit-for-purpose. Would have been better to co-invest in a proper Lidar set for the region so it was fit for purpose. State do this imagery every 4-5 years – would be good to re-do this after major flood events. • Cost data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - each Council uses their own data – some is commercial in confidence. Variable for each site. • Database of works undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works undertaken (Council - Central database Ipswich environmental improvement works undertaken mapped somewhere. Reporting on plans and strategies. • Cadastre
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No – report card is high level but hard to get access to the datasets. Need to request access (data share agreements etc) to get access to the raw numbers – SIGNAL score for invertebrates, fish species etc • Not useful – NPP datasets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social scores – EHMP not used much (limited dataset) • Base Source model in the HLW is based on generic land uses. Model has a massive influence on score.
What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No link of EHMP data to temporal and spatial data • Water quality data is not a fine enough scale to be useful for prioritisation or monitoring of works undertaken. • Lack of central database of actions undertaken across catchments • Double-up and no data sharing between groups.
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have shared websites / databased across catchments (water quality, works undertaken etc) – walking the landscape is a good summary of the different datasets for a catchment with links. • Assess and communicate how patterns in EHMP over time are related to rainfall etc. • Have finer scale data to inform prioritisation of projects and ongoing monitoring of performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flora and fauna assessments undertaken on revegetation sites - in-stream fauna assessments (platypus eDNA, fisheries, fish barriers) - water quality data

LVRC – Kate and Chris

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Rivers projects • Environmental strategy and action plan projects • NRM draft plan
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding current condition - Want to understand the condition and threats to the wide range of waterways across the region. • Environmental action planning - Starting to develop Council's own action plans as part of its environmental strategy – would be good to have data to support this • Prioritisation of sites - prioritisation of sites and data to support new grants. • Compliance – needed baseline system condition to pick up changes. Monitoring to compare against conditions as well as the benchmark conditions. • To identify impacts of catchment on waterways • Measure improvements of works undertaken - not sure the water quality data is the right dataset to pick up improvements. Maybe the rapid stream bank assessments done previously with Sam Capon @ Griffith university.

<p>What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council undertake ad-hoc water quality monitoring – 30 sites. Basic sample, pH, EC, TDS, turbidity – purpose was to gain benchmark understanding of waterways and identify impacts. • Streambank erosion and sediment transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council has engaged consultants to undertake studies to identify priority locations (important for resilient rivers). This considers a range of criteria including geomorphic and hydrology, cost benefit and risk analysis (flooding impacts, velocities, failure etc). - UU engaged another consultant to do this for them and are talking to Council about this. - Collaboration with UQ (Alistair) – sediment tracking program – collect suspended sediment during flood event. - Healthy land and water, Port of Brisbane, Urban Utilities and Local Farms are undertaking 5km of creek stabilization (Council is not directly associated with this – weren’t involved in the prioritization of this and don’t have access to the data). HLW are also doing some headcut stabilisation projects with community working group. • Vegetation mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qld mapping - needs groundtruthing to pick up weeds etc. - Vegetation mapping – regional ecosystem, koala habitat, protected vegetation, wetlands – use this to inform management plans for Council managed land. Also use this for vegetation removal investigations. • Riparian condition data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be really useful – but don’t have it - There are many approaches. Council did a small piece with Sam Capon in the past to do a rapid assessment of streambank condition. Having a simple approach that can be easily replicated. • Fauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platypus - Wildlife preservation got funding for platypus assessments in Laidley creek and Tent Creek. Council also bought some eDNA kits for other creeks that had sightings. Looking to do more of this in the future for other species as well. - Macroinvertebrate studies – Chris did some sampling and has done this with school kids. - Wildnet is very important – there is a data-lag for this though but it is located on the Council intramaps. INaturalist isn’t completed verified. • Weirs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many of these across the region – need to understand how these are functioning (SEQ Water might have this data but Council don’t have access) • Flood model
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flood information portal online – this will be getting updated in the next 12-18th months with latest lidar and climate change etc. Have funding to do this. Have to model the impact of any revegetation projects on flooding.
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current EHMP sites are too few and the position of them means that samples are not always taken (no water). The lack of sites means Council can't get the understanding of catchment complexity and the data is not picking up seasonal variation within a year. Doesn't allow for prioritisation of sites for rehabilitation. Social data sample size is too small to be useful. A lot of this data is from modeling. Would be good to have an assessment of the data to outline what is required to improve the score. • No standard approach for the collection of the waterway health data across the region. • There is no coordination of project prioritisation, delivery or tracking of investment across the catchments. Would be good to have a central database for this. No database of resilient rivers projects undertaken.
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strip back EHMP to the data which is useful (it is useful that the data does show that the best gains can be delivered in high priority areas and the key areas for this (wheel)). • Have finer level of detail on water quality monitoring sites and riparian condition to pick up variability in condition and allow prioritisation. • Have a standard approach for the collection of the waterway health data across the region, including water quality and rapid streambank condition assessment. • Have a central system to share datasets and funding across a catchment. • Would like to work more with the community.

Scenic Rim – Lara

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural area planning and management
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand condition and impacts on native species • Identify hotspots (DMTR for koala hotspot areas) / areas for restoration and rehabilitation
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Koala data – currently pulling this together including trauma data (Council has their own koala strike dataset. Other trauma data from Currumbin, carers, Koala base (QLD government))

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildnet – not up to date (koala etc) – long lag time to incorporate data. ALA / Inaturalist. Q wildlife – not very user friendly (DES koala data) - Have done a local habitat linkages mapping project – consultant (ELA) using State Government data because they had access to it (Greater Glider), not because it is available for use easily. Linking urban footprint and didn't cover the whole region. Creates the MLES data to be included in the planning scheme. - Flying foxes – supposed to be monitoring roosts but don't have resources for this. - Platypus eDNA – have linked with other Councils and WPSQ to do this – resilient rivers funding. Doesn't monitor the populations, change over time. - Species management – quolls, rock tailed wallaby etc. need more monitoring data for this • Lidar data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - really useful – especially if it includes height classes as it can be used to inform ecological connectivity modelling for different species. Council is getting new data from grant funding • Aerial data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - get nearmap aerial data for only certain sections. Would like to have high quality aerial for the bioregional corridor to inform mapping • Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire trails currently being mapped across Council land and private land - using black summer recovery grant - Bushfire scars would be useful. The region has had some significant recent fire events – would be good to monitor these burn areas for ecological outcomes. Apparently some research being done, but Council is not involved. • Catchment and waterway condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catchment / report card information (HLW) – could use this more as it gets forgotten about. - Resilient rivers initiative – Upper Bremer / Upper Warrill projects – consultants using lidar to determine priority areas for investment. • Biosecurity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fire ants may be handed to LGAs which will also need resources which don't exist. • Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Herbarium did a vegetation type project for Gold Coast which created a set of more detailed vegetation types to provide more detail than the RE mapping. This informed protections in the planning scheme policy. Scenic Rim don't have the resources to do this.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation condition – would be great to have this at the landscape scale (e.g. bioregional corridor Mount Barney to Karawatha to understand extent of lantana impact of this on native species. Bioregional work done by the State – not sure what this data is and how it can be used. - Would be good to know species data and trajectory. - Cats claw just flowered again – would be great to understand the extent of this and the impact. - Riparian vegetation cover – EHMP seemed useful • Water quality data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not really across this but don't think there are many EHMP monitoring locations. Some sites not being monitored anymore due to public health and safety accessibility issues (monitoring probes left in place). - No Council run monitoring program • Project sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be good to know where projects have been delivered. Currently no dataset of where these are. Lots of different programs working with landholders to do rehabilitation. • Natural area condition – Council is currently funding projects to build knowledge of condition and priority requirements (will be used to apply for grant funding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prioritise works within reserves against mapped values – allow proactive management of natural areas, - current project to help identify priority areas for rehabilitate priority natural areas, - mapping extend of poorly management significant vegetation (e.g. vine forest), - analyze values of council controlled lands (asset management)
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHMP is useful for Scenic Rim at the moment – and it is cost effective. • Fauna data – many different datasets, many outdated and some hard to use
What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation condition, weed impact on native fauna and flora • Species data and trajectory • Koalas – need more certainty on what is required to help inform grants etc
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be great to have a central data repository to allow central collation of data collected including sites where works has been undertaken to allow for improved collaboration. Potential for this to be at a catchment scale, but need the resources to do this. • Better integration with research and Council • More working groups to allow knowledge sharing and collaboration (e.g. Koala local council working group, local fauna infrastructure working group)

Brisbane – Natalie

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My team delivers Waterway health management, policy settings for sustainable water use and policy settings for waterway asset management • My branch also delivers natural area management, invasive weeds and pest management (along with parks and urban forest and more)
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand condition • Prioritise areas for investment
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterway health monitoring (42 sites across the city + 10 roving sites) – Council developed this a long time ago due to the EHMP not being representative enough to give a broad understanding of the condition of Brisbane’s waterways. Used to be monthly sampling, now happens annually (typically March to May). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phys chem – in situ and lab - Instream habitat assessments - Fish surveys - Riparian condition assessment (recently moved to rapid condition assessment) - This extensive dataset has been analysed – currently reviewing the monitoring program to see how this is best done moving forward. - The extensive dataset has also been categorised into waterway types (concrete urban / community waterways / healthy urban / natural) which allowed management intent to be developed for each type. Asset managers are now looking how to do the annual assessment of these (including training field guys to collect asset condition data which needs to align with other datasets etc). - Would like to align this with the EHMP datasets but seem to collect different data • Enterococci – sampling done regularly (fortnightly in summer and monthly in winter) and published to declare risks. 11 sampling points – at locations we provide recreational access – program needs to be updated post the River Access Network platforms and increased rec use. Data published on website here • Erosion hotspots / bank instability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geomorphic assessments using Lidar (2019-2016 DEM difference mapping) – to inform priority areas for investment. Needs to be updated once new Lidar data is collected • Attenuated impervious areas – Study undertaken to identify priority areas for investment. not sure if this is out of date. • Riparian corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lidar data used to identify areas which need rehabilitation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some more detailed assessment undertaken at sites as part of waterway health monitoring program. • Lidar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used for geomorphic and riparian corridor assessments • Recreational use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have used strava and some social surveys but would like to have more here • Indigenous values – this is missing • Fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eDNA targeted – indicator species – freshwater needed to complete life cycle (turtles, platypus, fish, rikali) – looking at eDNA metabarcoding to broaden out number of species. - Council has large koala program – use sniffer dogs to understand wider distribution of koalas – would be good to align this better with the HLW program. Trauma data collected as well. - Wildnet, ALA, inaturalist – community groups recommended to use ALA / Inaturalist - Pest – dogs used to remove toads on Moreton Island, deer – cameras with AI • Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working with the herbarium to improve understanding of vegetation condition - Target 40% natural areas - 70% in good condition – working with herbarium to determine the condition assessments. - Not sure if this feeds back into the herbarium data / Qld mapping - Good weeding program for natural areas but not in waterways • Project sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council now has database of where waterway enhancement program projects have been delivered. Looking to develop monitoring and evaluation program to show impact of these. • EHMP data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use EHMP report card to brief the executives and elected officials – there was more buy-in / interest when the executives/politicians were invited to speak at the launch. No longer as invested or interested in this data as it is now just a briefing. - Heavily based on modelling – field sampling to verify this. • Other Qld government / EHMP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainable loads modelling – not sure where this data is • Brisbane City Council has an open data portal.
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No central location for data

What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHMP scores (data) currently goes up and down based on floods, drought etc. It would be good if this was analysed to understand the temporal and spatial influences without the climatic interference. It would also be good to understand what is needed and where to improve the score. This central dataset should inform from a pure scientific justification on what is needed and where. • Lacking social and indigenous values
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be great to have a central data location with resources and expertise dedicated to this to ensure quality control and maintenance. • It would also be great if this collated dataset was analyzed by a third party to identify the future actions requires from a scientific point of view • It would good to have a common approach for how the data is all collected and ensure no duplication of resources. • A catchment scale dataset and planning portal would be useful. Ideally this would transform the data into an environmental investment market plan. It should also allow lessons learnt to be shared. • A working group would be useful to ensure this is all coordinated successfully.

Moreton Bay – Erica

Question	Response
What types of projects does Council deliver?	<p>The following focus areas of Council have a broad water quality benefits (note other environmental projects are undertaken):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated water management planning – water quality infrastructure • Coastal drainage and waterway – engineering • Environmental planning - focus on ecology of waterways • Environmental Service (on-ground projects) / Natural areas management /Environmental Offsets • Community involvement
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set strategic direction • Identify key locations for investment • Inputs to plans e.g. catchment plans, site management plans • Community promotion material • Reporting and monitoring of programs
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterway health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently lacking detailed localised waterway health data – reliant on EHMP data. - Report card scores helps to identify future project investments, plan growth and thresholds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be good to have more data to inform future catchment action planning under the resilient rivers initiative – hoping to use this for key catchments such as Pine and Caboolture River area. • Water quality monitoring program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used to do this across the region and was the base for Councils TWMP Source model. This stopped a few years ago. - Now reliant on the EHMP data (too expensive to start to do Council's own monitoring again) • Biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council are developing their Biodiversity plan which will have reporting and monitoring requirements. Need to build an understanding of the data needs vs what is currently available. - Use State government vegetation, habitat etc mapping – Council has undertaken some projects to improve the RE mapping but will take time to continue to refine this over time - About to update the ecological corridors mapping for the region - Wildnet, inaturalist etc – use these but Council are looking to do their own fauna assessments in high growth areas - Fish barriers – removal of these in collaboration with other agencies - eDNA data • Riparian condition / waterway health assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be good to have more detail on these but no resourcing allocated to this • Coastal hazard adaptation strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collected for this – coastal erosion, storm tide etc (review report to see what data underpins this) • Erosion hot spots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to check on data availability • Flood risk assessment about to be done for the new planning scheme • Green infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offsets and wildlife movement as part of this • Tree cover assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is going to happen soon • Project sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would like to know where activities occur and how they are performing but this needs a designated resource to combine existing information. - Lots of different groups within Council planting trees – hard to collate this into one database.
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsure at the moment – Will use the catchment plan and biodiversity plan projects to understand what data is needed to set strategic direction, identify sites and allow ongoing monitoring and evaluation which can then be used to identify key gaps
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to understand the data needs for Moreton Bay first as they are behind other Councils in terms of data collection, then keen to understand potential regional partnerships. Would be good to know if there is potential for a more detailed water quality monitoring program across the region funded by councils that could be undertaken as a partnership.

Somerset – Darren

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning scheme requirements Compliance – State and local Limited proactive project planning or prioritization undertaken – most projects are selected based on political motivation as well as grants (e.g. QRA flood investments in Mid Brisbane / Sandy Creek and Esk to restore recreation infrastructure. Informal assessment was undertaken on these spaces and to inform design of restoration works which also looked for opportunities for improved resilience) Resilient Rivers program – funding hasn't been located yet.
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited budgets for data collection so most data is from State Government / SEQ water. There is limitations on the accuracy of this regional data on a small scale but this has been ok to-date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation and biodiversity - data is ok but not used well for compliance (e.g. clearing of vegetation / koalas) Fauna – no local collection of data across the region, use third party data (known records, anecdotal data). Ecological study happening on a project site by consultants. No eDNA data done to-date. Scoping MLES at the moment (consultants doing this work). Not yet reflected in the planning scheme. Catchment management overlays (water quality SPP / SEQ drinking water requirements) – mapping to identify where policy requirements for distance of riparian extent / septic systems etc are required as part of drinking water catchments. Lidar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use it where available to do hillslope / shading etc to identify old fire tracks etc More likely to be used by consultants on projects. Don't have huge coverage, just over some townships due to expense Septic replacement program - SEQ Water collaboration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused on working with landholders within certain distance from creek - Morganvale / Black Snake Creek catchment • EHMP data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not many measured points across the region, data based largely on the model - Data not really used except in the presentations to Council • Water quality monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State used to do more of this but now reliant on EHMP • SEQ Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May have datasets that influence water quality – weeds, riparian condition, erosion hotspots. Council are not using this data. - Some partnering and investigation with Council at Hills and Savages Crossing to see what enhancements would happen. - Working with HLW on riparian weeds and creek stabilisation • No database on where projects are happening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used to be an oversight committee for Mis Brisbane but not happening anymore
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'No regrets' to continue to invest in programs
What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding if exemptions for tree clearing etc is real or not on assessment matters • EHMP data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council doesn't like the report card score as it never improves and is problematic to compare to other places like the Noosa River. Unrealistic to expect the region to get to an A. Needs to be realistic and measuring a trajectory within the sub catchment. Most recent presentation didn't focus on the score which was good – had to dig more into the data and assessments. - Data is influenced by events that year and not really giving the long term trends.
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be good to utilize the EHMP data to understand where investment is best placed. Council doesn't have the funds to do this, so needs collaboration to get this investment in this. • Hoping the resilient rivers initiative and funding will allow more targeted improvement of the catchment improvements. Ideally this would be linked to the data collected by the EHMP program. There is a lot of duplication between these 2 groups. • Would be good to have a central platform of projects delivered and dataset. This has been spoken about in the past, but no one uses them. Would need a dedicated resource to do this.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a collated dataset across SEQ could inform the NRM Plan, SEQ Regional Plan and state of the environment report and could be used to truly represent the current condition and needs of the natural environment. It can also be used to monitor and report on progress. • Would be good to remove duplication – this has happened for a long time.
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Logan – Katie, Kylie, Kimberley, Janine

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding condition • Condition assessment (water bodies) • Asset management prioritization • Monitoring progress • Monitoring impacts (discharge points etc) • Not as much in creeks as much of this is privately owned
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lidar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trying to keep this up to date – every 3-5 years - Use this for vegetation assessments (heights, crown cover etc) - Use for bed and bank stability / erosion and change over time – consultants use it for these studies (e.g. Oxley Creek) • Bathymetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did this on sections of the Logan River – fish habitat / bank stabilisation / sediment movement - Would be good to have for water bodies • Waterway health condition assessment / environmental health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on Logan Albert Rivers, Slacks Creek, Scrubby Creek and Oxley Creek. - Assessments undertaken by consultants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did have water quality monitoring – Slacks and Scrubby Creek sites have been removed due to cost and there have been issues with some of the Logan / Albert ones. Have one left downstream of development area top monitoring progress. • Riparian corridor mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use this to estimate water quality - Catchment by catchment assessment usually done - Looking at getting a catchment wide approach taken to help inform stormwater offsets etc. • Vegetation / fauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State mapping - Also have Council own biodiversity database that the community can add to - Inaturalist - Work with herbarium as well - Have own datasets for gossia and irbyana that are shared with the state - Gap – marine plant data....need studies overtime work in done in these areas (mangroves etc) • Groundwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asked for this in drought times and when the ground is very saturated - Qld wetlands dataset is good for this, including soils and shallow geology data - Gold coast are doing a lot in this space at the moment • Fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Really useful for communication - Justice investment in estuarine areas - EHMP data has useful for this as well to demonstrate importance of habitat etc - Costly in creeks – to do the assessment and also getting the timing right to address barriers - Fish assemblage assessment - in Albert River • Macroinvertebrates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tried to get the community to do this – not a lot of interest (more interested in toad busting and pest fishing competitions) • eDNA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - platypus – in some areas - Meta barcoding - interested in establishing more of this. Did it on the Albert River - keen to do more of this. • Water quality data – none at the moment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council have their own in-stream water quality monitoring stations – hard / costly to run and manage - To understand current waterway health
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To monitor impacts • Urban water stewardship framework - Looking to do this with HLW • Geosciences datasets - Geology / groundwater bores etc
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHMP – good to regional understanding. Trying to understand more detail on some of these sites (e.g. Carbrook site). Haven't really needed more detailed water quality monitoring. This is enough to get understanding and interest to guide investment in the Logan / Albert Rivers and the type of work required (more trees needed to address erosion and improve water quality)
What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of knowledge and theory to estimate water quality / inform offsetting / monitoring etc. • Have tried to share data (e.g instream data points at the same location at SEQ water / DNRM – gets too difficult to share on a single system. Was also difficult to share between CSIRO and Council in the past. No central system – everyone has their own system. • Would be good to have more of the analysis side of the EHMP data – and how this can be used to push initiatives / actions such as the Healthy Water Play and Water by Design programs. • Need to be able to communicate the data to the broader community • Mangrove / saltmarsh vegetation • Where does all of the ERA water quality data go in the State Government?? Could this be used in the central database?
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having knowledge of the metadata collected by the different Councils to understand if data could be shared..... • Gold Coast and Logan – Albert River...try to share this data. Hard to make the time to do this. Need a third party to drive this.....

Sunshine Coast – Craig

Question	Response
What types of projects does your team deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
How do you use data in these projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic targets – Aim to maintain waterways and wetlands at good or excellent grade moving forward – these are tied directly to the EHMP score. This has been in place since 2017. Council report on the average overall report card score over a 5 year cycle and look at the detail behind the overall scores to identify why characteristic scores change over time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental operations – data used to inform Council projects and ongoing maintenance of Council reserves. • Don't need the data to help justify spend on the environment as there is already strong political support.
What data would be useful in your projects? Which of this is currently available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WQ data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some data collected by Council for monitoring success for revegetation projects etc or regulatory checks - No recreational water quality testing – haven't been a desire in the past. DES have set up monitoring in Bribie island area to deal with some community concerns as Council doesn't have the data. • Lidar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use this extensively to inform environmental operations. - Weed infestation (cats claw) - Erosion hotspots. - Mostly do this assessment in-house (have the capability to do this as long as there is the resources available). • Vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use state mapping to an extent - not that useful for informing operational works. - Good condition data is gathered by Council for Council Reserves. Most have bushland operational assessments which are done every 5 years or so. • eDNA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - used to identify where pest species (e.g. cats claw) is occurring. Not sure if they have done this for fauna – unlikely. Platypus are not a key focus. • Drones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to map Brazilian pepper based on the colour spectrum • Fauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good fauna surveys done in environmental reserves. - Shorebirds - long term monitoring with wader study group – many councils on the coast do this. - Koala data - Fish – not a focus. Haven't really implemented the fish barrier works across the region.
Do you find the data easy to access and use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHMP data is suitable for monitoring strategic outcomes • Not sure that more data from across the region is useful (exceptions include Mary River with Noosa Council, Koala and shorebirds are good examples of shared data)
What are the key data gaps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHMP doesn't include the Mary River which is an issue for strategic reporting. Council are looking to develop a joint WQ monitoring data with Noosa for this to address this gap. 2 Options – Option 1. to do the bare minimum to do the equivalent of the EHMP. Option 2.– more sub catchment data to prioritise operations works.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No catchment plans in place except for the Pumicestone plan. This makes it challenging to get access to funding like the Resilient Rivers. There has been limited desire to do this plans in the past.• No robust priority species program at the moment.• Missing the areas where action is required outside of the reserves. Catchment management plans or similar work would allow this to be done to support better prioritization. EHMP falls short to be able to make detailed assessments on which stretches of rivers should be prioritised.• Filling this missing data (middle ground) can be costly. Not sure if there are economies of scale to do this.
What could happen to improve things?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to be clear around the role of data and policy. Is additional data really needed to support investment and decision making in the region. Likely that expert input could be more cost effective than detailed data monitoring

Attachment 2 – Council workshop slides

15/02/2024

SEQ WQ Monitoring Needs

Council stakeholder workshop

7th February 2024 – 10am to 12:30pm

1

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners as the custodians of the land and waters in which are meeting. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures, and stories of proud peoples.

2

Workshop purpose

/ Present the outcomes of the individual Council meetings,

/ Provide an opportunity for discussion on Council needs, existing programs and data and key gaps, and

/ Summarise key outcomes from the process and identify next steps.

3

Workshop agenda

Time	Item
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome, introductions and project background
10:15 – 10:45	Council needs <i>Summary of meeting outcomes and discussion to identify common needs across the Councils</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Existing data and programs <i>Summary of meeting outcomes to identify current data and programs</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Current gaps <i>Summary of meeting outcomes and discussion to identify current gaps in data and programs to meet the common needs</i>
11:45 – 12:30	Opportunities <i>Summary of meeting outcomes and discussion to identify potential opportunities to address gaps</i>
12:30	Workshop close

4

Participant expectations

What are you hoping to get out of today's workshop?

Waiting for responses ~..

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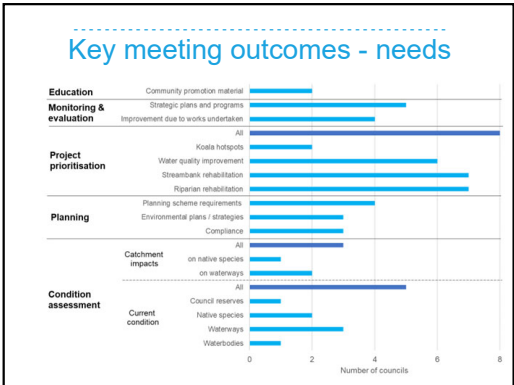
COUNCIL NEEDS

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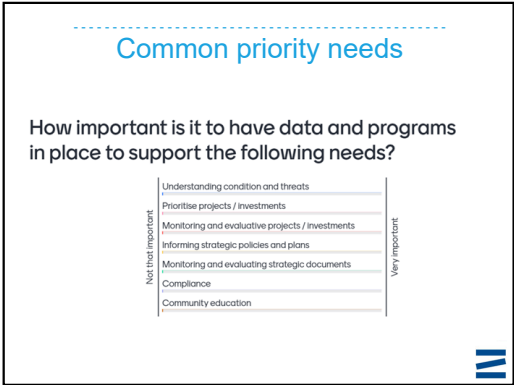
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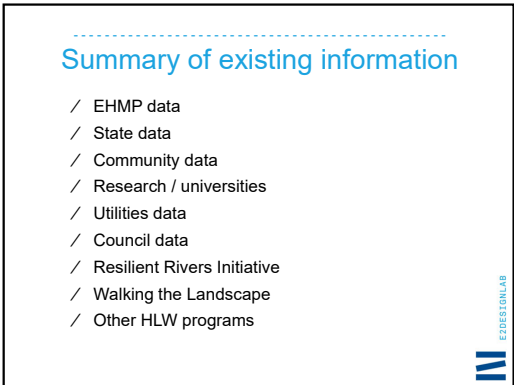
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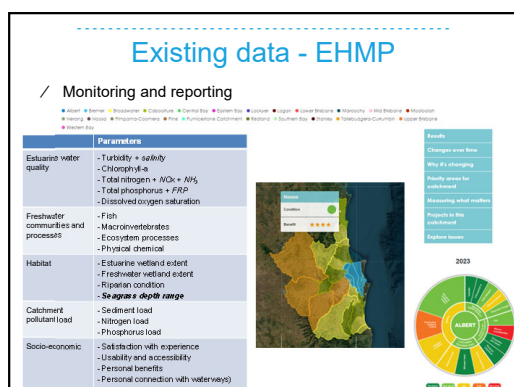
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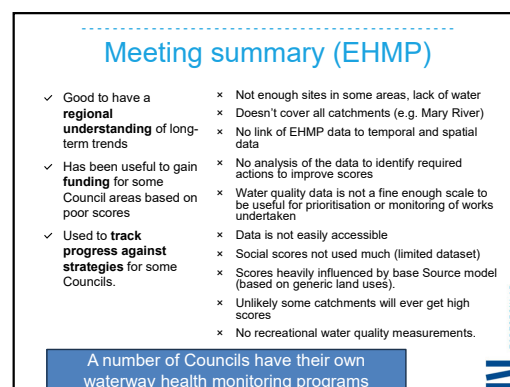
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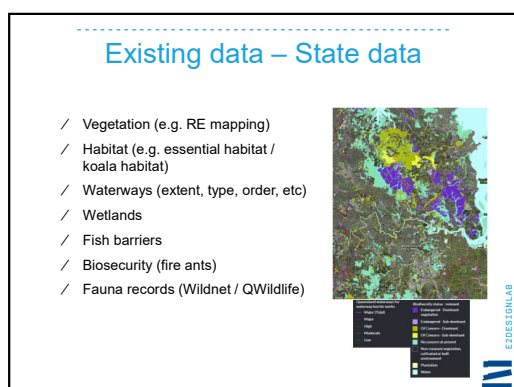
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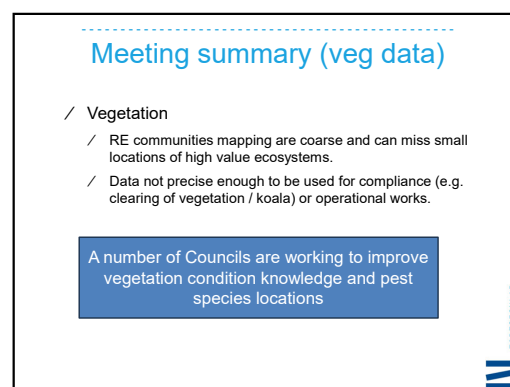
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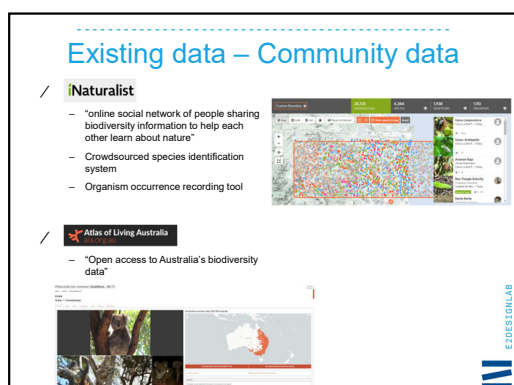
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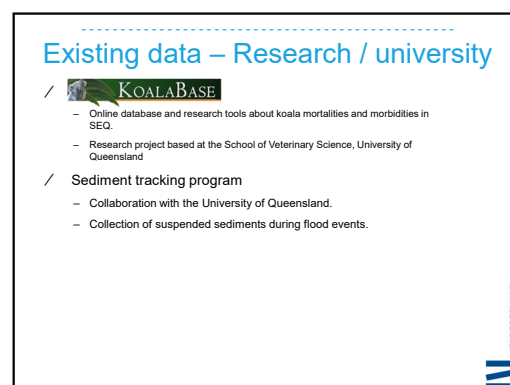
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Meeting summary (fauna)

- / iNaturalist is not completely verified.
- / Many different datasets, some outdated, some hard to use.
- / Wildnet is not up to date.

Some Councils have their own fauna databases and have undertaken assessments (e.g. fish studies, eDNA projects)

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Meeting outcomes – other utility data

- / Water utilities e.g. Urban Utilities
 - Collecting data to help identify areas where bank stabilisation etc can be used for offset
 - Reporting of water quality data for ERA
- / SEQ Water
 - Collected data on catchment issues which influence water quality (e.g. Weeds, riparian condition, erosion hotspots)

Councils are aware of these other programs and projects but not actively involved or able to access data

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Existing program – Walking the Landscape

The 'Walking the landscape' framework integrates existing data with expert knowledge to develop a whole-of-system map linked to conceptual models showing how the environment functions. The method addresses a major criticism of broadscale mapping—the lack of integration of knowledge from local experts into datasets used by decision makers.

- / Catchment stories

Example

LOCKYER CATCHMENT STORY

The Lockyer Catchment Story is a whole-of-system map linked to conceptual models showing how the environment functions. It integrates existing data with expert knowledge to develop a whole-of-system map linked to conceptual models showing how the environment functions. The method addresses a major criticism of broadscale mapping—the lack of integration of knowledge from local experts into datasets used by decision makers.

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Existing program – Resilient Rivers Initiative

A coordinated approach to managing SEQ's catchments and waterways.

- / Catchment action plans
 - Upper Brisbane and Stanley Rivers (Sept 2021)
 - Bremer River (Oct 2018)
 - Lower Brisbane – Redlands Coastal (Oct 2018)
 - Logan-Albert (Apr 2017)
 - Mid Brisbane (Aug 2016)
 - Lockyer (Aug 2016)
 - Pumicestone Passage and CAP (Apr 2014)

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Existing programs – Other HLW programs

Brisbane Catchments Network Online Mapping Tool

Mid Brisbane Partnerships Program

Protecting Koalas

Healthy Waterways

Water by Design

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Meeting outcomes – catchment planning

- / Not all catchments are covered with Resilient Rivers Catchment Action Plans
- / No tracking of actions delivered and outcomes achieved across catchments

A number of Councils are undertaking their own catchment planning and supporting projects (e.g. streambank stability projects) to identify priority actions in key catchments

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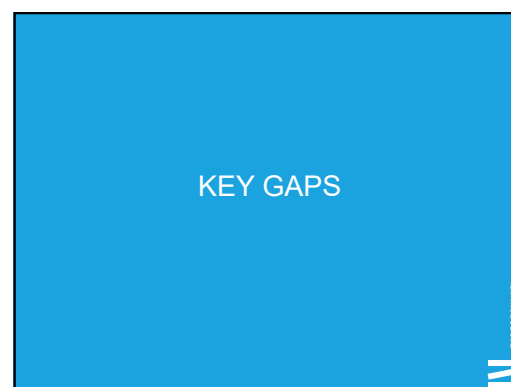
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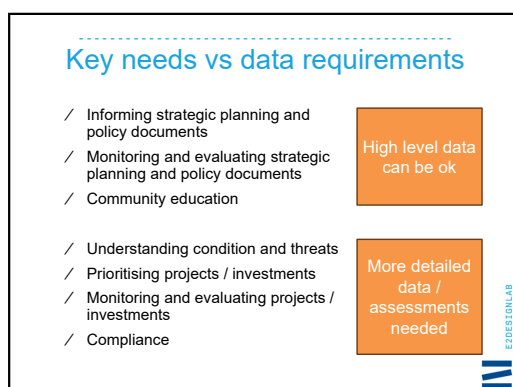
Data gathered by Councils

Category	Focus	BCC	CoMB	ICC	LVRC	LCG	SRRC	SRC	SCC
Animals	Platypus	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Priority animals	✓				✓	✓		
	Koalas					✓	✓		✓
	Biosecurity	✓				✓			
Coastal	Pest animals	✓				✓			
	Coastal hazards		✓						
	Riparian extent	✓			✓	✓			
Waterways	Stream erosion	✓			✓	✓			
	Riparian condition	✓				✓			
Topographic	LiDAR			✓				✓	✓
Infrastructure	Ecological corridors		✓						✓
Plants	Pest plants	✓							✓
Projects	Site and works undertaken	✓		✓					
	Costs		✓				✓		✓
Vegetation	Vegetation condition	✓	✓				✓		✓
	Vegetation types		✓				✓		✓
	MLES	✓		✓				✓	
	Koala habitat		✓						
Water quality	Canopy coverage	✓			✓	✓			
	Macrobenthos	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Chemical and physical	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Waterways	Fish	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Biological	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Fish barriers and weirs	✓			✓	✓			

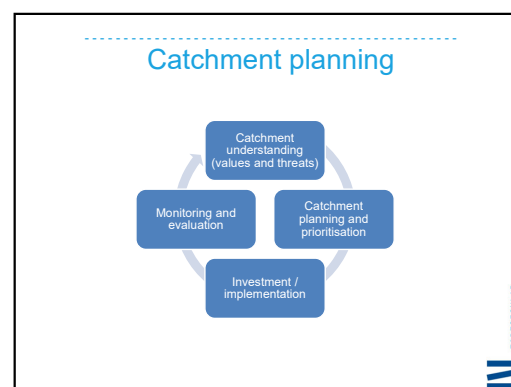
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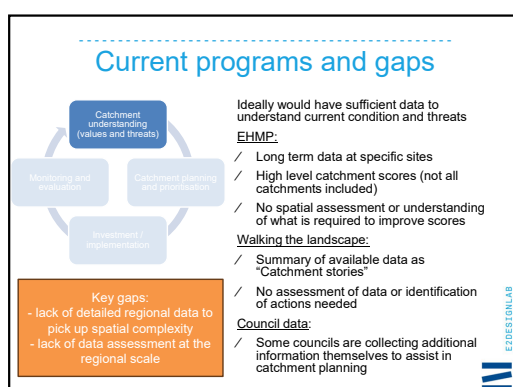
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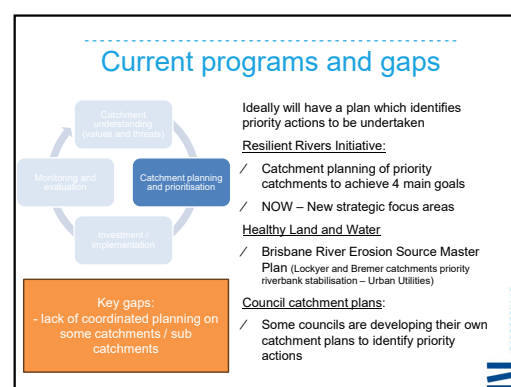
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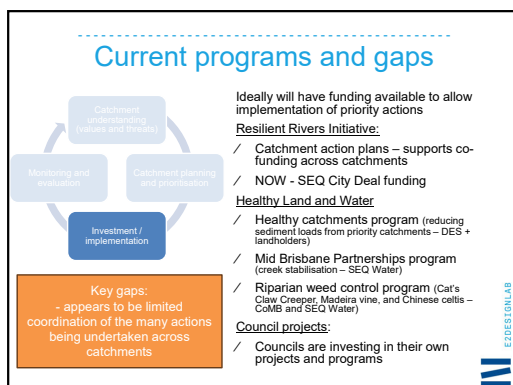
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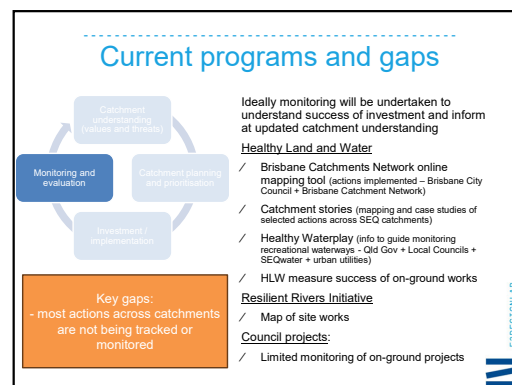
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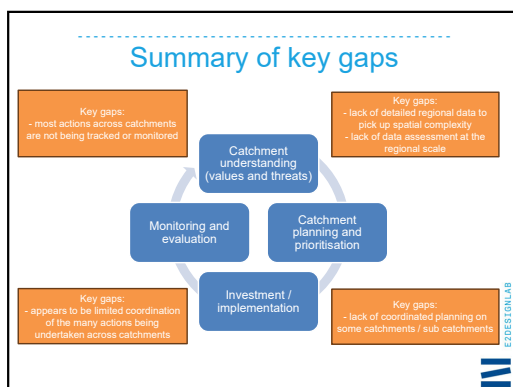
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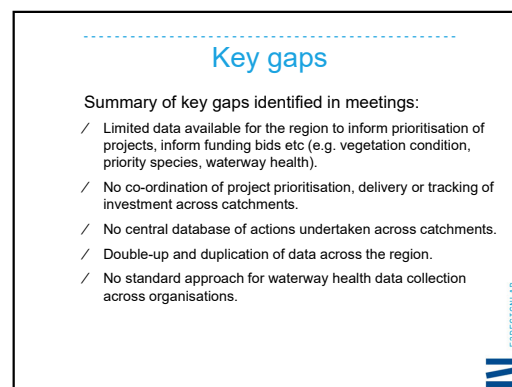
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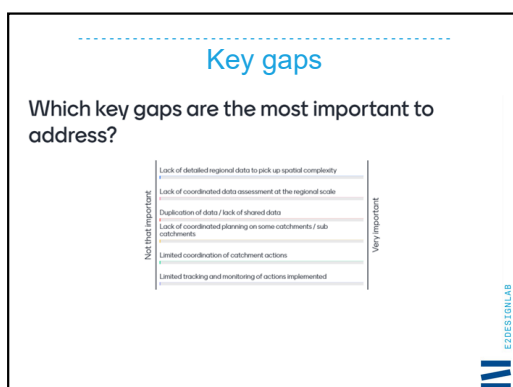
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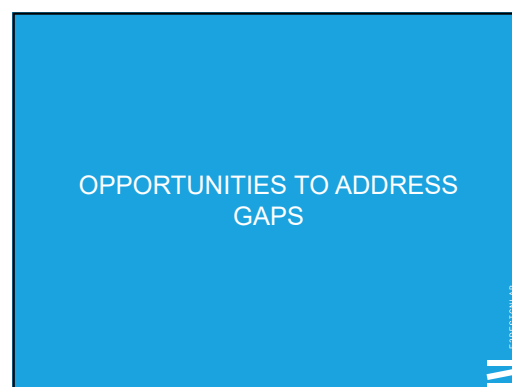
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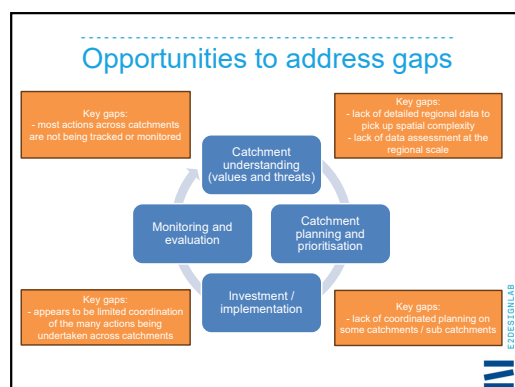
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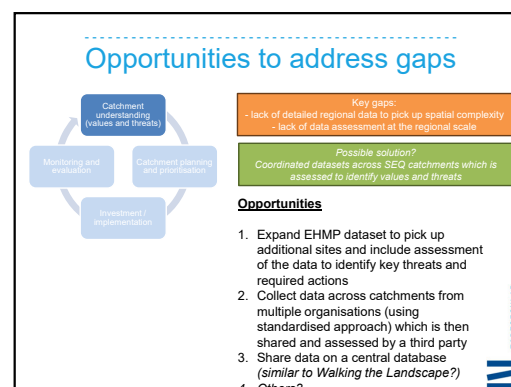
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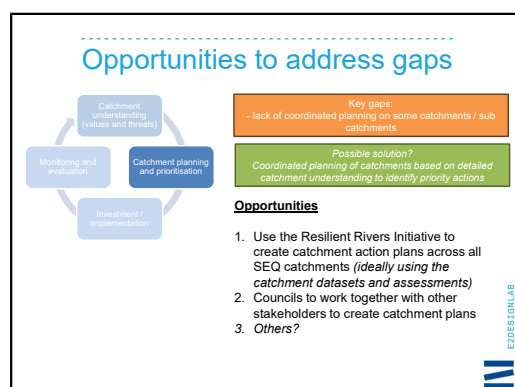
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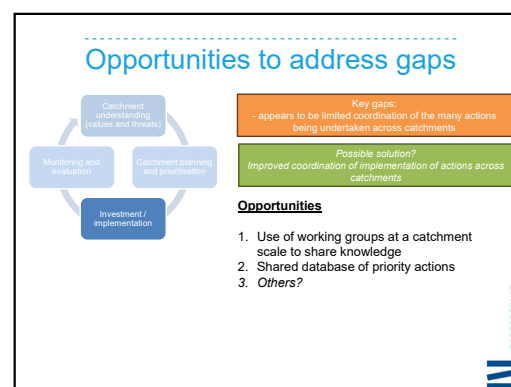
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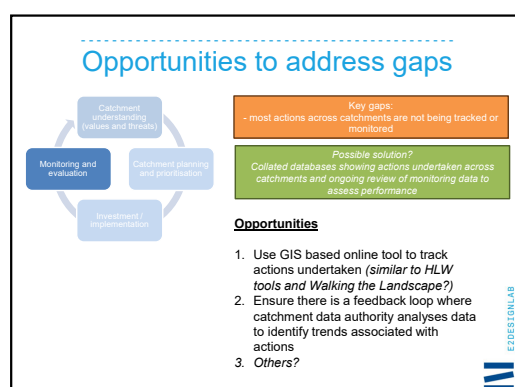
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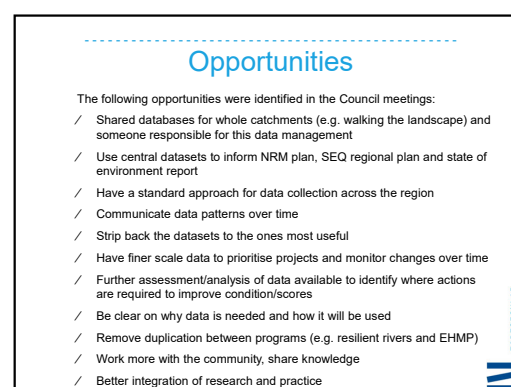
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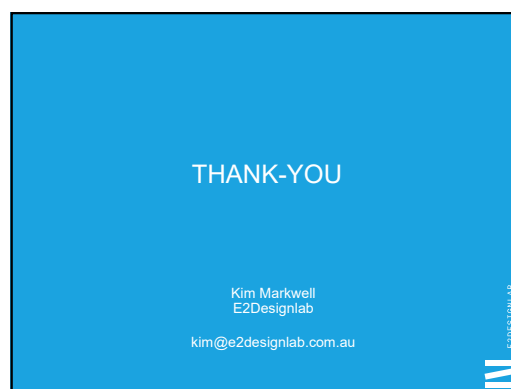
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15/02/2024



43



44

Attachment 3 – Council workshop notes

E2DESIGNLAB



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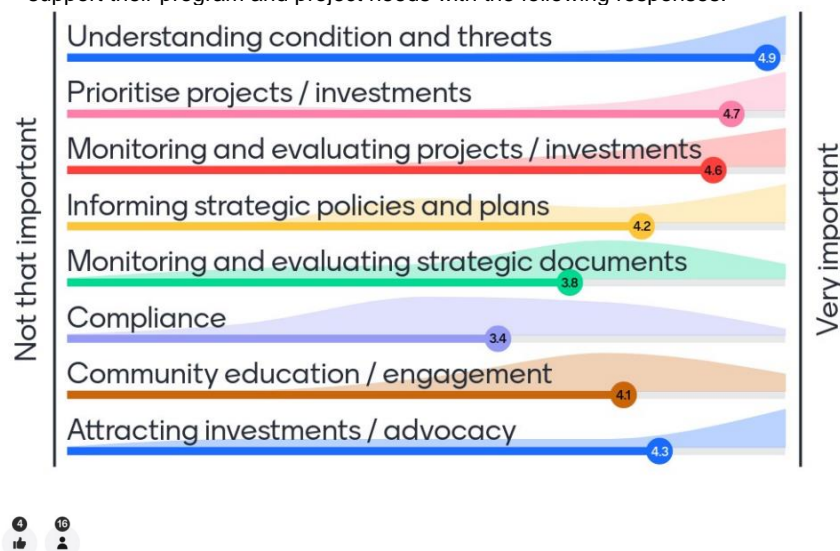
Meeting Minutes

SEQ WQ Monitoring needs		Date	07 02 2024
Venue	Ipswich City Council Online	Time	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Attendees	Chris Hoffman, Lockyer Valley (online) Anne Simi, Brisbane City Council Bee Cruse, Redland City Council Jack McCann, Ipswich City Council Kate Burns, Lockyer Valley Regional Council Sanja Oldridge, City of Moreton Bay Darren McPherson, Somerset Regional Council (online) Philip Smith, Ipswich City Council (online) Belinda Whelband, Ipswich City Council Britt Rogers, Logan City Council Natalie Baker, Brisbane City Council Mischa Turschwell, Brisbane City Council Lara Solyma, Scenic Rim Regional Council (online) Graham Webb, Sunshine Coast Council (online) Benny Penhallurick, Ipswich City Council Rebekah Kenna, Redlands City Council (online) Kim Markwell, E2Designlab Juliette Monetti, E2Designlab		

Discussion points																			
1. Background and purpose (Phil and Britt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create a safe space for open conversation between just the local councils to discuss needs vs what they are getting from regional programs and data (e.g. NRM bodies, Resilient Rivers Initiative, City Deal)• Councils have had multiple workshops previously regarding EHMP & HLW but any resulting changes have not really addressed all of the needs• Intent of the conversation today is to understand the needs from Councils' perspective, without being steered to an external organisation's perspective.• Need to consider if trying to shape existing programs to address needs is a good option or if new programs are needed to be fit for purpose.																		
2. Hoping to get out of today	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants were asked to identify the key outcomes they were hoping to get out of the workshop using menti with the following results: What are you hoping to get out of todays workshop?<table><tr><td>Understanding common needs</td><td>Understand what other councils are up to, issues and opportunities</td><td>A great appreciation and understanding of other councils needs</td></tr><tr><td>Improved regional outcomes for our catchments</td><td>Identify common themes re water quality management</td><td>Collaboration for regional environmental outcomes</td></tr><tr><td>To try and address long standing concerns about the regional programs and councils role in that</td><td>a better understanding of where all the Councils are at with regards to water quality monitoring and what the next steps are for better managing the outcomes from this work</td><td>Looking to hear others' experiences and needs and the value they're getting out and what they use it for (aside from EA conditions)</td></tr><tr><td>Support to define EHMP objectives and report card 'next steps' Scalability of the program Collab from HLW on other programs</td><td>Collaborate for good regional data</td><td>Opportunity to get better outcomes. Improve regional outcomes. Working together better (leverage).</td></tr><tr><td>Hearing from other councils what is needed in a safe and open place</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>A new collaborative and enduring working group to coordinate and share the benefits and costs of monitoring that services all of our needs, ideally operating as part of the Resilient Rivers Initiative</td><td>Local councils play a huge role in waterway management. Hoping for an understanding of collective information requirements to guide our management programs</td><td></td></tr></table>	Understanding common needs	Understand what other councils are up to, issues and opportunities	A great appreciation and understanding of other councils needs	Improved regional outcomes for our catchments	Identify common themes re water quality management	Collaboration for regional environmental outcomes	To try and address long standing concerns about the regional programs and councils role in that	a better understanding of where all the Councils are at with regards to water quality monitoring and what the next steps are for better managing the outcomes from this work	Looking to hear others' experiences and needs and the value they're getting out and what they use it for (aside from EA conditions)	Support to define EHMP objectives and report card 'next steps' Scalability of the program Collab from HLW on other programs	Collaborate for good regional data	Opportunity to get better outcomes. Improve regional outcomes. Working together better (leverage).	Hearing from other councils what is needed in a safe and open place			A new collaborative and enduring working group to coordinate and share the benefits and costs of monitoring that services all of our needs, ideally operating as part of the Resilient Rivers Initiative	Local councils play a huge role in waterway management. Hoping for an understanding of collective information requirements to guide our management programs	
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3. Council needs

- These were based on online meetings which were focused more on data than programs, however both were discussed.
- Redland City Council and Gold Coast City Councils were not interviewed.
- Other needs identified in the meeting:
 - Attracting investment (e.g. environmental markets).
 - Advocacy (e.g. State and Federal policy and also within local Councils). Guideline or advising updates on local, state or federal policy. If councils want to ask for reforms, need the data to back it up and leverage the changes.
 - Community education and *engagement* (e.g. community interest in waterway condition and water quality).
- Other discussion items:
 - Programs need to update and evolve readily. Ongoing programs are sometimes not relevant anymore due to changing risks and opportunities. Therefore, continually understanding condition and risk regularly is needed to re-inform the planning.
 - Communication between councils is important to create a regional understanding.
 - Compliance is important for water utilities within Councils (e.g. Logan Water) who are happy to pay EHMP. Compliance can also be related to other issues such as WQO objectives compliance. It can be hard to pin water polluters – e.g. ESC is difficult to pin down on developers.
 - Having a legislative requirement assists in getting budgets approved for monitoring programs.
 - Prioritisation and monitoring/evaluating projects should be done together.
 - Local governments have a responsibility to do their own monitoring as well.
- Councils were asked to rank the importance of having data and programs to support their program and project needs with the following responses:



4. Existing programs and data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting a feedback loop between local council data and state / regional datasets is difficult (e.g. Koala mapping and water quality data).• Methods and types of data collected are quite different depending on whether you want to report on strategies at a high level or more detailed condition.• There are some examples of partnerships with councils and water utilities e.g. CoMB works with UnityWater to do integrated water management (recycled water). Contact with SEQ water about tanks in peri-urban areas. However, there is no clarity or direction from a policy perspective for these partnerships to occur.• It can be difficult to get financial support for local councils to undertake their own water quality monitoring programs – there needs to be clear justification for this.• CoMB used to have their own water quality monitoring program to underpin their TWCMP – unsure of the reasons why this was stopped. It would be good to get the lessons learnt from this.• Small Councils (e.g. LVRC) has a single employee undertaking the water quality monitoring.• Healthy waterplay – this was useful to develop resources councils can use and create common terminology, but unsure if anything is happening with this anymore.
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5. Gaps	<p><u>Catchment understanding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of detail in regional datasets to inform catchment understanding. • Limited analysis of the data to explain temporal and spatial trends. E.g. high rainfall = poor scores for some catchments, but what does it mean? Which sub catchments have the gullies that are eroding? The existing analysis stops at the fact that there was rainfall. There have been examples of councils trying to do some of this analysis themselves by diving into the data and even retirees looking at the fish data to understand local diversity. • No focus on the urban area. Monitoring is usually around peri-urban areas. No regional report card focusing on key threats in urban land uses. If no differentiation is the data, can't identify causes and use the data to justify stricter rules. • Freshwater scores are based heavily on the source model which makes it difficult to improve the report card scores regardless of actions you implement in the catchment. This makes it hard for some councils to justify investment to councillors. • There are benefits of EHMP if it 'stays in its lane' for some local councils e.g. it is relevant for the SCC Environment and Liveability Strategy to monitoring progress against one of the strategy targets. 4 out of 5 river catchments are covered in EHMP (not the Mary River - working with Noosa council to fill that gap). EHMP can be cost effective for this (e.g. SCC pay \$140,000/yr for 4 catchments and they determined it will cost \$80,000 / year to undertake similar monitoring for 1 catchment). • Councils are willing to collect the data and communicate it to HLW to add to their data but this has been problematic to achieve in the past. Past experience has shown that trying to link local data into regional report cards was difficult and not possible (e.g. Redland City Council). Some lack of optimism regarding if you could effectively link more detailed local data with the regional monitoring program. • It would be good to have collaboration and data sharing in the region. • There are already examples of regionally collated datasets (e.g. SWIM Qld water director database). Redlands are looking to add the HLW EHMP data into their SWIM system. • No legislative requirements to undertake catchment actions and therefore no legislative driver to get a good report card scores. This also means there is no obvious leader in catchment management for the region. Not optimistic that you could get a good regional model. <p><u>Catchment planning and prioritisation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of the Resilient Rivers Initiative was tactical to help simplify the message for politicians and get actions on the ground. The timing of this was driven largely by the 2013 flood and Mt Crosby shutting down which highlighted the need to invest in the upstream catchments. This happened at the same time of merging of Healthy Waterways Partnerships and SEQ Catchments. There was no clear leadership at the time. • There is potential for the Resilient Rivers Initiative to improve catchment planning, action prioritisation and investment. Local councils can help to gently and kindly push for these changes and inform the update and development of new CAPs. Currently there is still limited scope for the program, even with the updates, as it is still more focused on keeping soil on land and the renewed focus is not on implementation of existing actions, not an updated catchment understanding and planning process which council's were hoping for. • SPP policy guidelines give a lot of guidance for strategies. <p><u>Investment / implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGIP is also example of coordinated and detailed catchment planning to inform investment in urban stormwater including riparian vegetation in CoMB – this is not the process in most LGAS. • There is limited coordination of actions between groups for example – CoMB were not aware of the HLW riparian weed control program, Port of Brisbane doesn't typically collaborate with councils
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6. Opportunities	<p><u>Data opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring at the regional scale is important and useful for specific purposes (e.g. informing and monitoring strategic targets, compliance etc) – EHMP is successful at this. Should funding be directed from the groups for who this is useful (e.g. State government rather than local councils?). It was noted that councils have been told the EHMP monitoring program will continue regardless of if they continue to fund it. It was noted that EHMP has been adapting from its initial design which had clear purpose to try and meet Council needs. This has resulted in the program not having a 'clear lane' anymore with the goals of EHMP on the website reflecting a program that is trying to do more than just provide a regional monitoring program. EHMP goals from the website as noted in the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire action. Increase awareness of the health of waterways and catchments and related environmental issues in the region. Identify priority areas for investment and support members to identify and implement actions. Provide an assessment of the effectiveness of management actions and progress towards targets. Provide data relevant for researchers, managers, and the wider community that contributes to greater waterway understanding. Enhance community quality of life by fostering stewardship to protect and restore waterway health. Local waterway health (rather than just water quality) monitoring is required to inform more detailed understanding of catchments. This is a key need of the SEQ local councils and therefore many of them are doing this monitoring themselves. Since EHMP is not meeting this need and many local councils are doing this monitoring themselves, should the local councils be funding EHMP? Would it be more beneficial to fund a new dataset which is fit for purpose to need the council needs. Councils have limited budgets to need to decide if they are funding regional monitoring, doing local monitoring or supporting Resilient Rivers Initiative. Unable to fund them all. Conversations are apparently happening between Resilient Rivers and the State Government about data collection for the program. <p><u>Partnerships and next steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next step might be another council meeting / working group to confirm the new database needs and how the resilient rivers initiative and other stakeholders such as HLW might work together moving forward. Don't duplicate other working groups and frameworks which already existing (e.g. Council of Mayors) It would be good to take this opportunity to build reconciliation between Council of Mayors (Resilient Rivers Initiative) and Healthy Land & Water. LGAs could drive the direction of the Resilient Rivers Initiative which then funds HLW to undertake the data collection, collation and analysis.
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ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: BOARD APPOINTMENTS OF GREENOVATE PTY LTD NON-CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

AUTHOR: MANAGER, RESOURCE RECOVERY

DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper serves as a covering report for the Council to resolve to appoint the preferred candidates for the Board Members of Greenovate Pty Ltd, the personal and private details of the candidates and recruitment process are detailed in the multiple attached confidential papers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- A. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(a)(1) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.2(a) and 5.4 (a)(1) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 1 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of four (4) years) as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.**
- B. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(b) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.4(a) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 2 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of three (3) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.**
- C. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(b) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.4(a) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 3 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of three (3) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.**
- D. In accordance with Rule 7.2(a) and Rule 7.3(b) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.4(a) of the Security Holders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council appoint Candidate 4 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of three (3) years as set out in Confidential Attachment 4.**

- E. If Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council and Redland City Council do not resolve to appoint at least two (2) Independent Directors to Greenovate Pty Ltd by 6 November 2024, the shareholder representative for the Council is authorised to:**
- a. execute a variation to the SHA in accordance with the amendment set out in Attachment 7;**
 - b. pass a Securityholder resolution to replace the Constitution of Greenovate Pty Ltd with the amended Constitution as set out in Attachment 6; and**
 - c. pass a Securityholder resolution appointing the Chief Executive Officer of Redland City Council, as an interim director under Rule 7.6 (a) of the Greenovate Constitution and clause 5.1(c) of the Security Holders Agreement.**
- F. That upon the winding up of Greenovate Pty Ltd, the confidential attachments to the report titled Greenovate Pty Ltd Board Chair, be placed in the public records.**

**Due to the confidential nature of these appointments and until such time as the other Councils have adopted their recommendations, the names of the proposed directors will be held in confidence.*

CONFIDENTIALITY

This is a public report with confidential attachments.

It is recommended that the confidential attachments be considered in a closed session pursuant to section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 on that basis that the matter involves:

Section 254J (3) (g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government

It is considered necessary to take the discussion of the confidential attachments into a closed session as they contain information about the candidates and negotiations in respect of their appointment.

RELATED PARTIES

The CVs of the recommended candidates for the positions of independent directors of Greenovate is included in Confidential Attachment 4.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to appoint independent directors of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 (Greenovate).

Further details are explained in the attached Board Appointments of Greenovate Pty Ltd Confidential Report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As a Proprietary Limited company registered under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), it is necessary for the three Councils, as Securityholders of Greenovate, to comply with its constitution and appoint an Independent Director to the company.

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions: *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications with this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Appointment of the independent directors will complete the process of replacing the interim directors whose term expires on 9 November 2024. The independent directors' term will commence upon their execution of their letter of engagement, which will occur on or before 9 November 2024.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This is detailed in the attached confidential report and other associated attachments, noting that director's remuneration is catered for within the existing Greenovate working capital budget, and does not alter existing commitments by Council to Greenovate.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required for this matter.

CONCLUSION

Following a recruitment process facilitated by independent external recruitment company, C3Talent, and consideration by the Greenovate Board, it has recommended the appointment of four (4) candidates for the position of Greenovate independent directors. Appointment of independent directors completes the process of replacing the interim directors whose term expires on 9 November 2024.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Board appointments for Greenovate Pty Ltd.
(b) What human rights are affected?	None
(c) How are the human rights limited?	N/A
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	N/A
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

	CONFIDENTIAL
1.	Board Appointments of Greenovate Pty Ltd Confidential Report
2.	Greenovate Constitution
3.	Board Skills Matrix
4.	List of Preferred Candidates and Proposed Engagement Term
5.	CVs of Preferred Candidates
6.	Security holders Agreement
7.	Security holders Agreement (proposed amendment)
8.	Greenovate Constitution (Amended)

David McAlister

MANAGER, RESOURCE RECOVERY

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”