



City of
Ipswich

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22 April 2025

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. 2025(03)

22 APRIL 2025

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. 2025(02) OF 18 MARCH 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 18 March 2025 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION DIRECTIVE - QUARTERLY REPORT**

This is a quarterly update report on the continuing implementation of the Ipswich City Council Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive (the Directive).

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

3. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

This is a report concerning the Australian Government's Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) Program and proposal to acquire gauges owned and operated by Ipswich City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council owned and operated Flood Warning Infrastructure Network assets be transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology).
 - B. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to undertake all necessary arrangements to facilitate the implementation of recommendation A.
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4. POST TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED RESPONSE AND RECOVERY UPDATE

This is a report concerning an update on the response and recovery to Tropical Cyclone Alfred and its impacts to the Ipswich community.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(02)

18 MARCH 2025

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Jim Madden (Chairperson); Councillors Andrew Antoniolli (Deputy Chairperson) (via teams) , 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), General Manager Asset and Infrastructure Services (Seren McKenzie), General Manager Corporate Services (Matt Smith), Manager Media, Communications and Engagement (Mark Strong), Senior Media Officer (Darrell Giles), Manager Natural Environment (Phil A Smith), Acting Environment and Conservation Manager (Belinda Whelband), Project Officer (Natural Environment) (Carmel O'Neill), Senior Communications and Policy Officer (Jodie Richter), Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate) and Theatre Technician (Tom Haag)

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. 2025(01) OF 18 FEBRUARY 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

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

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 18 February 2025 be confirmed.

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

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. CITY OF IPSWICH URBAN GREENING PLAN 2022-2042 PROGRESS REPORT

Urban greening is established as an important part of making a modern city resilient and liveable. It has the added benefit of protecting vegetation and wildlife. The urban forest, urban corridors, and vegetation within public and private realms make up what we refer to as 'urban greening'. The City of Ipswich Urban Greening Plan 2022–2042, endorsed by council in August (the Plan) sets an informed and evidence-based direction in achieving increased vegetation cover in priority areas within the urban footprint of Ipswich to best achieve the multiple benefits it can provide. The progress report in Attachment 1 demonstrates the achievements of the first two (2) years of the implementation of the Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Mayor Teresa Harding:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antoniolli:

That Council receives and notes the contents of this progress report for the City of Ipswich Urban Greening Plan 2022 – 2042.

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

The motion was put and carried.

3. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT - MARCH 2025

This is a report concerning the progress in implementing Ipswich City Council's Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026. The strategy and its associated implementation plan are in their fourth year of implementation. These set out several actions over the five (5) year period and as of February 2025, 67% are marked completed. Some of the actions are substantial projects within themselves and are implemented over multiple years and/or ongoing in nature.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

That the report titled "Sustainability Strategy Implementation – March 2025" be received and 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 12.57 pm.

The meeting closed at 1.08 pm.

Doc ID No: A11298565

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: WASTE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY TRANSFORMATION DIRECTIVE - QUARTERLY REPORT

AUTHOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR

DATE: 11 MARCH 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a quarterly update report on the continuing implementation of the Ipswich City Council Waste and Circular Economy Transformation Policy Directive (the Directive).

As outlined in the attachment to this report, a significant body of work continues to be implemented 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 sector.

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 areas of waste and the 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 past quarter.

Key matters

Change of State Government and the Directive

Following the change of State Government in October 2024 Council has written to the newly appointed Director-General of the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science & Innovation, Ms Trish O’Callaghan to introduce the Directive, explain its purpose, and reiterate the importance of collaboration on waste management across the Ipswich area.

Draft Ipswich Waste Memorandum of Understanding

The revised draft of the Ipswich Waste Memorandum of Understanding has been shared with the Waste Recycling Industry Association QLD (WRIQ). Further engagement with the WRIQ CEO and Board is planned for mid-April.

Directive Communications

Council’s website regarding the Directive has now been updated including new infographics and fact sheet. This update is designed to assist the community in understanding the purpose of the work and inform of the achievements to date.

Waste Compliance

An additional compliance role within the Planning and Regulatory Services Department 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

Approval from the State Government for the new draft planning scheme has now been achieved. The final Council approval is planned to be sought in order for a mid 2025 implementation. If the 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 deliverable of the Directive and the Ipswich City Council Sustainability Strategy. Sustainable Procurement 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.

The focus group is currently working through the opportunities to introduce sustainable procurement in the procurement process across the organisation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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.	Directive Dashboard Report ↓ 
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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”

WACETD DASHBOARD REPORT

22 April 2025

Directive Actions
53% Complete

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	STATUS	%	UPDATE
1 - Establish a Waste Code of Practice	To achieve better outcomes for our community, we will guide best practice among waste producers and operators by creating and implementing an Ipswich Waste Code of Practice in partnership with key stakeholders.	1.1 - Execute a Code of Practice for the waste industry to adopt for working in Ipswich.	In Progress	63%	The revised draft of the Ipswich Waste Memorandum of Understanding has been shared with the Waste Recycling Industry Association QLD (WRIQ). Further engagement with the CEO and board is planned for mid-April.
2 - Drive Industry Best Practice	We will create and adopt a diverse range of policies and measures which we will use to advocate for other levels of Government to deliver legislative reform, drive industry transformation, and guide Ipswich City Council to deliver best practice waste management services on behalf of our community.	2.1 - Ensure through the Directive that instruments can be prepared and implemented to lobby for change and reform in State Government on the industry.	In Progress	50%	This is a continued effort occurring across the resource recovery and sustainability areas of Council with intent to influence future policy improvements.
		2.2 - Adopt and deliver on a new Resource Recovery Plan for municipal waste for Ipswich.	In Progress	83%	Resource Recovery Strategy 2021 - 2031 was developed and adopted by Council. The Three-year review is near completion. This is an ongoing matter.
		2.3 - Establish a program for best practice recognition for the industry.	Not Started	0%	Following the establishment of the MoU (action 1.1) Council will be in a better position to celebrate best practice examples within the industry.
3 - Strong Compliance Culture	We will use the full power of Council's policy and legal instruments to drive performance improvements of waste management operations within our communities. We will monitor and enforce approval conditions with greater diligence, and we will hold the State Government to account to take greater action on matters for which it is responsible.	3.1 - Educate the community on their ability to report environmental issues and enforce outcomes.	In Progress	50%	Council is in the process of recruiting a waste compliance role to assist with the delivery of enhanced education and compliance action.
		3.2 - Drive better compliance within the industry through improved programs and enforcement actions.	In Progress	38%	
4 - Strategic and Sequenced Remediation	We will advocate for and seek to ensure the orderly sequencing and proper remediation of mining voids and end-of-life sites across the Ipswich local government area and seek for a range of alternate remediation options to be considered. Strategic sequencing will be based on infrastructure, topographical, environmental and social opportunities and constraints. We will proactively seek appropriate investment and funding to ensure community benefits are realised from site remediation.	4.1 - Establish a relationship with the State Government to ensure former mining site remediation is addressed as required with acceptable and manageable outcomes.	In Progress	54%	Council has identified extent of existing voids and obtained mine void mapping data to help understand extent. Council's planning team has recently met with state government to discuss better outcomes and sustainability practices for mining rehabilitation.
5 - Protect Our Residential Amenity	We will actively discourage new waste industry developments in close proximity to residential areas where it is clear the development impacts will not be manageable onsite and will negatively detract from amenity. At the same time, we will discourage residential encroachment in close proximity to areas designated for future industrial development.	5.1 - Maintain informed oversight of Development Applications on former mining and contaminated land.	In Progress	50%	Council is maintaining informed oversight of Development Applications on former mining and contaminated land as they are submitted.
		5.2 - Adopt Temporary Local Planning Instrument (TLPI) to address future planning constraints and land uses for mining voids and proposed waste sites.	Completed	100%	Council adopted a temporary local planning instrument to address future planning constraints and land uses for proposed waste sites.
		5.3 - Adopt new City of Ipswich Planning Scheme with increased and more prescriptive requirements for proposed resource recovery and waste sites to achieve.	In Progress	98%	Approval from state government for the planning scheme has now been received. The final council adoption is planned for May 2025.

WACETD DASHBOARD REPORT

22 April 2025

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	STATUS	%	UPDATE
6 - Partnering and Collaboration	We will lead and work collaboratively with all levels of government and SEQ Councils to transform the region's management of waste streams from linear to a circular 'recycle reuse-remake' solution to achieve an overall reduction of waste going to landfill in Ipswich.	6.1 - Development and release of Council of Mayors South East Queensland - South East Queensland Waste Management Plan.	In Progress	65%	SEQ Waste Management Plan has been developed and released. The plan forms core of CoMSEQ engagement and Council activity drive collaboration between Councils. This is an ongoing matter.
		6.2 - Establish a better working relationship with State Government on compliance related matters and overall coordination between all areas.	In Progress	75%	Council has previously met with DSE ERA Assessment Team and Compliance Team to discuss ongoing issues and coordination between teams. Council will request the reinstatement of the Taskforce meetings by the new state government. This is an ongoing matter.
7 - Lead by Example	We will investigate and progressively adopt relevant best practice waste collection and management solutions; and we will provide clear market signals and explicit benchmarks so best practice commercial operators will invest in Ipswich with confidence.	7.1 - Ensure council's Procurement objectives consider and adopt sustainable practices and consider best practice waste management through all aspects of council business.	In Progress	50%	Council has established a focus group and developed a draft sustainable procurement project plan for implementation. The goal of the project is to integrate sustainable procurement practices into the 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.
		7.2 - Adopt and deliver a new Sustainability Strategy for council with outcomes supported by the directive.	In Progress	63%	Council has made significant progress in sustainability through initiatives such as establishing a renewable energy power purchase agreement, retrofitting facilities with energy-efficient lighting, recruiting a Coordinator to lead the SEQ Climate Resilient Alliance, launching various solar PV projects, and advancing sustainability efforts through a green energy precinct design, sustainable procurement project, and climate risk management, while also promoting these efforts in the community and developing tools for carbon emission reporting. Approximately 67% of the strategy implementation plan has now been completed with 28 actions in progress and 12 to be commenced in the coming years.
8 - Leverage Waste Industry Opportunity	We will seek to influence State and Commonwealth waste management policies and strategies, and we will align our current and future waste management activities and attract funding so we can leverage industry development opportunities.	8.1 - Establish, implement and maintain a Joint Task Force between council and the State Government to inform, cover and influence changes to land use, environment, compliance, policy, industry and waste levy to better Ipswich.	In Progress	72%	The taskforce was established with an agreed ToR. Council attended several meetings which provided valuable collaboration opportunities as part of a work program. The last meeting was held in 2023. Council will request the reinstatement of the Taskforce meetings by the new state government. This is an ongoing matter.

WACETD DASHBOARD REPORT

22 April 2025

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	STATUS	%	UPDATE
9 - Create a Better Return for Ipswich	We will advocate for fair and equitable compensation, investment and benefits proportionate to the waste volumes processed in Ipswich from both industry and other levels of government.	9.1 - Seek to reduce the Waste Levy payable by council and increase the return for Council.	In Progress	49%	Council has previously responded to the Waste Levy report and has implemented several changes to domestic waste collection as part of the Resource Recovery Strategy which have resulted in positive outcomes. Council is also looking at taking actions to reduce its own waste production as part of the Sustainability Strategy and has advocated for and received funding such as \$20M funding across the Sub-Regional Waste Alliance (SRA) Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and GrowFOGO. Additional funding has recently been secured under the "Let's get it Sorted" program for yellow top recycling.
		9.2 - Determine opportunities to gain better returns for Ipswich through legislative avenues and levies charged by Council.	In Progress	10%	This is an ongoing matter.
		9.3 - Maintain awareness for state and national funding and grant opportunities for both Council and the industry.	In Progress	10%	Regular meetings are occurring between Council and CoMSEQ PMO / DESI / DSDID to review initiatives and funding opportunities that may be applicable. This is an ongoing matter.
10 - Plan for the Future	Through policy intervention and industry collaboration we will ensure that all landfill and waste processing sites, once they are closed, do not leave a negative legacy impact on the city or our residents.	10.1 - Council to assess and respond to all application enquiries in line with the directive and which supports new and continued industry in Ipswich.	In Progress	50%	Council continues to assess and respond to all application enquiries inline with the directive and which supports new and continued industry in Ipswich. This is an ongoing matter.
		10.2 - Ensure consideration of future planning and legislation in the instance of major disaster events.	In Progress	50%	Council will participate in on-going discussions that ensure, legislative (QLD level), policies and strategies are practical and achievable at Council controlled facilities. Council is taking direct action at controlled facilities to ensure they have appropriate means and planning to manage natural disasters.
		10.3 - Undertake meaningful engagement with both the community and the industry to advise, educate and seek feedback on industry and development waste matters.	In Progress	25%	Council will ensure current and future community requirements, at Council controlled facilities, are built into the Council strategy and policies to provide opportunities to design for future changes and development in waste and resource recovery. This may involve improvements to specific waste related communication and community engagement planning and development to better explain decisions made by Council to the community. This is an ongoing matter.

Doc ID No: A11420069

ITEM: 3
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FLOOD WARNING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
AUTHOR: DISASTER AND NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGER
DATE: 1 APRIL 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Australian Government's Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) Program and proposal to acquire gauges owned and operated by Ipswich City Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- A. That Council owned and operated Flood Warning Infrastructure Network assets be transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology).
- B. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to undertake all necessary arrangements to facilitate the implementation of recommendation A.

RELATED PARTIES

Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau)
Commonwealth of Australia
State of Queensland

IFUTURE THEME

A Trusted and Leading Organisation

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Ipswich City Council is the owner and operator of **forty-three** water level and/or rainfall gauges throughout the Ipswich Local Government Area (Attachment 1). These gauges form part of the national Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN). These gauges have been funded through State and Commonwealth grant funding and capital expenditure. Council is also responsible for all operational expenditure, repairs and maintenance of these gauges.

In the 2023-24 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed up to \$236 million over 10 years for the Bureau to address critical, long-standing risks in Australia's flood warning network as part of the Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Program.

As part of the FWIN Program, the Commonwealth will take ownership of a portion of Australia's flood observation network, focused on high priority assets in high priority

catchments and including certain flood management assets. The ongoing maintenance and operations costs associated with these flood warning assets will be shared equally by the Commonwealth and each relevant state or territory.

Early indications are that there could be up to **twenty locations** throughout the Ipswich local government area that could be prioritised for acquisition, if Council so chooses over the coming years. The first two locations proposed are:

- Blackstone Bridge Alert, ID 40872
- Bellbird Park (Purser Rd), ID 40872

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The risk of not accepting the offer to transfer ownership is both one of ongoing financial risk and service delivery risk, particularly as locations transition from older style (Alert 1) to newer (Alert 2) technology.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Direct operational costs are in the vicinity of \$100,000 to \$200,000 per annum, dependent on hardware failure and flooding events. The transfer of assets would be at a nominal amount (e.g. \$1.00) however council would no longer be responsible for ongoing costs, maintenance, depreciation and administrative costs.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

There is no consultation related to this report, as there would be no change of service standard anticipated to the community.

CONCLUSION

The proposal represents the Australian Government's commitment to ensure a high standard of situational awareness to the community whilst reducing financial burden on local governments.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	<p>A. That Council owned and operated Flood Warning Infrastructure Network assets be transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia (Bureau of Meteorology).</p> <p>B. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to undertake all necessary arrangements to facilitate the implementation of recommendation A.</p>
(b) What human rights are affected?	None
(c) How are the human rights limited?	None
(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 Owned Gauges ↓ 
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Matthew Pinder

DISASTER AND NATURAL HAZARDS MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL GAUGES

Gauge Name	Gauge ID
Ipswich Alert	40831
One Mile Bridge Alert	40836
Three Mile Bridge Alert	40838
Blackstone Bridge Alert	40872
Harding Street Alert	40873
Brisbane Road Alert	40874
Bundamba School Alert	40875
Bellbird Park (Purser Rd) Al	40985
Loamside Alert	540062
Colleges Crossing Alert	540063
Grandchester Alert	540064
Peak Crossing Alert	540065
Bundamba (Barclay St) Al	540247
Churchill Alert	540248
Bundamba (Hanlon St) Al	540249
Brassall (Hancocks Br) Al	540250
Marburg Alert (Detention Basin)	540312
Rosewood Wwtp Alert	540313
Spressers Bridge Alert	540314
Grey's Plains Road Alert	540317
Springfield Lakes Al	540501
Berrys Lagoon Al	540502
Rosewood Detention Basin Al	540503
Lower Mt Walker Al	540574
Karalee Alert	540661
Mt Marrow Alert	540663
Six Mile Creek Alert	540664

Spring Mt Alert	540665
South Ripley (Wards Rd) Al	540666
Upper Western Ck Alert	540667
Goolman Alert	540668
Seven Mile Br Alert	540669
Goodna Alert	540670
Redbank Plains Alert	540671
Collingwood Park Alert	540672
South Ripley (James Ivory Br - Providence Pde) Al	540727
Bellbird Park (Eugene St) Al	540728
Limestone Park Detention Basin Alert	540795
Meadow Flat Road Bridge Al	540806
Riverview (Conway St) Al	540807
Flinders View (Ash St) Al	540808
Springfield Lakes High Dam	540824
Springfield Lakes Low Dam	540825

Doc ID No: A11458894

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: POST TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED RESPONSE AND RECOVERY UPDATE

AUTHOR: DISASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

DATE: 8 APRIL 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning an update on the response and recovery to Tropical Cyclone Alfred and its impacts to the Ipswich community.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report 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

Response

Severe Tropical Cyclone Alfred was a long-lived Coral Sea event that had a major impact over southeastern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales including widespread coastal erosion, damaging winds causing widespread power outages and some structural damage, and widespread heavy rainfall and associated flooding. It initially formed northeast of Cooktown as a low on the 21 February 2025, with peak intensity reached on the 27 February 2025.

Between 2 - 4 March 2025, Alfred steered towards the southeast and again fluctuated in intensity, this time between a category 1 and category 2 cyclone. TC Alfred was downgraded to category 1 as it approached the Moreton Bay Islands. The motion was very slow westwards, and the system moved across Moreton Island around 1 am on the 8 March 2025 before being downgraded to a low at 6 am on the 8 March just east of Bribie Island. The low then stalled over the water for most of the day before finally crossing Bribie Island (north of Brisbane) around 8 pm on the 8 March 2025, and moving west onto the mainland at 9pm on the 8 March 2025.

TC Alfred caused significant damage to southeast Queensland and northeastern New South Wales through damaging wind gusts, heavy rainfall with subsequent flooding impacts.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology, preliminary values analysis, 2025

Ipswich City Council commenced its monitoring and preparations of TC Alfred on the 25 February 2025, before establishing the Local Disaster Coordination Centre, the operational arm of the disaster management function on Monday 3 March 2025, with support from the key state government agencies. This was the day that an initial Australian Warning System compliant “Advice level warning” was issued to the broader Ipswich local government area. This warning supplemented the Bureau of Meteorology’s constant warnings and advice relating to the cyclone, flooding, and weather generally.

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) was moved to Lean Forward and information sharing commenced on the 3 March 2025. At 2.30pm on the 4 March 2025 the LDMG moved to STAND UP and continued this status until 2.30pm on the 12 March 2025 which correlated with river gauge levels stabilising.

Recovery

The Chair Local Recovery and Resilience Group (LRRG) Mayor Harding, Deputy LRRG Councillor Madden, Coordinator LRRG GM CCED Ben Pole and Disaster and Flood Risk Officer Jo Beadle commenced daily meetings from Saturday 08 March and then twice weekly from Tuesday 18 March to assess and support city recovery – agendas and minutes for each meeting have been recorded as part of the TC Alfred documentation.

The LRRG moved to ALERT status on Tuesday 04 March and moved to LEAN FORWARD status on Tuesday 11 March.

LRRG Taskforces were engaged by the relevant Taskforce Chairs but were not formally convened.

Chair LRRG Mayor Harding and Coordinator LRRG GM CCED Ben Pole met with and represented Ipswich’s recovery interests with the State Recovery Coordinator Colonel Justin O’Connor and the Deputy State Recovery Coordinator Peter Matic on Monday 17 March as well as the District Disaster Recovery Committee on Tuesday 18 March and the Economic and Roads and Transport Functional Recovery and Resilience Group on Wednesday 19 March.

Following consultation with stakeholders and confirmation that recovery efforts were being effectively managed and coordinated by relevant agencies, the decision was made to officially change LRRG status to STAND DOWN effective Wednesday 25 March.

Consolidated reporting has continued in order to observe recovery work across the city, an example of the items being tracked and reported on are provided below for reference (as at 02 April):

Roads

- No remaining road or bridge closures
- 90% of unsealed road network inspected
- 684 potholes repaired

Sporting Facilities

- 16 clubs provided post-event status reports
- 4 sites with impact requiring infrastructure remediation
 - Jim Finimore, Leichhardt
 - Rotary Park, Bundamba
 - Anzac Park, Rosewood
 - Ivor Marsden Sports Complex, Amberley

Parks and Open Space

- 56 parks inspected and assessed with some level of infrastructure damage
- River Heart Parklands and Colleges Crossing still with sections closed

Conservation Estates

- 26 damage reports – 6 minor and 20 moderate

Waterways

- Woogaroo Creek Urban rivers sites, Bremer River and Bundamba affected
- Bremer River Gladstone Road Reserve and Cribb Park revegetation sites sustained erosion and sedimentation damage and loss of plants

Private Property Damage Assessments

- 355 no damage
- 32 minor damage
- 3 moderate damage

DRFA Financial Assistance

- PHAS and ESSRS activated 'All Areas' 12 March

DRFA (REPA Projects)

- ICC submissions being drafted and lodged following the assessment outcomes and eligibility of project work

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Disaster Management Act 2003

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Preparations for, response to and recovery from Tropical Cyclone Alfred were consistent with council's disaster management policies.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Disaster risk is ever present for Queensland communities, including Ipswich. Council's annual disaster risk awareness campaign was in market as Tropical Cyclone Alfred bore down on the Queensland coast, priming the community to be aware of and prepared for disasters.

As part of council's commitment to continuous improvement a number of debriefs are planned or have already occurred across council to ensure valuable operational lessons are identified and actioned.

Council addresses disaster risk in a variety of ways, such as through the research, development and implementation of plans such as the Ipswich Integrated Catchment Plan. At the operational level, various council sections have developed and implemented emergency response plans informed by lessons identified from previous events, which they used to guide their response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Further, council works collaboratively with a variety of state and local agencies to develop and implement the City of Ipswich Local Disaster Management Plan, which guided the broader, multi-agency response to and recovery from Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Community feedback was essential in delivering response and recovery activities in relation to Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

CONCLUSION

Tropical Cyclone Alfred presented a novel threat to the Ipswich community. However, through strong disaster risk awareness, preparedness and practice, council and the community came out safely on the other side, together.

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.

Ben Pole

GENERAL MANAGER (COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

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”