



**City of
Ipswich**

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 14 October 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

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

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(09)

14 OCTOBER 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(08) OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 16 September 2025 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **IPSWICH PRIORITY SPECIES UPDATE REPORT**

This report is an update on the progress of Ipswich City Council's priority species conservation programs for the koala, brush-tailed rock wallaby, platypus and flying-foxes. These species face ongoing local and national threats and decline, the impacts of which Council attempts to mitigate through conservation management actions. This report provides a summary of the actions taken over the past year under each species' respective conservation/management plan, upcoming works and projects, and fauna survey results.

RECOMMENDATION

That the priority species program update be received and noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(08)

16 SEPTEMBER 2025

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

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

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Mayor Teresa Harding

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), Acting General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Phil A Smith), General Manager Corporate Services (Matt Smith), General Manager Asset and Infrastructure Services (Seren McKenzie), Resource Recovery Manager (David McAlister), Manager Media, Communications and Engagement (Mark Strong) and Venue Technician (Max Moylan)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jim Madden:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

That a leave of absence be granted for Mayor Teresa Harding for the Environment and Sustainability Committee of 16 September 2025.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antonioli

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

Doyle

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

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. 2025(07) OF 19 AUGUST 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

Seconded by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 19 August 2025 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antonioli

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

Doyle

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **2025 SUSTAINABLE IPSWICH PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

This is a report concerning key elements of the 2025 Sustainable Ipswich program of events and opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Antonioli:

That the report providing an Overview of the 2025 Sustainable Ipswich Program outlining the program of events and opportunities, as well as councillor engagement opportunities, be received and noted.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antoniolli

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

Doyle

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

3. GREENOVATE - SECURITYHOLDERS UPDATE - AUGUST 2025

This report provides a summary and recommendation on the proposed new Director for Greenovate.

A formal decision is required of the new director by the Committee and Council to progress the appointment, as per the Greenovate constitution. Noting that all three security holder Councils, Ipswich City Council, Logan City Council and Redland City Council must all approve the recommendation to progress the appointment.

“The attachment/s to this report are confidential in accordance with section 254J(3)(g) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.”

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:

- A. **That the reports of Greenovate, as attached to this report, be noted.**
- B. **That in accordance with Rule 7.2 (a) of the Greenovate Constitution, and clause 5.2 (a) of the Securityholders Agreement, together with Logan City Council and Redland City Council, Ipswich City Council agree to appoint the candidate referenced in Confidential Attachment 4 as an Independent Director of Greenovate Pty Ltd A.C.N. 672 812 154 for a period of 3 years as detailed in Confidential Attachment 4 to this report.**
- C. **That the Chief Executive Officers of the 3 securityholders be authorised to negotiate and finalise the remuneration and terms of engagement for the proposed Director as outlined in section 6 of this report.**
- D. **That on the winding up of Greenovate, the Confidential Attachments 1, and 3 to the report titled Greenovate – Securityholder Update – August 2025, be deemed confidential and be treated as such in accordance with sections 171**

and 200 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and, the documents be placed in the public records.

- E. That Confidential Attachment 2 to the report titled Greenovate – Securityholder Update – August 2025, be deemed confidential and be treated as such in accordance with sections 171 and 200 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and that in accordance with clause 13.2 (a) of the Securityholders Agreement, until permission is obtained from all parties to the Securityholders’ Agreement to place this document in the public records.
- F. That Confidential Attachment 4 to the report titled Greenovate – Securityholder Update – August 2025, be deemed confidential and be treated as such in accordance with sections 171 and 200 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and that the document remains confidential.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Madden

Antoniolli

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

Doyle

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 11.47 am.

The meeting closed at 11.52 am.

Doc ID No: A11913029

ITEM: 2
SUBJECT: IPSWICH PRIORITY SPECIES UPDATE REPORT
AUTHOR: PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)
DATE: 18 AUGUST 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update on the progress of Ipswich City Council's priority species conservation programs for the koala, brush-tailed rock wallaby, platypus and flying-foxes. These species face ongoing local and national threats and decline, the impacts of which Council attempts to mitigate through conservation management actions. This report provides a summary of the actions taken over the past year under each species' respective conservation/management plan, upcoming works and projects, and fauna survey results.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the priority species program update be received and noted

RELATED PARTIES

There are no declarations of conflicts of interest as part of this work.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Priority Species in Ipswich

The koala, platypus, brush-tailed rock wallaby and flying-foxes are species of local significance and importance due to them being iconic and charismatic. Each species faces a specific range of threats and risks that have seen their conservation status elevated over the past two decades. The need to try and manage flying-foxes continues to have impacts on Ipswich City Council as rural and peri-urban habitat loss means there has been a continuing increase in the number of urban flying-fox roosts in the past decade, increasing human-wildlife conflict.

Ipswich City Council (Council) developed conservation management plans for each species in the following years:

- Koala Conservation and Habitat Management Plan - 2016
- Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Recovery Plan - 2017

- Platypus Recovery Plan - 2020
- Flying Fox Roost Management Plan - 2024

Conservation Status

The Australian Government has uplisted the koala from vulnerable to endangered, and the brush-tailed rock wallaby has been uplisted from least concern to vulnerable in the past decade. The formal nomination to list the platypus as vulnerable (from not listed) in 2022 was rejected on the grounds of insufficient data. With widespread concerns for its decline conservation organisations and councils have increased efforts to conduct population monitoring to support the species listing. Of the three species of flying-fox found in Ipswich, only the grey-headed flying fox is listed as vulnerable at a national level.

These declines of key species indicate a need for increased monitoring, vigilance and conservation actions to be made for their preservation.

The following sections cover the Ipswich-specific context for each species of interest, the work conducted over the past financial year and the works planned for the current and future financial years.

Koala

Survey findings:

- Surveys from the past financial year (FY2024-2025) indicated a likely decrease in koala numbers in the Ipswich region.
- Stronghold populations currently remain in the urban centre (Redbank Rifle Range and surrounding parks and reserves through to Springfield) and in rural areas within Ipswich (Purga Nature Reserve and parks and reserves in the Walloon/Thagoona area).
- The next survey will be undertaken a maximum of two years from the last survey (FY2026-2027 at the latest) but may be sooner depending on resourcing and recommendations from the new Koala Conservation Plan.

Achievements:

- We were successful in obtaining a total sum of \$293,000 in grant funding for the management of threats to koalas through the Healthy Land and Water *Koala Threat Management Initiative* and the *Restore and Reconnect* programs. These programs will be delivered in the FY2025-2026 and the FY2026-2027 respectively.
- Koala fodder plantations are used by carer organisations to feed koalas in captivity. Fodder plantations managed by Council have been assessed for expansion and refurbished and are maintained in partnership with the RSPCA.
- Establishment of the new Paynes Road Reserve in Willowbank through Ti Tree funding.

Upcoming works:

- Weed removal and habitat restoration is occurring in the FY2025-2026 as part of the Healthy Land and Water Koala Threat Management Initiative, where Council received \$113,000 of grant funding for targeted works.
- The Koala Conservation and Habitat Management Plan 2016 is being updated. This update will consider current best practice, and the resourcing requirements for koala conservation.
- Trailer signage is being deployed in key areas to alert motorists of increased koala movement during the koala breeding season.

Platypus

Survey findings:

- A new survey approach was used FY2024-2025, focusing on intensive monitoring of key waterways where platypus environmental DNA (eDNA) detections have been high.
- Erosion, pollution and sedimentation issues have been noted as continuing in Ipswich's waterways, particularly in Woogaroo Creek.
- Platypus DNA was detected in Bundamba, Six Mile, Opossum and Sandy Creeks. There were no detections in Woogaroo Creek which was considered concerning given the previous stronghold status. This lack of detections may be attributed to deteriorating waterway health as a result of intensive development. This is consistent with a data trend over the past recent years. Further survey work and improved understanding of the impacts of development and construction are required to enable mitigation efforts.

Achievements:

- Targeted platypus eDNA surveys within key waterways.
- SEQ platypus conservation network formed between key not-for-profit stakeholders and SEQ councils. This network will be supporting the delivery of the Resilient Rivers SEQ multi-species eDNA monitoring project.
- Stabilisation and Habitat enhancement works carried out on the mid to lower Woogaroo Creek through Urban Rivers and Catchments and other waterway health initiatives.

Upcoming works:

- Upcoming platypus surveys will seek to complement the Resilient Rivers project in obtaining valuable SEQ-wide data.
- Surveys will also seek to identify platypus refuge pools to assess sediment impacts and study refuge pool condition over time.

- Ongoing riparian restoration will be delivered in key catchments through the federal-funded Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and Council's waterway recovery program.

Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby

Achievements:

- Brush-tailed rock wallaby habitat restoration and weed management was conducted in the FY2024-2025 through Council's conservation works program.

Upcoming works:

- Conduct wildlife camera surveys of brush-tailed rock wallaby in key areas, particularly across Flinders Peak to understand current population size and movements.
- Future update of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Conservation Plan in line with current best practice.
- Collaborate with the University of Southern Queensland researchers investigating brush-tailed rock wallaby population dynamics through facilitating access to Council lands.
- On going target habitat management and weed reduction work in known habitat areas

Flying-foxes

Population update:

- Seasonal migration of little red flying-foxes has commenced, with numbers increasing at Queens Park.

Achievements:

- Updated Flying-fox Roost Management Plan and Statement of Management Intent, adopted 2024.
- Ongoing roost monitoring occurring throughout the year to understand flying-fox population movements and points of conflict with the community.
- Shelters installed at the Ipswich Nature Centre to help amenity for visiting public and minimising cleaning of paths due to faeces build up.
- Low conflict roosting locations embellished as part of Round 6 of Queensland Flying-Fox Roost Management—Local Government Grant Program, with \$34,800 of grant funding received to support significant weed species removal.
- Successful in obtaining Round 7 of Queensland Flying-Fox Roost Management—Local Government Grant Program for delivery of further weed management and roost embellishment at Woodend Nature Centre, with \$16,500 of grant funding received.
- Supported the development of the regional flying-fox management guidelines with other SEQ local governments.

Upcoming works:

- Further shelter investigations at Ipswich Nature Centre and Nerima Gardens (as part of the separate master planning and resourcing exercises for Nerima).
- Further actions as outlined in the Flying Fox Roost Management Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is consistent with Council's existing strategies and plans, including but not limited to:

- Natural Environment Strategy 2023
- Existing species conservation plans (koala, platypus, brush-tailed rock wallaby)
- Flying fox roost management plan (FFRMP) and Statement of Management Intent – flying-fox roost management in Ipswich City (SoMI)

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Several of these species have had their conservation listing and subsequent protection status recently increased. This is indicative of a worsening of their numbers, health and a downward trajectory, and an increase in their local and or national risk of extinction. Such declines should be addressed for the benefit of the species, their environment and the community. Council has role to play in avoiding and conserving these and other native species through a raft of means and tools. Risks to the natural environment, the community and Council's resourcing and reputation will be highlighted and addressed in the individual species plan updates throughout the year.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Targeted resourcing will be required to see suitable conservation, land use planning or management outcomes for each of these species. Resourcing will be a core component highlighted in the upcoming conservation management plan updates for koala and brush-tailed rock wallaby. This focus will highlight the different levels of intervention required to reach differing levels of outcomes for the species to inform Council's position moving forward.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Community engagement is undertaken during the development of species management plans.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion there will be numerous updates and improvements in Ipswich City Council's approach to conserving these locally important species and assisting the community in

human-wildlife conflict resolution in the flying-fox space. The conservation plan updates will be brought to Council throughout the year for input and feedback to ensure that the needs of the community, Council and the natural environment are appropriately balanced in preserving these iconic species for future generations.

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.

Thomas Scott

PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Matthew Pinder

ACTING MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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