



City of
Ipswich

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 3 December 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

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Jim Madden (**Chairperson**)
Councillor Andrew Antonioli (**Deputy Chairperson**)

Mayor Teresa Harding
Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic
Councillor Jacob Madsen
Councillor Pye Augustine

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(07)

3 DECEMBER 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(06) OF 14 NOVEMBER 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 14 November 2024 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **NEW OFF-SITE STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT POLICY AND UPDATED VOLUNTARY PAYMENT**

Since 2012, Ipswich City Council (council) has operated the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (the Program). The Program enables off-site stormwater quality improvement in the Ipswich local government area. In late 2022, a formal review of the Program was undertaken which identified several issues and recommendations to address them. This included the preparation of a new council policy to ensure consistent decision-making in the Program and an update to the council's Voluntary Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Payment (the Payment) to ensure environmental, financial, and other risks are controlled.

RECOMMENDATION

That the policy titled 'Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy', as detailed in Attachment 1 be adopted.

3. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY REVIEW

The Sustainability Policy, adopted by the Ipswich City Council (Council) in 2020, was due for mandatory four-year review on 26 November 2024. The policy has been reviewed and updated to enhance its commitment to sustainability, align with current best practices, and incorporate principles such as climate resilience and sustainable procurement. The updated policy is presented for adoption to ensure it remains relevant and demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

This is a report concerning the update of the Sustainability Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the revised policy titled 'Sustainability Policy', as detailed in Attachment 3, be adopted.

4. WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION DIRECTIVE - QUARTERLY REPORT

This is a report concerning the continuing implementation of the Ipswich City Council Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive (the Directive) following the review of the Directive at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 September 2024.

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

5. IPSWICH RIVERS IMPROVEMENT TRUST NOTICE OF ANNUAL PRECEPT FOR 2024 - 2025

This is a report concerning the annual Precept issued to Council under the *Rivers Improvement Trust Act 1940* and the associated program of works for the Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust for 2024-2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

6. ENVIROPLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

This is a report concerning the Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Annual Progress Report for the 2023-2024 Financial Year (Attachment 1). Contained within the report is an overview of project delivery, outcomes and a financial summary including expenditure and revenue and highlights from the past year which include:

- A land acquisition in April 2024 of 93 hectares at Mt. Flinders Road, Peak Crossing
- \$164,778 was provided to the Ipswich community in Nature Conservation Grants
- \$351,324 towards 156 hectares of ongoing fuel-reduced area maintenance for the control of wildfires in Natural Area Estates and protection of life and property

RECOMMENDATION

That the report concerning the Enviroplan Annual Report 2023-2024 be received and the contents noted.

7. UPDATED FLYING-FOX ROOST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council's Flying-fox Roost Management Plan and Statement of Management Intent have undergone a review and update. This update included third party expert input as well as community engagement through Shape Your Ipswich. Attached for consideration and adoption by Council is the final draft of the updated Ipswich City Council Flying Fox Management Plan 2024 (Attachment 1). The Statement of Management Intent (Attachment 2) required a small suite of changes to align it with the newly drafted Flying-fox Roost Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council adopt the new Ipswich City Council Flying-fox Roost Management Plan 2024, as detailed in Attachment 1.
 - B. That Council adopt the updated Flying-fox Statement of Management Intent, as detailed in Attachment 2.
-

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(06)

14 NOVEMBER 2024

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

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

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Acting General Manager Fleet, Works and Field Services (Darren Scott), Manager Natural Environment (Phil A Smith), Resource Recovery Manager (David McAlister), Disaster Management Coordinator (Kristie Mckenna), Team Leader – Environment and Sustainability Education and Awareness (Stephani Grove), Senior Communications and Policy Officer (Jodie Richter), Chief of Staff – Office of the Mayor (Melissa Fitzgerald), Coordinator Communications (Lucy Stone) and Theatre Technician (Trent Gray)

WELCOME TO COUNTRY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Jim Madden (Chairperson) invited Councillor Jacob Madsen to deliver the Acknowledgement of Country

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

1. **RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - SOUTHERN RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE ANCILLARY SERVICES**

This is a report concerning a response to a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Jim Madden at the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 13 August 2024 requesting:

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

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

Attached to this report is a detailed assessment paper prepared to answer the above question and provide guidance.

In summary the tip shop as already planned is the most consistent site usage in relation to associated waste activities. The Tool Library, Toy Library and Repair Café, whilst strongly supported in principle as sound circular economy practises are not best suited for co-location at the SRRC for a range of risk, traffic management and suitability reasons, and these should be explored and supported at other Council locations such as Community Centres.

Noting that there is still significant time before final site designs are completed for the SRRC.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

That the response to the Notice of Motion in relation to the Southern Resource Recovery Centre Ancillary Services be received and noted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden
Antonioli
Harding
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2024(05) OF 15 OCTOBER 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 15 October 2024 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden
Antonioli
Harding
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

3. **LITTLE LIVERPOOL RANGE INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

This is a report concerning the continued growth and achievements of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative since its inception in July 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:
Seconded by Councillor Pye Augustine:

That the report in relation to the Little Liverpool Range Initiative Progress Report be received and the contents noted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden
Antonioli
Harding
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

4. COMMUNITY DISASTER RISK AWARENESS EDUCATION

This is a report concerning the outcomes of a recently concluded grant-funded project focused on understanding and improving disaster risk awareness and preparedness in Ipswich. This two-year Commonwealth-funded project enabled council to temporarily employ a project officer to undertake a large volume of community education focused on improving community resilience to disasters.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Mayor Teresa Harding:

Seconded by Councillor Pye Augustine:

That the report on Community Disaster Risk Awareness Education be received and the contents noted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antoniolli

Harding

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 1.34 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

Doc ID No: A10869149

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: NEW OFF-SITE STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT POLICY AND UPDATED VOLUNTARY PAYMENT

AUTHOR: WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2012, Ipswich City Council (council) has operated the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (the Program). The Program enables off-site stormwater quality improvement in the Ipswich local government area. In late 2022, a formal review of the Program was undertaken which identified several issues and recommendations to address them. This included the preparation of a new council policy to ensure consistent decision-making in the Program and an update to the council's Voluntary Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Payment (the Payment) to ensure environmental, financial, and other risks are controlled.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the policy titled 'Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy', as detailed in Attachment 1 be adopted.

RELATED PARTIES

There were no conflicts of interest identified in the process of writing this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The State Planning Policy 2017 requires applicable development to improve the quality of stormwater running off development sites by meeting targets for the reduction of key stormwater pollutants. In-lieu of partially or fully meeting these targets on development sites (i.e., 'on-site'), developers may volunteer to pay a fee to local governments to inherit their stormwater quality improvement responsibilities. Local governments must use these fees to deliver projects away from development sites (i.e., off-site) at other locations in their jurisdictions. These projects must achieve an equal or greater stormwater quality outcome relative to what would be achieved by developers meeting responsibilities on-site. This process is referred to as off-site stormwater quality improvement.

As an outcome of a recent review, a new council policy has been drafted and is included as Attachment 1 of this report.

Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy

The review of the Program identified a review of council's position and direction for off-site stormwater quality improvement decision making, including clarity on roles and responsibilities for the program's operation across multiple council departments, branches, and teams. To address this, it was recommended that a new council policy be prepared incorporating the following:

- Purpose and principles
- Eligibility requirements
- Governance requirements

The Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy (the Policy) was prepared in accordance with best practice and meeting statutory requirements for off-site stormwater quality improvement in Queensland. They involved the following activities.

- A review of Queensland policy relating to off-site stormwater quality improvement
- A review of Queensland guidelines for off-site stormwater quality improvement
- Policy benchmarking
- Significant internal and external stakeholder consultation

The Policy is supported by a planning policy (to be included in the forthcoming Ipswich Plan 2024), a procedure, and guidelines (refer Attachments 3, 4, 5). The planning policy enables off-site stormwater quality improvement in the Ipswich local government area as a means for developers to comply with the State Planning Policy 2017. The procedure establishes business processes and roles and responsibilities for the operation of the Program. The guidelines provide guidance for developers seeking to participate in the Program as well as a framework for council staff to assess developer applications to participate.

Voluntary Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Payment

The Payment is made up of an in-lieu fee unit and rate. The term "in-lieu" is used as the Payment is made in-lieu of developers partially or fully meeting their stormwater quality improvement responsibilities on-site. The unit is used to provide a standardised measurement of the on and off-site stormwater quality improvement responsibility. The rate reflects the cost for council to inherit the responsibility per unit of measure.

In-lieu fee unit

The current unit is square metres (m²) of stormwater quality treatment area, specifically the equivalent filter area of bioretention which is considered the most cost-effective stormwater quality improvement technology. The review identified that the current unit is not directly

comparable to the outputs of modelling tools used to assess stormwater quality improvement responsibilities by the development industry and council, and therefore prevents reliable assessments of council's inherited responsibilities and the performance of off-site projects in meeting them. Additionally, it prevents developers from taking credit for partial on-site stormwater quality improvement. This is inconsistent with best practice which seeks to avoid and reduce the quantity of stormwater generated on-site in the first instance.

Based on the benchmarking of in-lieu fee units and rates used by other Australian local governments, as well as advice from external consultants, it was recommended to change the in-lieu fee unit from m² of stormwater quality treatment area to kilograms (kg) of Total Nitrogen (TN) per year (kgTN/year). This unit is consistent with the stormwater quality modelling approach currently employed by the development industry and council and thus addresses the issues noted above.

The conversion of the unit would result in the current rate of \$1,121.23/m² being updated to the equivalent value of \$29,506/kgTN/year.

In-lieu fee rate

Based on the Queensland Government's Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy 2019, it was recommended that a 50% delivery ratio be incorporated into the in-lieu fee rate to address modelling uncertainties and associated environmental, financial, and other risks. Additionally, and in alignment with the Queensland Government's guidance for off-site stormwater quality improvement, it was recommended that costs for operating the Program and managing the planning and delivery of off-site projects be incorporated into the in-lieu fee rate. This addition accords with Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2009* which requires local governments to limit fees for the supply of goods and services to cost recovery.

The above would result in the in-lieu fee rate increasing from \$29,605/kgTN/year to \$48,532/kgTN/year, denoting a 64% increase.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Planning Act 2016

Queensland State Planning Policy

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Policy is supported by the guidelines (see Attachment 5) which are referenced in the draft Ipswich Plan 2024. To ensure integration of these documents, it is recommended that the Policy be adopted before the Ipswich Plan 2024 comes into effect. No other council policies have been identified that would be impacted by the recommendations of this report.

The Policy works with and towards the objectives and intent of the Queensland State Planning Policy where it refers to Stormwater Quality Management.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations of this report have aimed to control the risks described above as well as others associated with the operation of the Program and off-site stormwater quality improvement in the Ipswich local government area.

These include but are not limited to environmental impact risks associated with reducing pollution.

Reputational Risk around the management of developer contributions intended of a specific use.

Legislative risk associated with delivering and achieving requirements under the State Planning Scheme.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Internal financial implications

The recommendations of this report can be implemented without further funding. The updated Payment will ensure Council can recover costs associated with the implementation and operation of the Program in the future (including Program reviews), reducing pressure for budget funding from general revenue to deliver equivalent stormwater quality improvements.

Given the increasing accrual of responsibilities, the Environment and Sustainability Department continues to review the workload with a focus on the potential need to use the accrued funding to support delivery resourcing through increased labour budgets for contractors.

External financial implications

Relative to historic in-lieu fee rates, the updated Payment will increase costs for developers if and only when off-site stormwater quality improvement is their only feasible option to comply with the State Planning Policy 2017. However, council is not aware of any development circumstance or scenario where this has been the case in the Ipswich local government area. Developers will always retain the option to meet responsibilities on-site, thereby attracting no additional costs relative to business as usual and standard industry practice across Queensland, including in most other local government areas where off-site stormwater quality improvement is not a compliance option. Under the draft Policy, developers will also have the option to partially meet responsibilities on-site and pay an in-lieu fee to council to inherit and meet their remaining responsibilities.

Note: the updated charges will be considered as part of the 2025-2026 budget.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Internal consultation and communication

An internal working group was established to undertake the review of the Program and identify and implement its recommendations. It included representatives from the following council departments and branches.

- Planning and Regulatory Services Department
 - City Design Branch
 - Development Planning Branch
 - Engineering, Health and Environment Branch
- Asset and Infrastructure Services Department
 - Infrastructure Strategy Branch
 - Works and Field Services Branch
- Corporate Services Department
 - Legal and Governance Branch
 - Finance Branch including Financial Accounting and Finance Partnering
- Environment and Sustainability Branch
 - Natural Environment Branch

The Policy and update to Payment were prepared through a collaborative process involving several programmed and ad hoc meetings and workshops drawing together representatives from the above departments and branches.

The final draft of the Policy was reviewed by the following council teams.

- The Legal and Governance Branch's Policy Team to ensure compliance with council's Policy and Procedure Management Framework.
- The Legal and Governance Branch's Legal Team to identify legal risks and ensure compliance with council's legal requirements.
- The Natural Environment Branch's Environment and Sustainability Education Team to ensure compliance with council's writing and style guidance.

The recommended update to the Payment was devised by the Finance Branch in collaboration with the Natural Environment Branch's Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning Team.

External consultation and communication

To ensure alignment with current industry practice, relevant staff from all known Queensland local governments with off-site stormwater quality improvement programs were consulted during the preparation of the Policy and update to the Payment, including Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council, and Mackay Regional Council. To ensure alignment with current best practice, including the Queensland Government's guidance for off-site stormwater quality improvement, relevant staff from the Healthy Waters and Wetlands Policy Team within the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) were also consulted.

Some Queensland local governments have expressed interest in the Policy and proposed in-lieu fee unit and rate to inform their off-site stormwater quality improvement programs, including Brisbane City Council and Logan City Council. Additionally, DESI has expressed interest in using findings of the Program's review to inform an update to the Queensland Government's guidance for off-site stormwater quality improvement, the Water Quality State Interest Supplementary Implementation Guideline 2021.

Advice on the Policy and update of the Payment was communicated to the development industry through a meeting with relevant representatives from the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) in October 2024. Upon adoption of the Policy and update of the Payment, further advice will be communicated to additional external stakeholders through the following.

- Scripts for development pre-lodgement meetings and customer service enquiries.
- Updates to relevant council webpages (e.g., Offsite Stormwater Quality Improvement Program page on council's website and Engineering, Health and Environment page on planning and development website).
- An eALERT to all subscribers as well as all current and historic development applicants lodged since July 1, 2023 (see Attachment 2).
- The publication of a fact sheet on a relevant council webpage (e.g., Off-site stormwater Quality Improvement Program page on council's website).






CONCLUSION

The recommendations of this report have aimed to control the risks associated with off-site stormwater quality improvement in the Ipswich local government area while ensuring the Program aligns with best practice, meets statutory requirements, and delivers desired economic, environmental, and social outcomes. The Program's review and implementation of the recommendations herein will maintain council's position as a leader in off-site stormwater quality improvement in Queensland. This has been reflected in historic awards for off-site projects (e.g., Small Creek channel naturalisation) and most recently, the 2024 Award for Excellence in Policy and Education from Stormwater Queensland for the Program's review.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Recommendation A state that Council approve a new council policy for off-site stormwater quality improvement and an update to council’s Voluntary Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Payment.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by the recommendations.
(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

1.	Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Council Policy FINAL DRAFT ↓ 
2.	Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement eALERT ↓ 
3.	Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Planning Policy FINAL DRAFT ↓ 
4.	Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Procedure ↓ 
5.	Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Guidelines ↓ 

Benny Penhallurick
WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith
MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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



Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy

 Collaboration

 Communication

 Integrity

 Efficiency

 Leadership

Version Control and Objective ID	Version No:	Objective ID: A10612534
Adopted at Council Ordinary Meeting on		
Date of Review		

1. Statement

Ipswich City Council (council) recognises that in certain circumstances, off-site stormwater quality improvement can provide superior environmental outcomes compared to developer delivered on-site stormwater quality treatment.

As enabled by the State Planning Policy 2017, council has established an Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (the Program) whereby eligible developers can volunteer for their stormwater quality improvement responsibilities to be delivered wholly or partially at a nearby off-site location. Eligible developers pay an in-lieu fee to council, and council must use these funds to deliver an off-site solution that achieves an equal or better water quality improvement. Developer eligibility and approval for off-site stormwater quality improvement is at the sole and absolute discretion of council.

Council is committed to ensuring the Program is delivered in a manner whereby superior environmental outcomes are achieved compared to developer delivered on-site stormwater quality treatment.

2. Purpose and Principles

This Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy (the Policy) guides council’s decision-making in relation to off-site stormwater quality improvement. The Policy is guided by the following purposes and principles:

- Off-site solutions will result in equal or better water quality (Total Suspended Solids, Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, and Gross Pollutants) within Ipswich’s waterways compared to developer delivered on-site stormwater quality treatment.
- Off-site solutions will provide multiple additional environmental and community co-benefits such as habitat creation, increased biodiversity, flood risk reduction, and urban greening.
- Off-site solutions will lead to a reduction in the number of poorly designed and constructed stormwater quality assets being transferred to council ownership.
- Off-site solutions will reduce ratepayer costs resulting from the need to rectify poorly designed and constructed stormwater quality assets once they are transferred to council ownership.
- Off-site solutions will be planned, delivered, and managed so the required water quality improvements are achieved in perpetuity.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This Policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

Doc ID No: A10929260

ITEM: 3
SUBJECT: SUSTAINABILITY POLICY REVIEW
AUTHOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR
DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sustainability Policy, adopted by the Ipswich City Council (Council) in 2020, was due for mandatory four-year review on 26 November 2024. The policy has been reviewed and updated to enhance its commitment to sustainability, align with current best practices, and incorporate principles such as climate resilience and sustainable procurement. The updated policy is presented for adoption to ensure it remains relevant and demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

This is a report concerning the update of the Sustainability Policy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the revised policy titled 'Sustainability Policy', as detailed in Attachment 3, be adopted.

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Policy was adopted at the Council Ordinary Meeting on 26 November 2020 to demonstrate Council's commitment to sustainability to ensure quality of life for the people and environment of Ipswich from generation to generation.

A mandatory review has been undertaken by the sustainability team in consultation with the Environment & Sustainability General Manager and Environment & Sustainability Department representatives, noting that extensive community engagement and consultation was carried out during the initial development of the policy in 2020.

The revised changes to the policy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Strengthening dedication to climate and sustainability action.

- Aligning more to current best practices and emerging trends.
- Committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Expanding on key principles including climate resilience & sustainable procurement.

The updated policy will span from the new adoption date for four years unless amended sooner.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No direct legal implications have been identified by adopting this revised policy.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No new policy implications have been identified by adopting this revised policy.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to adopt the revised policy in a timely manner presents a reputational risk to the Council. Given that the policy is publicly accessible on Council's website and community interest in sustainability is increasing, an outdated policy could be perceived as a lapse in the Council's commitment to this crucial area.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No direct financial/resource implications have been identified by adopting this revised policy.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred with internal stakeholders across the Environment and Sustainability Department. Additionally, extensive internal staff and external community consultation and communication was conducted when the policy was first developed in 2020.




CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the review and update of the Sustainability Policy ensures that Council remains at the forefront of sustainability practices. The proposed amendments strengthen the policy's commitment to climate resilience, emission reduction, and sustainable procurement, aligning it with current best practices. Adopting the revised policy will maintain the Council's ongoing dedication to sustainability and demonstrate its continued commitment to the well-being of the environment and community.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(1) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Council is deciding to adopt the revised Sustainability Policy.
(2) What human rights are affected?	<i>No human rights are affected by this decision.</i>
(3) How are the human rights limited?	<i>Not applicable.</i>
(4) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	<i>Not applicable.</i>
(5) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Current Sustainability Policy ↓ 
2.	Revised Sustainability Policy with tracked changes ↓ 
3.	Revised Sustainability Policy clean copy ↓ 

Heike Bell
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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Doc ID No: A10925549

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION DIRECTIVE - QUARTERLY REPORT

AUTHOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the continuing implementation of the Ipswich City Council Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive (the Directive) following the review of the Directive at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 September 2024.

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

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

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

IFUTURE THEME

A Trusted and Leading Organisation

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

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

Council officers have been implementing a variety of elements of the Directive and its associated Implementation Plan. An attachment to this report outlines the core focus over the last three (3) months. It should be noted that the most significant focus has been placed on the new draft Ipswich Planning Scheme which is awaiting approval from state government.

Key matters

Change of State Government

October 2024 saw a change in state government which has resulted in several department changes and new appointments. The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation which leads state waste regulations and management, has been changed to the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science & Innovation. Ms Trish O'Callaghan has been appointed as acting Director-General of the department.

Council will write to the incoming Minister as well as the acting Director General to introduce the Directive, explain its purpose, and reiterate the importance of collaboration on waste management across the Ipswich area.

Code of Practice

To achieve better outcomes for the community, Council committed to guiding best practice among waste producers and operators by creating and implementing an Ipswich Waste Code of Practice in partnership through the Waste Recycling Industry Association QLD (WRIQ). A revised draft has been developed and shared with the CEO of WRIQ and will be discussed further with their board.

Waste Communications

Council's website page regarding the Directive has been scheduled for an update alongside new infographics. This will assist the community in understanding the purpose of the work and inform of the achievements to date. For example, Council's efforts over recent years have resulted in more local waste being diverted away from landfill to green or recycling waste instead.

Waste Compliance

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

New City of Ipswich Planning Scheme

Council is in the final stages of seeking approval for its new planning scheme which aims to increase circular economy developments. The approval has been delayed due to the state government election caretaker period. Once this new planning scheme is adopted by Council it will replace the current planning scheme to help Ipswich plan and deliver for its growing city.

Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement improvements are a key delivery of the Directive and as part of the Ipswich City Council Sustainability Strategy and has been earmarked for delivery this financial year. Its purpose is to integrate sustainable procurement practices into Council's

existing procurement framework, prioritising local and ethical suppliers, assessing environmental and social impacts, and employing lifecycle analysis, to support Ipswich City Council's emissions reduction and environment goals, enhance community resilience, and ensure compliance with future mandatory reporting requirements.

Resource Recovery Strategy and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

Implementation work is continuing of Council's Resource Recovery Strategy and the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan to manage waste for our community. A 3-year review of the strategy is currently underway.

Waste Levy Initiatives

Council continues to source support programs to ensure Ipswich gets the best return for the community through leveraging Government Waste Levy initiatives and grant funding. New funding mentioned previously included close to \$20M funding across the Sub-Regional Waste Alliance (SRA) Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and GrowFOGO. Additional funding has since been secured under the "Let's get it Sorted" program for yellow top recycling.

Compliance Action and Monitoring of Waste and Resource Recovery Developments

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Not applicable for this report.


CONCLUSION

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

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	WACETD Dashboard Report - 3 Dec 24 ↓ 
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Heike Bell
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

Doc ID No: A10937818

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: IPSWICH RIVERS IMPROVEMENT TRUST NOTICE OF ANNUAL PRECEPT FOR 2024-2025

AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the annual Precept issued to Council under the *Rivers Improvement Trust Act 1940* and the associated program of works for the Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust for 2024-2025.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

The Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

River Improvement Trusts are established to protect and improve rivers. Under the *Rivers Improvement Trust Act 1940* (the Act) they can carry out works such as improving the flow of water in rivers to correct erosion and reduce the impact of flood waters.

River Improvement Trusts may carry out activities within a river improvement area. They are statutory bodies constituted under the Act, which gives them the power to raise funds, enter land, occupy land, enter contracts and carry out works. Not every catchment or region has a Trust, and in many Local Government Areas much of function is delivered by Councils, Catchment groups or Natural Resource Management bodies.

There are 11 river improvement trusts in Queensland, predominantly in rural areas and these are supported by the State Council of River Trusts Queensland Inc.

These Trusts are:

Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust
Cairns River Improvement Trust
Cassowary Coast River Improvement Trust

Don River Improvement Trust
Herbert River Improvement Trust
Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust
Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust
Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust
Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust
Warwick Shire River Improvement Trust, and
Whitsunday Rivers Improvement Trust

Under the aforementioned act the Trusts have the authority to issue a Precept to Council to pay the requested amount to support the annual works program. This historically was then supplemented with further Queensland Government funding.

Historically the work of the Trust has been focused on woody weed removal along Ipswich waterways. In the past couple of years, the works have expanded to more holistic catchment needs including bank stabilisation and revegetation works. The annual works plan is developed in consultation with relevant council officers and designed to expend the annual precept value.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Rivers Improvement Act 1940

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NA

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

NA

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The \$300,000 is included in the approved budget for Natural Environment Branch of the Environment and Sustainability Department for 2024/2025.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

NA


CONCLUSION

Council is required to pay an annual precept to the Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust to support delivery of their annual works program under the *Rivers Improvement Trust Act 1940*. This year's precept is \$300,000.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. IRIT Precept Letter for the 2024 - 2025 Financial Year ↓ 
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Phil A. Smith
MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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Doc ID No: A10906557

ITEM: 6
SUBJECT: ENVIROPLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024
AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 5 NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Annual Progress Report for the 2023-2024 Financial Year (Attachment 1). Contained within the report is an overview of project delivery, outcomes and a financial summary including expenditure and revenue and highlights from the past year which include:

- A land acquisition in April 2024 of 93 hectares at Mt. Flinders Road, Peak Crossing
- \$164,778 was provided to the Ipswich community in Nature Conservation Grants
- \$351,324 towards 156 hectares of ongoing fuel-reduced area maintenance for the control of wildfires in Natural Area Estates and protection of life and property

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report concerning the Enviroplan Annual Report 2023-2024 be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no conflicts of interest identified in relation to this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Enviroplan Levy continues to be a much supported and vital tool for Council and the city of Ipswich in preserving and enhancing the environmental and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values of the city.

At its inception, Ipswich was one of the first and remained as one of only a handful of local governments to introduce a levy focused on protecting and enhancing the environment. Since then, the community and council have worked together to implement the Enviroplan Program and deliver against the newly adopted Natural Environment Strategy and the many initiatives within it.

In line with best practice and the council's commitment to transparency and integrity, as of 2019 Council committed to the annual publication of the Enviroplan Annual Report. As well as this the financial data is provided for publication on the Transparency and Integrity Hub.

Given the importance of understanding the needs, costs, and investment direction of the Enviroplan Levy into the future, this report allows the community to better understand what their Levy is used for. Building this understanding should aid in better dialogue and engagement when it comes to City wide directional decisions around the Environment including working hand in hand with the implementation of the new Natural Environment Strategy endorsed by Council last year.

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

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The report and the Enviroplan Levy are managed in line with the Natural Environment Policy, the Ipswich Enviroplan Policy, and the relevant associated Procedures.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The content of this report presents little or no risk to Council.

Publication of the financial and annual report aligns with Council's position on good governance, transparency openness in allowing for public visibility.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

In line with the adopted process annual report was produced in consultation and approved by the Chief Financial Officer and the assistance of the Finance Business Partners.

The annual report will be published on the Council website and the Transparency and Integrity hub in order to inform the community of where and how the money is invested.

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



CONCLUSION

This report presents the annual City of Ipswich Enviroplan Program and Levy Progress Report 2023-2024 to be received and noted. As well as a summary of the financial details, it includes summaries of key programs and projects for the 2023- 2024 financial year.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Ipswich Enviroplan Annual Progress Report 2023-2024  
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Phil A. Smith
MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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Doc ID No: A10926467

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: UPDATED FLYING-FOX ROOST MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Flying-fox Roost Management Plan and Statement of Management Intent have undergone a review and update. This update included third party expert input as well as community engagement through Shape Your Ipswich. Attached for consideration and adoption by Council is the final draft of the updated Ipswich City Council Flying Fox Management Plan 2024 (Attachment 1). The Statement of Management Intent (Attachment 2) required a small suite of changes to align it with the newly drafted Flying-fox Roost Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- A. That Council adopt the new Ipswich City Council Flying-fox Roost Management Plan 2024, as detailed in Attachment 1.**
- B. That Council adopt the updated Flying-fox Statement of Management Intent, as detailed in Attachment 2.**

RELATED PARTIES

No conflicts of interest are identified as part of this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Council's regional Flying-fox Roost Management Plan (FFRMP) (Attachment 1) has been developed and updated to provide contemporary, best practice advice to guide council's management of current and future flying-fox roosts within the region. It contains the key information and management processes necessary to implement council's Statement of Management Intent (SOMI) – Flying-fox Roost Management in Ipswich City (Attachment 2) which has also been updated to align with the new FFRMP and ensures that where council does seek to undertake roost management actions that these are completed in an equitable and balanced manner, and in accordance with Queensland and Commonwealth legislation. A markup of the proposed changes to the SOMI is contained in Attachment 3. The Flying-fox Roosts of Ipswich document is intended to be a live document that may be updated on a

more frequent basis than the SOMI to reflect changes in roost occupation across the city (Attachment 4).

The purpose of the update and review of the Flying-fox Roost Management Plan is to:

1. Ensure the plan remains consistent with State legislation.
2. Reconfirm Council's position on managing roosts.
3. Ensure council's suite of management options remains up to date with best practice and consistent with other local governments across south-east Queensland.
4. Develop further clarity around the consistent and appropriate application of the plan across geographical areas, divisions and across our known roost sites.

This update was funded through Queensland Government, Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation Flying Fox Management Grants 2024 and the plan has been shared with the department.

The primary objectives of the development and implementation of the plan are as follows:

- Implement appropriate conservation strategies to protect flying-foxes within the Ipswich region.
- Address concerns of residents within the Ipswich region who are experiencing impacts associated with flying-foxes.
- Develop and provide advice on roost management strategies which assist residents while adhering to State and Commonwealth legislation.
- Improve education and appreciation within the community regarding the ecological importance of flying foxes.
- Improve council's knowledge and understanding of local flying-fox roosts through increased monitoring and research.
- Achieve endorsement of the plan by the Department of Environment Tourism Science and Innovation (DETSI).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Nature Conservation Act 1992

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Statement of Management Intent for Flying-foxes is a statutory document required under the State Legislation and listed alongside councils other Policies and Administrative Directives within councils internal governance framework.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Plan and the Statement of Management Intent are risk management tools to manage council’s obligations to protected native fauna and manage conflicts between flying-fox (roosts) on Council land and the residents of Ipswich who may be impacted.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Responsive management of interactions between the public and wildlife, especially flying-foxes during the summer months requires intensive seasonal resourcing that currently comes from within the Natural Environment Branch of Environment and Sustainability Department.

Historically, in years where larger numbers of flying-foxes migrate to Ipswich, we see an increase in requests to manage community impacts, especially in association with heat stress events or other factors. This takes the form of carrying out urgent welfare or community safety actions, at an additional cost to council, often above budget allocation.

The Queensland Government offers regular grant funding to support the production of roost management plans and management actions. Officers are exploring the possibility of grant funds to support resourcing in this space.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The community was consulted through Shape Your Ipswich as part of the review and update to the Flying-fox Management Plan. A summary of the results is attached to this report (Attachment 5).

CONCLUSION






The updated Ipswich Flying-fox Roost Management Plan provides council with a robust framework for assessing the need for management actions on a case-by-case basis. The plan remains consistent with State and Commonwealth legislation whilst providing council with the tools for consistent application across the local government area.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	<p>Recommendation A States that; That council adopt the document, Attachment 1 as the new Ipswich Council Flying-fox Management Plan 2024</p> <p>Recommendation B States that; That council adopt the document, Attachment 2 as the updated Flying-fox Statement of Management Intent</p>
(b) What human rights are affected?	Not applicable

(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.	Ipswich City Council Flying-fox Roost Management Plan ↓ 
2.	Flying-fox statement of management intent - revisions incorporated ↓ 
3.	Flying-fox statement of management intent - track changes ↓ 
4.	Flying-fox roosts of the Ipswich region ↓ 
5.	Shape Your Ipswich Survey Results - Flying-fox Management ↓ 

Phil A. Smith
MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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