



City of
Ipswich

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

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
Councillor Marnie Doyle

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2026(04)

19 MAY 2026

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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. 2026(03) OF 21 APRIL 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 21 April 2026 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **TI TREE BIOENERGY FUND - PROGRAM UPDATE AND PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2026-2027 AND BEYOND**

This is a report concerning the Ti Tree Bioenergy Funding program update and presents the proposed projects for commencement in 2026-2027 and beyond.

This report highlights the progress to date of the projects approved by Council in the 2025-2026 financial year and prior and recommends for approval by Council the program for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year and subsequently.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the progress update on approved projects from 2025-2026 in Attachment A be received and noted.

- B. That Council approve the projects and program recommended for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year (and beyond) as detailed in Attachment B.
-

3. SUMMARY OF COMPLETED ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING FIRE SEASON

This is a report to provide an overview of the planned upcoming fire season and fuel reduction/risk mitigation works for this past year.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report providing a summary of completed activities and planning for the upcoming fire season be received and the contents noted.

4. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES - GET READY GRANT FUNDING 2025-2026

This report provides an overview of the activities that council was able to undertake throughout the 2025-2026 financial year as a result of the State Government's Get Ready Queensland funding program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the activities for the Get Ready Grant Funding for the 2025-2026 financial year be received and the contents noted.

5. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE URBAN RIVERS AND CATCHMENTS PROGRAM

This is a report concerning the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, which is an urban focussed waterway improvement initiative co-funded by the Federal Government and Ipswich City Council. This report provides an update on the current progress of the program and details the outcomes achieved to date. Information will also be provided on upcoming rehabilitation works to be delivered across the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years'.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report providing an update of the progress of Council's delivery of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program be received and noted.

6. MEMBERSHIP TO THE SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND CLIMATE RESILIENT ALLIANCE

This is a report concerning the ongoing membership of the South East Queensland Climate Resilient Alliance (SEQCRA). SEQCRA's existing contract is due for renewal prior to ending on 30 June 2026. A new agreement amongst member councils is proposed for three (3) years from 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2029 following a successful three (3) year alliance in the years prior (2024-2026).

Membership to SEQCRA will rely on financial contributions per participating council and is calculated based on the population of the local government area (LGA). SEQCRA is formalised via a deed, services agreement and Terms of Reference (ToR).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support continued membership to the South East Queensland Climate Resilient Alliance for a period of three (3) years, at a total of \$66,242 (being: Year 1 \$21,538; Year 2 \$22,076; Year 3 \$22,628) commencing from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2026(03)

21 APRIL 2026

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

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

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Councillor Marnie Doyle

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), General Manager Asset and Infrastructure Services (Seren McKenzie), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Brett Davey), Manager Natural Environment (Phil A Smith), Manager Media, Communications and Engagement (Mark Strong), Senior Media Officer (Darrell Giles), Coordinator, Communications (Lucy Stone) and Technical Services Officer (Harrison Cate)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jim Madden:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

That a leave of absence be granted for Councillor Marnie Doyle for the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting of 21 April 2026.

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Councillors:

Madden

Nil

Antonioli

Harding

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

The motion was put and carried.

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. 2026(02) OF 17 MARCH 2026

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 17 March 2026 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antoniolli

Harding

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. LET'S GET IT SORTED PROGRAM - COMPLETION

This is a report concerning the Let's Get It Sorted Program undertaken to improve kerbside recycling through a range of behaviour change interventions. A range of different interventions were implemented through a citywide program - in selected suburbs and through a multiple dwellings trial. The program resulted in measurable increases in awareness of diversion services at Resource Recovery Centres and a reduction in recycling contamination at participating multi-unit dwellings.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

That Council notes the completion of the Let's Get It Sorted program activities including the positive outcomes from the behaviour change interventions applied.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antonioli

Harding

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT CAPITAL DELIVERY REPORT
JANUARY-MARCH 2026

This is a report concerning the performance of the capital delivery program by the Environment and Sustainability Department for January-March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

That the report on capital delivery by the Environment and Sustainability Department for January-March 2026 be received and the contents noted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antonioli

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 1.10 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.26 pm.

Doc ID No: A12718107

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: TI TREE BIOENERGY FUND - PROGRAM UPDATE AND PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2026-2027 AND BEYOND

AUTHOR: PROGRAM COORDINATOR SPECIAL PROJECTS (TI TREE)

DATE: 24 MARCH 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Ti Tree Bioenergy Funding program update and presents the proposed projects for commencement in 2026-2027 and beyond.

This report highlights the progress to date of the projects approved by Council in the 2025-2026 financial year and prior and recommends for approval by Council the program for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year and subsequently.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That the progress update on approved projects from 2025-2026 in Attachment A be received and noted.**
- B. That Council approve the projects and program recommended for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year (and beyond) as detailed in Attachment B.**

RELATED PARTIES

- Willowbank Area Resident Group
- Ti Tree Bioenergy

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Proposed projects have been submitted and assessed in accordance with the previously approved and adopted Ti Tree Bioenergy funding governance arrangements. The assessment project to date has resulted in the projects as proposed for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year (and beyond) and presented in Attachment B.

From September 2025 to March 2026, a total of 29 project proposals were received comprising of 13 community submissions, and 16 council officer submissions.

The internal (cross departmental) Ti Tree working group considered the submissions against the eligibility and assessment criteria, with input from internal subject matter experts to determine feasibility. The reviewed project list was then shared and discussed with the Willowbank Area Residents Group committee and councillors in line with the approved governance process.

Attachment B provides a list of recommended projects (in order of rank - #1 being highest ranked/value) for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year and beyond. It is envisaged based on experience that small projects with minimal project management required may be completed within 6 months. Other more major or complex projects may be carried out across one or more financial years. Some projects have been recommended to be repeated annually.

Of the 29 projects that were submitted, 20 projects were recommended for commencement, 6 projects were considered ineligible as they have already been committed or underway through another council program and 4 projects were not considered feasible from a deliverability and practicality perspective.

The 20 projects recommended in Attachment B were considered feasible, good value for money and demonstrated an offset or mitigation of the perceived or real impacts from the Ti Tree Bioenergy Facility. The projects were also supported by the Willowbank Areas Residents Group on the basis that all alternate funding sources were explored and the projects demonstrated clear environmental and/or community benefit.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been assessed in alignment with the:

- Ti Tree Bioenergy Payments Governance Model Administrative Directive (the administrative directive)
- Ti Tree Payments Project Identification and Funding Allocation Procedure (the procedure)

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council is required to manage the funds in alignment with Condition 8 of the Court order associated with the development approval that permits waste disposal activities to take place at the Ti Tree Bioenergy Facility at Champions Way Willowbank. To guide this, the governance and assessment criteria were developed in line with the wording of the court order and subsequent legal advice.

Projects under the Ti Tree Bioenergy Funding program are required to be above and beyond existing service standards and not committed through other council revenue streams or existing programs. This creates risks of embellishing council parks and reserves above standard levels and creating an additional workload (and cost to council) for long term

maintenance of assets funded by the program (maintenance is not eligible under the program).

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The current revenue reserve is approximately \$3,700,000.

This financial year approximately \$770,000 has been expended, with a total of \$1,300,000 forecasted to be spent by 30 June 2026.

This year's contribution from Ti Tree Bioenergy is expected to be around \$2,250,000. Considering the forecast expenses, this will result in a reserve of approximately \$5,420,000 at 30/06/2026. The total cost of the proposed projects, as outlined in this report, over the next 3 years is approximately \$4,336,000. Noting that not all projects will be funded over the period, some will need to be carried over into future years programs. Other projects may need to be descope to fit within the annual budget allocations.

At Council Meeting 25 September 2025, a Notice of Motion was presented for prioritising the design and planning for an upgrade of Champions Way, Willowbank. The Motion was passed as:

1. That council allocate proportionate funds for the upgrade of Champions Way from the Ti Tree Bioenergy funding program.
2. That council prioritise the design and planning for an upgrade of Champions Way in the 2025-2026 financial year to be considered for budget allocation and if approved commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year.

The proposed projects within this report are exclusive of the Champions Way upgrade at this point, as awaiting the completion of the detailed design, planning and costing.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The Shape Your Ipswich website for the Ti Tree Bioenergy Funding Program is open all year round. In February 2026, a media release was launched encouraging the community to submit their project suggestions.

On 16 February 2026, the Program Coordinator Special Projects (Ti Tree) attended the Willowbank Area Residents Group meeting and provided a program brief as per Attachment A attached and encouraged community members to submit projects for assessment in early March.

March 2026, the Ti Tree Working group comprised of council officers met to review and assess the recommended projects.

April 2026, committee members of the Willowbank Area Residents Group attended a meeting with council representatives and provided feedback on the recommended projects. During this meeting, all recommended projects have received support from the group.







CONCLUSION

The program is making progress in the delivery of appropriate and valued community and environmental projects. The projects recommended for approval by council in Attachment B have been assessed in accordance with the approved governance framework. Initial stakeholder engagement was carried out to ensure there is capacity to deliver them. Officers continue to deliver ongoing projects previously approved by council.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Recommendation B is that council approve the projects recommended for commencement in the 2026-2027 financial year (and beyond) as detailed in Attachment B.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by this decision.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable.
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable.
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS

1.	Progress on approved projects from 2025-2026  
2.	Projects recommended for 2026-2027 financial year and beyond  
3.	Photos of Ti Tree Projects  

Cameron Lund

PROGRAM COORDINATOR SPECIAL PROJECTS (TI TREE)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Grant Sorensen

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

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”

ATTACHMENT A: PROGRESS ON 2025-2026 APPROVED PROJECTS

Project and Location	Project Description & Status	~\$ Spent to 21/4/26
Ongoing - Koala Reserve Paynes Road, Ebenezer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double pipe boundary security fence – completed • Baseline Ecological Assessment – completed • Service track repair (rock work) – completed • Site masterplan – expected completion before late Dec 2026 • Walking trails – expected completion before late Dec 2026 • Service Track management – ongoing • Fire & Weed management – ongoing 	\$237,000
Footpath Design + Wildlife Messaging Coopers Road, Willowbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WILDLIFE painted on road pavement – completed • Detailed Design of new footpath between Caravan Park and Willowbank Drive – expected completion before 30 June 2026 • Construction of new footpath – expected completion before 30 June 2027. 	\$68,000
Heit Family Park Upgrade Heit Family Park, Willowbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade sail over playground – completed • Garden extension, mulch existing gardens and tree planting – completed • Boundary fencing – completed 	\$205,000
Revegetation Ryan Road Reserve, Purga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting – completed • Plant maintenance – ongoing until late June 2026 	\$22,000
Stallard Park Upgrades, Equestrian Drive, Yamanto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New synthetic cricket pitch surface – completed however vandalised shortly after installation • Basketball Court resurfacing – scheduled for completion 5 May 2026 	\$12,000
Basketball Court Resurfacing Henry Lawson Bicentennial Park, Walloon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of multi-sport line painting over existing basketball court – completed 	\$2,500
Intertidal Planting of Crinum lily Bremer River, Between the David Trumpy Bridge and Bob Gamble Park, Ipswich CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of 1800 crinum lilies within the muddy intertidal banks of the Bremer River – commencing 5 May to 30 June 2026 • Plant establishment and ongoing maintenance to continue until 5 May 2027 	\$0
Koala Signage (Variable Messaging Signs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven (7) signs have been deployed in wildlife corridors in Ebenezer, Thagoona, Springfield, Grandchester, Redbank, Goodna, Karalee and Chuwar. Signs have been 	\$54,000

Project and Location	Project Description & Status	~\$ Spent to 21/4/26
City Wide	displayed city wide since 4 December 2025 – signs will be removed 4 June 2026.	
Ti Tree Community Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven (7) applications have been received by residents and community groups of Ipswich seeking approximately \$70,000 – funds to be distributed before 30 June 2026. 	\$0
Burn Study Purga Nature Reserve, Purga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out a study on the impact that fire has on the <i>Melaleuca irbyana</i> (Swap Tea Tree) to inform burning methodology where swap tea tree occur – commencing from 1 July 2026. 	\$0
Local Environmental Research Bursary City Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial feasibility and investigation into a bursary that offers a local, Ipswich-based, student a bursary or scholarship to research a local Environmental or waste matter, the finding or outcomes of which can help improve management practices or processes locally – commencing from 1 July 2026. 	\$0
Community Moves Program Rosewood, Amberley and Willowbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly physical activity classes at Rosewood Memorial Hall, Ivor Marsden Park (Amberley), and Heit Family Park (Willowbank), and monthly outdoor recreation sessions at Stirling Road Reserve and Purga Nature Reserve. These programs will enhance the local community’s health, social connections, and engagement with Ipswich’s natural spaces. Delivered sessions are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purga Nature Reserve (Koala Spotlighting + Nature Hunt Bingo) - 3 sessions, 51 attendees, average 17 per session Stirling Road Reserve, Thagoona (Nature Bush Walk) - 1 session, 20 attendees Heit Family Park Willowbank (Tai Chi)- 11 sessions, 155 attendees, average 14 per session Stallard Park, Yamanto (Kids multisports)– 9 sessions, 48 attendees, average 5 per session Rosewood Memorial Hall (low impact strength and conditioning) – 10 sessions, 83 attendees, average 8 per session 	\$3000
Rosewood Football Club Sustainable Amenities Caledonian Park, Thagoona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a design to replace outdated long-drop toilets at Rosewood Football Club with a modern and sustainable amenities block. This project has been recommended on the basis that other suitable alternative funding sources were unable to be identified - commencing from 1 July 2026. 	\$0
Ipswich Bushcare Program Boost City Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging a contractor to perform tasks that Ipswich Bushcare Groups have struggled with—such as weed removal, brush cutting, slashing, planting, and supplying plants—ensuring their needs are met within reasonable limits - commencing from 1 July 2026 	\$6000
Stone Quarry Cemetery Masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masterplan to enhance the cemetery with signage for denominational areas, historical context, and notable 	\$0

Project and Location	Project Description & Status	~\$ Spent to 21/4/26
Stone Quarry Cemetery, Ebenzer	individuals, and explore options for a memorial walk and columbarium wall— commencing from 1 July 2026	
Restoration of Koala Habitat through Targeted Removal of Invasive Tree Species. Eugene Street Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eugene Street Reserve project aims to restore native biodiversity by removing invasive trees threatening Koala habitat and rainforest ecosystems, with long-term stewardship led by a local ecologist and bushcare group - commencing from 1 July 2026 	\$0
Artificial wetland development. City wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and development of artificial wetlands across the city – no suitable locations identified in 2025/2026, search continues 	\$0

ATTACHMENT B: PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2026-2027

#	Project Title	Project Description	Approx. cost	Frequency
1	Melaleuca Irbyana planting Warrill Park Lawn Cemetery, Anderson Day Drive - Warrill Park Lawn Cemetery	Propagates and plants <i>Melaleuca irbyana</i> , a critically endangered ecosystem, using locally collected seed. The project enhances biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and community involvement in conservation. Includes 3 years of establishment and maintenance.	\$100,000	Once off
2	Pavement improvements & tree planting Stone Quarry Road, Ebenezer	Installs chip seal on road surface and landscapes the entry road to Stone Quarry Cemetery to improve aesthetics and address degradation. Tree planting and surface upgrades enhance amenity and community perceptions.	\$150,000	Once off
3	Post, Rail Barrier and gate installation Albert Theaker Park, Champions Way, Willowbank	Installs approximately 400m of bollards and rails, 2 lockable gates and the installation of prohibited camping signs to eliminate unauthorised camping and increase park amenity at Albert Theaker Park.	\$100,000	Once off
4	Local Bushland Reserve Security & Access Reserves in Willowbank, Rosewood, One Mile, Purga, Walloon & Thagoona	Upgrades access, safety, and security across multiple local bushland reserves through tracks, bridges, fencing, signage, and gates. The works improve environmental management, community safety, and stewardship beyond existing service levels.	\$150,000	Annual
5	Wild grass medley City wide	Restores depleted native seedbanks in Council bushland reserves by reintroducing locally sourced grasses and groundcovers following long-term lantana infestation. The project improves habitat quality, soil health, and long-term ecosystem resilience beyond standard weed removal.	\$30,000	Annual
6	Mary River Cod Fingerlings City wide	Reintroduces endangered Mary River cod to suitable Ipswich waterways to restore an apex predator and rebalance aquatic ecosystems. The project supports	\$30,000	Annual

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

#	Project Title	Project Description	Approx. cost	Frequency
		species recovery, controls invasive fish, and provides long-term biodiversity, cultural, and recreational benefits.		
7	Removal of non-organise waste from Ipswich Waterways	Funds ongoing removal of plastics, tyres, metals, and other non-organic waste from waterways as an offset to Ti Tree impacts. This improves water quality, biodiversity, safety, flood capacity, and community amenity.	\$75,000	Annual
8	Land acquisition for conservation City Wide	Purchases ecologically valuable land for permanent conservation, prioritising wildlife corridors and land adjoining existing reserves. The project delivers long-term biodiversity protection and reduces future development pressure. <i>Approval was subject to governance arrangements for acquisition, maintenance, and ensuring any future land sale proceeds return to the Ti Tree fund.</i>	\$500,000	As opportunities arise
9	Jamboree Park Environmental Project Jamboree Park, Collingwood Park	Restores degraded creek and parkland areas to improve water flow, reduce invasive species, and enhance habitat, revitalising a key local green space. There is potential for the site to benefit from a masterplan in the future to develop the site. <i>Include 3 year maintenance on plantings.</i>	\$150,000	Once off
10	Waste Tyre Amnesty City Wide	Provides a resident-focused tyre disposal amnesty (e.g. free disposal of a limited amount of tyres per year per resident) to reduce illegal dumping and support responsible recycling. <i>Project is subject to further feasibility, resident-only limits, industry consultation, and safeguards to prevent commercial misuse or unsafe stockpiling.</i>	\$500,000	Annual
11	Reconnecting a Green Corridor on Six Mile Creek	Restores degraded creek corridor habitat through revegetation, weed control, signage, and improvement of biodiversity and	\$150,000	Once off

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

#	Project Title	Project Description	Approx. cost	Frequency
	Walden St Reserve, Redbank Plains	community connection. <i>Include 3 year maintenance.</i>		
12	Cane Toad Reduction Program Ipswich Local reserves with high cane toad populations	Suppresses cane toad populations at selected Council conservation sites using adult capture and tadpole trapping. The program supports native frog and wildlife recovery while providing education, monitoring, and community engagement benefits.	\$12,000	Annual
13	'Fish of the Bremer'- Aquarium Display Queens Park Environmental Education Centre	Installs a native fish aquarium at the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre showcasing species from the Bremer catchment. The display promotes waterway education, improves perceptions of river health, and supports long-term environmental learning.	\$10,000	Once off
14	Heit Family Park Masterplan & implementation. Heit Family Park, Sancroft St, Willowbank	Development and implementation a masterplan for the park to consider the recently submitted project proposals and beyond. Masterplan considers toilets, pathways, recreational facilities and other embellishments that have been proposed by the community to date. The masterplan will engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure it's considerate of the city plan and future maintenance requirements. Proposed cost includes implementation of the masterplan (design and construction)	\$1,050,000	Once off (5-year project)
15	Bush Kindy Community Project Location to be determined	Delivers inclusive nature-based early childhood programs in local parks to build environmental literacy and community connection. The project increases positive activation and stewardship of green spaces.	\$15,000	Once off
16	Willowbank Raceway/Theaker Park Entrance Champions Way, Willowbank	Upgrades the shared entrance affected by heavy vehicle use to improve safety, access, and amenity in coordination with Champions Way works.	\$50,000	Once off

Item 2 / Attachment 2.

#	Project Title	Project Description	Approx. cost	Frequency
17	Cricket Nets Synthetic Grass Project Stallard Park, Yamanto	Upgrades existing cricket nets at Stallard Park by installing synthetic grass over concrete surfaces. The works improve safety, amenity, and community use while activating the park for local recreation.	\$16,000	Once off
18	Multi-sport Goals Stallard Park, Yamanto	Replaces standard basketball hoops with dual-use basketball and small-sided soccer/futsal systems to increase court versatility. The upgrade supports greater participation, inclusive recreation, and improved facility functionality. <i>Clear demand analysis, asset-owner endorsement, lifecycle maintenance impacts, and potential noise issues to be considered prior to project commencement.</i>	\$80,000	Once off
19	Resurface half court and replace hoops at Marburg Community Oval 85-89 Edmond Street, Marburg	Resurfaces the existing court and installs a new basketball hoop at a key community recreation site. The project improves safety, usability, and visual appeal for local residents. <i>This project was supported on the grounds that it is not routine maintenance already planned or funded through other Council programs.</i>	\$25,000	Once off
20	New modern electronic WAG information sign Heit Park, O'Neill's Road, Willowbank	Replaces an outdated static sign with a modern electronic display to improve community communication and local information sharing. <i>Project is subject to planning approval, ICT and power requirements, governance arrangements, and clarity on ongoing maintenance.</i>	\$50,000	Once off





Stallard Park, Yamanto – Installation of synthetic surface on cricket pitch

Doc ID No: A12775876

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF COMPLETED ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING
FIRE SEASON

AUTHOR: MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 13 APRIL 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report to provide an overview of the planned upcoming fire season and fuel reduction/risk mitigation works for this past year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report providing a summary of completed activities and planning for the upcoming fire season be received and the contents noted

RELATED PARTIES

The was no declaration of conflicts of interest

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Ipswich City Council manages approximately 8,500 hectares of land and green space, the majority of which is made up of the Natural Areas Network (approximately 6,500 hectares). As the city continues to grow, this green network becomes increasingly important, not only for protecting the natural environment and wildlife, but also for supporting the health and wellbeing of our community.

Growth along the boundary between urban development and green space places increasing pressure on council to assess and manage the risk from uncontrolled fire(s), particularly in these interface areas. Council addresses this risk by assessing and reducing fuel loads both near residential areas and infrastructure, and across the wider natural area estate (Citywide and District level conservation areas). The primary methods used are the mechanical establishment and ongoing maintenance of Fuel Reduced Areas (FRAs), as well as planned or controlled burns.

Both methods reduce the amount of woody vegetation that can act as fuel for bushfires. This work is carried out in strategically selected locations to reduce the risk of fires becoming too intense or spreading uncontrollably. While bushfires occur naturally and can provide

important ecological benefits, managing fuel loads helps ensure fires remain within safe and manageable limits.

Planned or controlled burns are an effective and environmentally beneficial tool. However, they can only be conducted during limited periods when conditions are suitable. These conditions include specific requirements for wind speed and direction, temperature, relative humidity, and moisture levels in soils and vegetation, as well as other operational considerations.

In recent years, these suitable windows have become shorter and less frequent, while demand for the services of a small number of licensed specialist practitioners in Queensland has increased. In response, council has increased its use of mechanical methods to reduce dense vegetation in targeted areas. This work includes mulching, chipping regrowth and woody weeds, and other techniques to modify vegetation structure. These actions are used to establish and maintain a network of Fuel Reduced Areas (FRAs) across large conservation estates and along urban–natural area interface zones. Council is also exploring alternative delivery pathways for managing fuel loads and fire risk including upskilling its own workforce to increase operational fire capacity, capability and engagement with an upcoming exercise working alongside a joint planned burn with the Rural Fire Brigade in Pine Mountain in the next few months.

2025-2026 Activities:

- Over the last 12 months, Council has maintained a network of approximately 85 km of FRA, including the installation of an additional 4.5km of new FRAs across the Natural Areas network.
- In March 2026, Council attended the Area Bushfire Management Committee (ABMC) with Queensland Fire Department (QFD), at the Mount Forbes Rural Fire Brigade Shed, Willowbank.

The table below summarises the burns program over the last 12 months:

Estate	Potential Burn Location	Hectares	Status
White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	Southern end of the estate in the vicinity of Stewartdale Nature Refuge, South Ripley	200	Pending
	In the vicinity of the Centenary Highway and Capilano Way, Spring Mountain	35	Pending
	In the vicinity of Aberdeen Circuit, Creekwood Circuit, Logging Crescent and Angelica Avenue, Spring Mountain	20	Burn cancelled
	In the vicinity of Cape Nelson Way, Yankari Lane and Wild Iris Terrace, Spring Mountain	5	Burn cancelled
	In the vicinity of Sandstone Boulevard and White Rock Estate, White Rock.		Postponed to 26/27 FY
Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate	Southern end of the estate in the vicinity of Flinders Plum and Mount Flinders Road, Peak Crossing	255	Pending
Mount Grandchester	In the vicinity of O'Brien Lane , Woolshed	10	Pending
	South of O'Brien Lane, Woolshed	45	Pending

Conservation Estate	Between Heise Road, Woolshed and Paidley Road, The Bluff	45	Pending
Stirling Road Reserve	In the vicinity of Stirling Road, Rosewood	10	Burn cancelled
Paynes Road Reserve	In the vicinity of Lees Road, Ebenezer	83	Completed

From an investment perspective, the table below illustrates the program expenditure as at April 2026. It is noted that there is an underspend on the burns due to poor conditions and contractor availability, however this is being offset by increased investment in fuel reduced zone installation.

	Spent to Date	Raised or committed (contracts)	Annual Budget
Fire / Burns Total	\$6,934	\$247,105	\$250,000
Fuel Reduction Zones Total	\$295,601	\$371,075	\$350,000

2026-2027 Activities

- Procurement:
 - Recently, council established a pre-approved panel called ‘Natural Areas Tender’. This panel will enable faster and more streamlined contractor engagement across environmental services.
 - Moving forwards, this panel will also facilitate the provision of contractor and consultancy services to support more timely fire program.
- Currently it is planned to re-instate the undelivered 2025-26 burn activities, subject to suitable conditions. Information on these priority sites is publicly available on council’s ‘Bushland Fire Management’ webpage.

Upcoming Seasonal Outlook

Looking ahead, the optimal burn conditions within the natural area estate are deteriorating and seasonal windows of opportunity are shortening. This reducing opportunity requires ongoing agility, reprioritisation, and adjustment of ignition times, approaches and tactics to achieve desired burn outcomes.

As an indicator of risk, the Queensland Fire Department’s assessment of the Ipswich area identified the following additional localities as High Risk within or adjacent to the Ipswich LGA:

- Grandchester
- Calvert
- Peak Crossing

- Chuwar
- Camira
- Karalee
- Ripley
- Barellan Point

It is noted that the White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate area will always be assessed as a high risk given the size of council owned land in the estate, the proximity to a high residential population, and presence of other significant infrastructure such as high voltage power lines and major transport corridors. This is a perennial area of concern, and based on this criteria, equally of concern for Logan City Council.

Through continued consultation and partnership with Queensland Fire Department (QFD) and the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and collaboration with the Area Bushfire Management Committee (ABMC), Council will continue to assess risk within the natural area network, manage and recalibrate its ongoing response to delivering hazard reduction burns and maintenance and installation of RFAs.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

The *Fire Services Act 1990* (the Act), formerly the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, establishes Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) and Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) as fire services and sets out their functions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to meet Council's statutory and inferred fire risk management obligations as a land manager under the Act may expose Council to significant consequences should a wildfire originating within the existing ICC estate result in damage to property, injury, or loss of life. While the immediate risk of uncontrolled fire in vegetated areas is largely driven by prevailing weather and climatic conditions, proactive fuel load reduction and ongoing fuel management remain critical components of effective risk mitigation.

Maintaining a range of fuel management options, including prescribed burning and mechanical treatment, together with a sound understanding of fuel loads and collaboration with key partners, provides the most effective means of managing and reducing the risk of uncontrolled or high-impact fire events.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The program is a needs based/risk driven process. Local communities are informed of proposed burn areas at the start of the season and adjacent property owners informed immediately (3 days) prior to any burns.

Council officers also deal with requests and community enquires around fuel reduction and management on an as needed basis and can and do work in partnership with adjacent landowners to get the greatest outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Ipswich City Council's bushfire risk management programs continue to focus on reducing the likelihood and potential impact of uncontrolled bushfire on council-owned land. As opportunities to undertake planned burning become increasingly constrained by seasonal, weather and operational conditions, council officers are actively identifying and implementing alternative fuel reduction measures in strategically important locations to ensure bushfire risk remains manageable.

During the current reporting period, council has maintained and established approximately 85 kilometres of Fuel Reduced Areas and has constructed a further 4.5 kilometres of new Fuel Reduced Areas. In parallel, council officers are investigating alternative delivery models for prescribed burning, working collaboratively with neighbouring local governments and the Queensland Rural Fire Service to broaden capacity, strengthen partnerships and diversify bushfire mitigation approaches.

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.

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”

Doc ID No: A12829328

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES - GET READY GRANT FUNDING 2025-2026

AUTHOR: DISASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

DATE: 28 APRIL 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the activities that council was able to undertake throughout the 2025-2026 financial year as a result of the State Government's Get Ready Queensland funding program.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report on the activities for the Get Ready Grant Funding for the 2025-2026 financial year be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

IFUTURE THEME

Safe, Inclusive and Creative

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Get Ready Queensland funding program is a State Government program administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. The purpose of the program is to help local governments improve their communities' disaster resilience.

The Get Ready Queensland funding program is the primary means through which council is able to undertake community education and engagement activities, as council's disaster management resources are primarily focused on ensuring council meets its legislative obligations in relation to maintaining an operational capability to prepare, respond to and recover from disasters. The successful delivery of this program is achieved with the inter-departmental cooperation of Marketing Services Branch, Libraries and Customer Services, Natural Environment Branch and the Resource Recovery Branch.

As a direct result of the Get Ready Queensland funding, council has been able to undertake the following community education and awareness activities throughout 2025-2026.

Community education and awareness activities

- Participated in council's First 5 Forever 10 Year Anniversary event, resulting in over 100 meaningful conversations with community members about disaster risk.
- Participated in council's NAIDOC Week event, resulting in over 200 meaningful conversations with community members about disaster risk.
- Supported the Australian Red Cross to run an EmergencyRedi workshop in Ipswich in September 2025. EmergencyRedi workshops support people to learn about preparing for emergencies and take steps towards building their individual and household resilience.
- In collaboration with Ipswich Libraries, nine (9) age-appropriate, disaster-themed Story Time and Toddler Time sessions were held throughout October 2025 across libraries in Ipswich, Springfield and Redbank. An estimated 135 visitors were engaged through this initiative.
- In collaboration with the Natural Environment Branch, supported the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival in October by engaging a Meteorologist to provide a severe weather outlook and engagement session. Over 3,800 people attended the Sustainable Living Festival in Tulumur Place.
- In collaboration with Ipswich Waste, promoted four (4) 'Clean up for storm season'-themed free green waste weekends. Between 28 October and 2 November 2025, 1,223 Ipswich residents took advantage of this initiative, with more than 350 tonnes of green waste dropped off at Riverview and Rosewood resource recovery centres, helping residents clean up after storms and prepare for the season ahead.
- In May 2026, council's Disaster Management Team will attend the Ipswich Show to promote disaster risk awareness and share preparedness information and activities with the community. Council's Disaster Management Team last attended the Ipswich Show in 2024 and had approximately 600 meaningful conversations with attendees.

Community awareness campaign

Council ran a city-wide campaign from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 urging Ipswich residents to prepare for severe weather by undertaking three (3) key actions: understanding their personal and households disaster risk; preparing a household emergency plan; and packing an emergency kit. The campaign ran across the following channels in order to reach Ipswich's broad and diverse community:

- Billboards displayed across the city for the duration of the campaign.
- Shopalives placed at major local shopping centres during the busy Christmas period, and at smaller centres near grocers post-Christmas. Locations included Booval, Brassall, Collingwood Park, Goodna, Karalee, Redbank, Ripley, Silkstone, Springfield and Yamanto.

- Print ads placed with local publishers such as *Ipswich 60 and Better*, *Moreton Border News*, *Ipswich Tribune*, *Ipswich West Moreton Today* and *Local Ipswich News*, as well as in council's quarterly publication *Ipswich in Summer*.
- Targeted mailouts of preparation flyers to residents living in high-risk flooding areas such as Grandchester, Bundamba and North Booval.
- Social media ads run across multiple major platforms for the entirety of the campaign period.
- Local radio messages aired over a combined total of 12 weeks across the campaign period.

In some campaign collateral, audiences were directed to the Ipswich Disaster Dashboard, resulting in approximately 69,600 visits to the dashboard during the campaign period.

Given the reach of this campaign, it was allocated roughly 40% of council's Get Ready funding, with strong returns in particular from the Shopalives and social media advertisements which resulted in a combined 1,339,370 impressions.

Other activities include a refresh of campaign imagery to ensure that future campaigns reflect Ipswich's diverse and growing community; and the purchase of collateral for distribution to community members through education and awareness activities.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions: *Disaster Management Act 2003*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The activities described in this report are consistent with the Disaster Management Policy, which outlines council commitment to promoting a resilient community that can prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster impacts, with a focus on the needs of the community's most vulnerable persons.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council's Get Ready program is about building our community's resilience and this starts with developing an understanding of disaster risk, and that disasters are part of living in Ipswich. By raising awareness of disaster risk, Ipswich residents can be better equipped to seek out and take action on risk mitigation and disaster preparedness activities.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council received \$70,800 through the Get Ready Grant in FY 2025-26. Approved funding amounts are determined by the State Government based on a local government area's population at the inception of the Get Ready grant program more than a decade ago.

The activities described in this report were fully funded through the Get Ready funding program and did not impact council's operational budget.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The community is at the centre of all Get Ready grant-funded initiatives undertaken by council. The activities described in this report were selected based on a variety of factors such as their performance from use in previous campaigns and activities, market research, feedback from community members at specific events and evaluation of past activities.

CONCLUSION

Council is grateful for the State Government's ongoing contribution to improving community awareness of disaster risk at the local level through the Get Ready Queensland funding program.

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.

Kristie Mckenna

DISASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matthew Pinder

DISASTER AND NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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Doc ID No: A12792365

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE URBAN RIVERS AND CATCHMENTS PROGRAM

AUTHOR: WATERWAY HEALTH OFFICER

DATE: 17 APRIL 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, which is an urban focussed waterway improvement initiative co-funded by the Federal Government and Ipswich City Council. This report provides an update on the current progress of the program and details the outcomes achieved to date. Information will also be provided on upcoming rehabilitation works to be delivered across the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years’.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report providing an update of the progress of Council’s delivery of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program be received and noted.

RELATED PARTIES

The Urban Rivers and Catchments Program is co-funded by the Federal Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), and Ipswich City Council. The program is administered by the Queensland Government Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI). There are no conflicts of interest to be declared.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

In August 2024, Council was successful in receiving a \$3,000,000 grant from the Australian Government (DCCEEW) under Round 1 of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP). Council’s successful application included a co-funding contribution by Council of \$1,000,000 to deliver a 4-year program of works (\$4 million in total including councils in-kind).

The intent of DCCEEW’s URCP is to deliver projects that improve waterways in urban, outer-urban or regional centre areas by:

- establishing and/or improving riparian and aquatic habitat to benefit native species, including threatened species

- improving water quality, hydrology, or in-stream connectivity to benefit native aquatic species, including threatened aquatic species
- improving urban green space, to provide community access to nature, and to help reduce heat-related impacts in urban areas due to climate change

Under the URCP, council proposed delivering nine (9) waterway rehabilitation projects between 2024 and 2028, at priority waterway sites identified for rehabilitation following the 2022 flood events. Please refer to Attachment 1 which shows a map outlining the nine (9) site locations, which include:

- 3 sites on Woogaroo Creek- Martin Coogan Park (Gales), Kippen Park (Goodna) and Leslie Park (Goodna) (Division 2)
- 2 sites on the Bremer River- Pisces Street (Coalfalls) and Hanlon Street (Bundamba) (Division 3)
- 2 sites on Ironpot Creek- Walter Zimmerman Park (Pine Mountain) (Division 4)
- 1 site on Bundamba Creek- Jack Barkley Park (North Booval) (Division 3)
- 1 site on the Brisbane River- Katherine Court Reserve (Karalee) (Division 4)

The rehabilitation projects focus on utilising nature-based solutions to deliver improvements to riparian vegetation condition, aquatic habitat condition and streambank stability. Sites will undergo intensive rehabilitation works including weed removal, earthworks and revegetation, whilst some sites will also have aquatic and terrestrial habitats installed and community planting opportunities. Following rehabilitation works, all sites will undergo a maintenance period for up to three (3) years to ensure the successful establishment and stabilisation of the sites.

Specifically, through the rehabilitation of the nine (9) priority sites, council expects to achieve the below targets:

- 1,500m of streambank restored
- 14,000m² of riparian land rehabilitated
- 1,800m³ of sediment avoided entering waterways each year
- 225 attendees to community planting events

Following commencement of the program in late 2024, council has now progressed past the halfway point of the program delivery, having reached practical completion across five (5) of the nine (9) rehabilitation sites.

Collectively across the five (5) completed sites, to date, **\$2,106,484** has been invested to achieve **781m** of streambank rehabilitation, encompassing **14,572m²** of rehabilitated riparian land. Avoiding **296m³** of sediment entering Ipswich waterways each year, and **49,451** native plants have been planted. Two (2) community planting events have also been delivered, attended by **224** members of the community.

Please refer to Attachment 2 which provides a series of images of each of the five (5) completed project sites.

Over the next two (2) years, vegetation maintenance will continue at the five (5) completed sites, whilst the remaining four (4) sites are rehabilitated. The remaining four (4) streambank rehabilitation sites include Pisces Street on the Bremer River (Coalfalls), Katherine Court Reserve on the Brisbane River (Karalee), Martin Coogan Park on Woogaroo Creek (Gales) and Hanlon Street on the Bremer River (Bundamba).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This program and report are consistent with Council's Natural Environment Policy, and the objectives of the Waterway Health Strategy 2020 and Natural Environment Strategy 2023.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Degradation of waterways throughout Ipswich has long been identified as a key risk to the City's natural environment as well as regional ecosystem services and values, including Moreton Bay. This has been demonstrated through long term catchment monitoring programs such as Healthy Land and Water's Environmental Health Monitoring Program, as well as through various studies conducted by council's Environment and Sustainability Department.

One of the greatest threats to the health of our waterways is sediment. Fine, suspended sediment has a significant impact on water quality, whilst coarse sediment which settles throughout our waterways impacts aquatic habitat conditions. In our urban catchments, the key sources of sediment have been identified as cleared land which generate sediment in runoff during rainfall, and streambank erosion which mobilises and transports bank material.

As such a key objective of the rehabilitation activities being delivered under the URCP is to stabilise streambanks at the nine (9) sites to reduce sediment entering our waterways through streambank erosion. This is achieved by utilising machinery to re-establish stable batter grades on streambanks and densely planting out the banks to provide stability and protection during flow events.

Whilst in the long term these projects will be successful in achieving this objective, delivering rehabilitation projects in major waterways is a significant and challenging undertaking. These projects are delivered at considerable cost and require extensive design processes and environmental approvals, along with extended, multi-year maintenance programs to re-establish riparian vegetation.

To reduce the regular and anticipated risks associated with restoring waterway health and waterway corridors, protecting existing intact tracts of riparian vegetation should be and remain as a priority for council. Ensuring broad buffer zones of native riparian vegetation are

protected and receive appropriate weed treatment is a critical risk management strategy and will reduce the need and costs associated with further expensive rectification works.

In terms of broader sediment reduction, this should be coupled with an emphasis on continued monitoring of erosion and sediment controls on internal and external development projects to protect our waterway values.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Over the upcoming 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years', council has a combined investment of \$1,893,516 remaining to be expended to complete the delivery of the URCP. This is currently represented across the Environment and Sustainability Department's requested budgets, with various aspects of delivery captured in both the capital works program (design and construction) and operational works budget (on-going maintenance and monitoring).

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

No internal or external consultation has been undertaken as part of this report.

Across the broader delivery of the URCP, stakeholder engagement has been a considerable component of the program. Engagement with a range of consultants, contractors, state government departments, environmental organisations, community groups and neighbouring landholders has been required.



CONCLUSION

Under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, council has delivered five (5) waterway rehabilitation projects at sites identified as key priorities following the 2022 flood events. Whilst challenging, these projects have resulted in over \$2 million of investment, to achieve a range of waterway health improvements extending to streambank stability, riparian condition, aquatic habitat and water quality. Over the next two (2) financial years, council has a further four (4) project sites to be rehabilitated as part of the program which will deliver further benefits to waterways in Ipswich.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The Recommendation that the report providing an update of the progress of Council's delivery of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program 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

1.	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program Sites ↓ 
2.	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program Site Summaries ↓ 

Jack McCann

WATERWAY HEALTH 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)

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Doc ID No: A12833821

ITEM: 6
SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP TO THE SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND CLIMATE RESILIENT ALLIANCE
AUTHOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR
DATE: 29 APRIL 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the ongoing membership of the South East Queensland Climate Resilient Alliance (SEQCRA). SEQCRA's existing contract is due for renewal prior to ending on 30 June 2026. A new agreement amongst member councils is proposed for three (3) years from 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2029 following a successful three (3) year alliance in the years prior (2024-2026).

Membership to SEQCRA will rely on financial contributions per participating council and is calculated based on the population of the local government area (LGA). SEQCRA is formalised via a deed, services agreement and Terms of Reference (ToR).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council support continued membership to the South East Queensland Climate Resilient Alliance for a period of three (3) years, at a total of \$66,242 (being: Year 1 \$21,538; Year 2 \$22,076; Year 3 \$22,628) commencing from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029.

RELATED PARTIES

SEQCRA operates with the following member SEQ Councils participating:

1. Ipswich City Council
2. Brisbane City Council
3. Council of the City of Gold Coast
4. Logan City Council
5. Council of the City of Moreton Bay
6. Noosa Shire Council
7. Lockyer Valley Regional Council
8. Scenic Rim Regional Council
9. Sunshine Coast Council

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

SEQCRA was formally established in 2024 in response to a regional need for collaboration across South East Queensland councils to share knowledge and work together on consistent responses to the challenges of managing climate risk that is affecting all SEQ councils.

SEQCRA is the first dedicated climate alliance established in Queensland, with Ipswich having a central role as the host demonstrating leadership in regional collaboration on climate. SEQCRA arranges its collaborative, regional work on three (3) pillars of action:

1. collaborative projects
2. regional knowledge sharing, and
3. advocacy initiatives.

All activities aim to build the capacity of SEQ councils to reduce regional emissions, address climate risks and build climate resilience for councils and their communities in SEQ.

The benefits of councils working together drives SEQCRA's activities. Collaboration enables a regional approach to climate related changes, issues, challenges and opportunities. Working together aims to unlock funding, increase effectiveness, improve coordination, reduce duplication of effort, unlock economies of scale and increases each councils' capacity to deliver outcomes.

SEQCRA's collaborative approach to process aims to empower, inform and build the capacity of each council and their teams to achieve more than they could if working independently.

Benefits to Date:

- Delivery of the fully funded Climate Resilience Capacity Building Project which delivered a regional program of expert led webinars and workshops for over 1,200 staff across the nine (9) member councils.
- Delivery of the Scope 3 Project which involved regional procurement of scope 3 emissions factors (cost saving through bulk buying saving Council's \$12,000 in subscription fees), improved consistency in calculation methodology and reduced duplication of time and effort in reporting emissions while delivering uplift of member knowledge and alignment.
- Successfully received \$196,000 in project funding in FY26 and an additional \$50,000 received for alliance governance in FY25 through the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (QCRC) program.
- Delivered an electricity distribution price review at a cost of \$9,000 savings SEQ Councils over \$900,000 over a 20-year period with Ipswich's individual saving being \$45,000.

- Delivered a **first advocacy initiative** submitting a formal response to the Australian Energy regulators draft determination in response to project findings which secured the savings mentioned above.
- **Hosted consistent series of regional knowledge sharing forums** online.
 - o Attracted member and non-member council attendance and engagement.
 - o Engaged expert guest speakers to share case studies, research and insights on a range of climate related issues relevant to councils, including:
 - Emissions from waste calculation and liability for councils.
 - Biochar as regional opportunity to counter emissions from waste that produces usable end product for agriculture and construction.
 - Sustainable Procurement
 - FOGO challenges for councils.
 - Regional EV Charging Infrastructure
 - Renewable Energy Power Purchasing Agreement for Council.
 - Community Climate Resilient Clubs Program overview
 - How other Climate alliances operate regionally and collaboratively.
 - VECO: Victorian regional renewable energy bulk buy.
- **SEQCRA's 9 member councils** meet regularly and have between 1 – 3 officers attending regular regional forums, communicating and sharing knowledge at periodic meetings.
- **Employed full-time Alliance Coordinator** in September 2024 to administer the partnership, manage projects, support governance, coordinate collaborative projects and apply for funding. ICC hosts this coordinator who works within the Sustainability Team within the Environment and Sustainability Department.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Ipswich City Council's participation in SEQCRA is aligned with Council's Sustainability policy and strategy outcomes. Hosting SEQCRA aligns with Council's strategic goals and responds to growing concern about climate impacts, and positions Ipswich as a forward thinking and proactive local government, committed to working with others to deliver regional solutions and practical, well-coordinated responses to shared climate related challenges.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Consequence	Likelihood	Overall Risk Rating
Council not receiving value from membership	Minor - Financial	Unlikely The value to date delivered through collaborative projects and knowledge sharing has outweighed the cost of membership.	Low
Council employees spending too much time on projects.	Minor - Staff	Unlikely The governance structure ensures project relevance to ICC. Participation avoids duplication in effort.	Low
Not continuing membership with SEQCRA.	Moderate – Reputational Moderate – Resources & shared knowledge	Unlikely	Moderate

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The membership fees for Ipswich City Council to participate in SEQCRA are as follows and are primarily used to employ the SEQCRA Coordinator on a full-time basis.

- Year 1 - \$21,538
- Year 2 - \$22,076
- Year 3 - \$22,628
- **Total of \$66,242 over three (3) years**

As host Council, Ipswich City Council via the service agreement undertakes financial management, procurement, legal and marketing and communications on behalf of the alliance and its members.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Legal services have provided legal expertise and assistance in updating and finalising SEQCRA’s documentation including the deed, service agreement and Terms of Reference.

The General Manager, Environment and Sustainability has been consulted throughout Ipswich’s participation in the alliance as the chair of the SEQCRA Steering Committee and has been involved in the update of SEQCRA’s legal documentation for the 2026-2029 period, in consultation with all other member councils.

No community engagement has been undertaken in relation to renewing membership to the alliance.

CONCLUSION

Ipswich City Council’s participation in SEQCRA over the last three (3) years has provided several benefits both to Ipswich and member councils across monetary and non-monetary outcomes. Ongoing membership to SEQCRA will empower, inform and build the capacity of Ipswich achieving more than could be achieved independently.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	That Council support continued membership to the South East Queensland Climate Resilient Alliance for a period of three (3) years, at a total of \$66,242 (being: Year 1 \$21,538; Year 2 \$22,076; Year 3 \$22,628) commencing from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029.
(b) What human rights are affected?	<i>No human rights are affected by this decision.</i>
(c) How are the human rights limited?	<i>Not applicable</i>
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	<i>Not applicable</i>
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

Brodie Smith
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”