



City of Ipswich

AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17 February 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
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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2026(01)

17 FEBRUARY 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. 2025(11) OF 2 DECEMBER 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 2 December 2025 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

This is a report outlining a summary of Environmental Events held during 2025, highlighting key events and campaigns delivered across the year and an overview of planned dates for 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the 2025 Environmental Events Highlights be received and the contents noted.

3. 2025 SUSTAINABLE IPSWICH - OVERVIEW REPORT

This is a report concerning the Sustainable Ipswich Overview Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the Sustainable Ipswich Overview be received and the contents noted.

4. **OFF-SITE STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORTS
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025**

This is a report concerning the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (the Program, formerly known as Stormwater Quality Offsets program) and its annual report (Attachment 1.). Council publishes a report summarising important information about the Program for each of the financial years it operates. This includes details of the fees collected from participating developers, how they've been spent, and the stormwater pollution reductions and other benefits achieved. The attached annual report (the Annual Report) covers the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. It also describes changes made to the Program over this time and proposed next steps, including the preparation of a plan to deliver new off-site solutions over the next 5 – 10 years.

The Annual Report has been prepared in council's marketing template but will be turned into a graphic document suitable for public release after this committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program Annual Reports 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 be received and its contents noted.

5. **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT CAPITAL DELIVERY REPORT
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025**

This is a report concerning the performance of the capital delivery program by the Environment and Sustainability Department for October-December 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on capital delivery by the Environment and Sustainability Department for October-December 2025 be received and the contents noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(11)

2 DECEMBER 2025

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:

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

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:

Mayor Teresa Harding

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), General Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Disaster and Natural Hazards Manager (Matthew Pinder), Acting Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator (Brodie Smith), Manager Media, Communications and Engagement (Mark Strong) and Venue Technician (Thomas Haag)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jim Madden:
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:

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

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Councillors:

Madden

Nil

Antonioli

Jonic

Madsen

Augustine

Doyle

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

1. RESPONSE TO PETITION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY PETITION

This report has been prepared to provide key information regarding a petition with 820 signatures submitted by the Ipswich Climate Action Group (ICAG) to Council on 28 August 2025. The petition calls on Ipswich City Council to:

Declare a Climate Emergency.

Achieve net zero emissions across all Council operations by 2030.

Establish a community–Council partnership to support a sustainable and liveable future.

In response, Council officers have prepared a position and supporting information in relation to the petition.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

- A. That Council continue to implement the Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2026 and look to increase communication and awareness of council's sustainability and climate resilience initiatives through our public facing media platforms.
- B. That a Climate Emergency Declaration is given consideration during the next review of the Sustainability Strategy proposed to commence in 2026-2027 (budget pending).
- C. That the General Manager Environment and Sustainability identify opportunities for engaging with the Ipswich Climate Action Group to participate in or contribute towards council's existing sustainability initiatives and events.

Councillor Andrew Antonioli proposed the following motion as Recommendation B.

- B. That this report be referred to a future councillor briefing/workshop for discussion.

The mover and seconder of the original motion agreed to the proposed motion.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:

Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

- A. **That Council continue to implement the Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2026 and look to increase communication and awareness of council's sustainability and climate resilience initiatives through our public facing media platforms.**
- B. **That this report be referred to a future councillor briefing/workshop for discussion.**
- C. **That the General Manager Environment and Sustainability identify opportunities for engaging with the Ipswich Climate Action Group to participate in or contribute towards council's existing sustainability initiatives and events.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:
Madden
Antonioli
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine
Doyle

NEGATIVE

Councillors:
Nil

The motion was put and carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 2. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2025(10) OF 18 NOVEMBER 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jacob Madsen:
Seconded by Councillor Pye Augustine:

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

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:
Madden
Antonioli
Jonic
Madsen
Augustine
Doyle

NEGATIVE

Councillors:
Nil

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

3. **CITY OF IPSWICH LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN - 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

This is a report concerning the administrative updates made to the City of Ipswich Local Disaster Management Plan as part of the annual plan review process.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:
Seconded by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

That the City of Ipswich Local Disaster Management Plan – 2025 Administrative Update report be received and the contents noted.

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

The motion was put and carried.

4. **CHANGE TO THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT REGULATION**

This report concerns an amendment to the Disaster Management Regulation 2014, effective 1 December 2025.

*****RECOMMENDATION**

Moved by Councillor Pye Augustine:
Seconded by Councillor Marnie Doyle:

That the Change to the Disaster Management Regulation report be received and the contents noted.

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
Councillors:	Councillors:
Madden	Nil
Antoniolli	

Jonic
Madsen
Augustine
Doyle

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

QUESTIONS / GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Jim Madden (Chairperson), on behalf of the Environment and Sustainability committee, extended best wishes to fellow Councillors and staff for a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New year.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 11.50 am.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm.

*** Refer Council Ordinary Meeting of 11 December 2025 for amendment.

Doc ID No: A12469624

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

AUTHOR: ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

DATE: 15 JANUARY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report outlining a summary of Environmental Events held during 2025, highlighting key events and campaigns delivered across the year and an overview of planned dates for 2026.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report on the 2025 Environmental Events Highlights be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Environmental Events program delivered across the calendar year support a variety of environmental initiatives from the Environment and Sustainability Department and acts to engage the Ipswich and surrounding community in celebrating a 'clean, green, circular economy city' (iFuture) and deliver on council strategic priorities.

Overview of the Program

While many environmental campaigns, events and activities are delivered across the year, the priority focus in 2025 was around conservation and sustainable nature-based recreation (March – May) and sustainability (September – October).

Other activities are specifically planned to fit with special and established 'environmental days', especially those that connect with regional or national campaigns.

Collaboration is key to this event program, which is highly supported by other areas of council including Ipswich Libraries, Active and Healthy, Nicholas Street Precinct, Disaster and Natural Hazards, Ipswich Waste Services, Works and Field Services as well as Ipswich community and not-for-profit groups and organisations.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- Clean Up Australia Day which has continued to be popular with 63 community/school and business groups hosting their own clean up activity.
- The Experience Nature campaign highlighted Ipswich's Conservation Estates and Reserves, whilst also undergoing an improved look and feel. The positive marketing campaign reached a variety of audiences including rural landholders, special interest groups and families.
- Trees for Mum, at which 156 people joined with council at Jack Barkley Park on Mother's Day to plant 1,860 native plants along Bundamba Creek.
- The Connecting Corridors Forum brought together 70 local landholders, community representatives, natural resource management groups, research institutions, and conservation organisations to celebrate nearly 10 years of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative.
- A total of 1,760 native plants were planted, mulched and watered by 70 volunteers at this year's National Tree Day planting event in partnership with Llewellyn Toyota.
- Rotary Ipswich Branch and the Tree Life Movement joined 62 volunteers to help to plant 1,680 native plants along Woogaroo Creek in Kippen Park for World Rivers Day.
- Over 170 volunteers registered to help plants trees at Small Creek and along Bundamba Creek in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia over 3 planting events and 2 maintenance days.
- The Sustainable Ipswich program continues to grow in popularity each year with 8,590 individuals engaging in face-to-face activities across the program.

Key event activations and campaigns

Event	Date	Community Partners
Clean Up Australia Day (supporting)	March 2025	Clean Up Australia Day
<i>Cancelled due to Cyclone Alfred</i> - Community Tree Planting – Jack Barkley Park	15 March 2025	Federal Government (Urban Rivers and Catchments Program)
Experience Nature Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature Journalling• Stargazing at Hardings Paddock (<i>cancelled due to weather</i>)• Agents of Discovery Missions in Haig Street Quarry and Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve• Special Bird and Plant Walk at Stirling Road Reserve• Indigenous Astronomy (presented by Ipswich Libraries)• Wildlings Forest School in Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve	April 2025	Active and Healthy (ICC) Ipswich Libraries (ICC) Discover Ipswich (ICC)
Trees for Mum – Community Tree Planting – Jack Barkley Park	11 May 2025	Federal Government (Urban Rivers and Catchments Program)
Connecting Corridors Forum	24 May 2025	Little Liverpool Range Initiative
National Tree Day – Community Planting Event – Behind Knights Soccer Club	26 July 2025	Llewellyn Toyota (<i>Event partner</i>)
Partnership Community Tree Planting with Conservation Volunteers Australia – Small Creek	16 August 2025	Conservation Volunteers Australia

Partnership Corporate Tree Planting with Conservation Volunteers Australia – Small Creek	17 September 2025	Conservation Volunteers Australia
World Rivers Day – Community Tree Planting – Kippen Park	September 2025	Rotary Ipswich Branch Tree Life Movement
Sustainable Ipswich Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Gardens – Sustainable Open Garden Trail • Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival • Community and partner events • School holidays workshops at QPEEC • Adult workshops at QPEEC and Leichardt One Mile Community Centre 	September to October 2025	Suntory Oceania (<i>Event partner</i>) Ipswich Libraries Active and Healthy (ICC) Native Plants QLD Ipswich Branch Ipswich Waste Services Ipswich Climate Action Group Conservation Volunteers Australia Mobile Nursery – Free Plant Program (ICC) Disaster and Natural Hazards (ICC)
Partnership Corporate Tree Planting with Conservation Volunteers Australia – Jack Barkley Park	11 October 2025	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Partnership Maintenance Day with Conservation Volunteers Australia – Small Creek	18 October 2025	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Aussie Backyard Bird Count (supporting)	20-26 October 2025	Birdlife Australia
Partnership Corporate Tree Planting with Conservation Volunteers Australia – Jack Barkley Park	29 October 2025	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Partnership Maintenance Day with Conservation Volunteers Australia – Small Creek	11 December 2025	Conservation Volunteers Australia

Partnership and Event Support

A small number of incoming sponsorships were processed in the 2025 calendar year. Sponsorships are a helpful way to grow the events or program offerings. Funds were used for additional marketing and promotional items and materials for events such as plants and gloves or used to engage special guest speakers.

Sponsorships Incoming

- \$5,000 (excluding GST) from Llewellyn Toyota for National Tree Day event on Saturday 26 July, 2025.
- \$10,000 (excluding GST) from Suntory Oceania for Sustainable Ipswich program in October 2025.

Partnerships Incoming

- \$45,000 (excluding GST) with Conservation Volunteers Australia to include site preparations and site maintenance for 2 community planting events, 1 corporate planting event and 2 maintenance days and 4,000 native seedlings (tubestock) planted.

Partnerships Outgoing

- Partnership with Watergum Community Inc. to help deliver the Ipswich Cane Toad Challenge.

Future Environmental Event Dates

In 2026 the priority focus will be on waterway health (March – May) and sustainability (September – November).

Key dates for 2026

- Friday 30 January - Community Cane Toad Bust

- Friday 30 January to Sunday 8 February – Ipswich Cane Toad Challenge (online) in partnership with Watergum Community Inc.
- Sunday 1 March – Clean Up Australia Day (supporting)
- March to May – Waterfest campaign, including:
 - 23 March to 19 April – “Catch, Snap and Win!” Online Fishing Competition with 2 Bent Rods
 - 23 March to 19 April - Come and try fishing and canoeing sessions with Active Healthy
 - School holiday programming at Queens Park Environmental Education Centre
 - 7 – 10 April - Meet your Creek – Waterbug Investigation activation in Tulmur Place
 - 18 April – Community Tree Planting with Conservation Volunteers Australia
 - Agents of Discovery missions
 - 9 May - Guided bird walk, Saplings Pocket, Pine Mountain
- Wednesday 6 May - Youth Sustainability Summit
- Sunday 10 May – Trees for Mum – Community Tree Planting in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Sunday 27 September – World Rivers Day – Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, Bremer River, Coalfalls
- September to November – Sustainable Ipswich campaign, including
 - Sustainable Open Garden Trail
 - School holiday programming at Queens Park Environmental Education Centre

Next Steps

An Environment and Sustainability events and activities program (hardcopy and digital) will be prepared and distributed in early 2026.

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 related to the contents of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial/resource implications.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Community event surveys are undertaken to ensure events are relevant and continuously improved.

CONCLUSION

The Environmental Events calendar of events and activities provides residents, volunteers, private landholders and community partners to grow awareness and learn more about our local environmental issues. There are ample opportunities for Mayor and Councillors to engage with the annual 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.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Environmental Events in 2025 

Jennifer Bonnett

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

Attachment A - Environmental Events in 2025

Clean Up Australia Day



Experience Nature



The image shows three separate social media posts from the Ipswich City Council. The first post is a sponsored post for 'Experience Nature 2023' featuring a boy in a hat and binoculars. The second post is a '21 March' post about a competition at Haig Street Quarry. The third post is a sponsored post for 'Experience Nature in Ipswich' featuring a group of people in a forest.

Trees for Mum



Connecting Corridors Forum





World Rivers Day – Community Tree Planting



Sustainable Ipswich

A promotional image for the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival 2025. It features a collage of various festival activities: people riding bicycles, a woman in a garden, jars of pickled vegetables, a woman with laundry, a man smiling, and a person with a recycling bin. Text overlays provide details about the festival, including the date (13 October), time (9am to 1pm), location (Tumur Place, Ipswich Central), and a link to the full program (https://loom.ly/brijtlw). The Ipswich City Council logo is visible in the top left corner.



Partnership Plantings with Conservation Volunteers Australia



Doc ID No: A12501761

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: 2025 SUSTAINABLE IPSWICH - OVERVIEW REPORT

AUTHOR: ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

DATE: 28 JANUARY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Sustainable Ipswich Overview Report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report on the Sustainable Ipswich Overview be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Sustainable Ipswich is an annual program of events and activities celebrating everyday actions our community can take for a “clean, green city with a circular economy”(iFuture). The program helps raise awareness of community-led sustainability initiatives and celebrates local Ipswich ‘champions’.

The program is designed to increase participation in events and activities, raise awareness of the key sustainability issues we face locally and increase council’s reputation as a sustainable city.

The program is also designed to inspire and motivate residents to reduce household waste by reusing, repairing and recycling household items, reduce food waste and garden waste from going to landfill, grow native plants in their backyard and decrease their reliance on car travel.

Some of the activities in 2025 were largely face-to-face and interactive. The six weeks of the campaign included 30 individual interactive events/opportunities for residents to engage with the program across multiple locations in Ipswich. Overall, 8,590 people engaged with the entire program in face-to-face events or activities.

Highlights included:

- Multiple collaborations from within council including Ipswich Libraries, council's Active and Healthy program, Transportation, Disaster and Natural Hazards Management, council's Nursery and Ipswich Waste Services
- Increased community organisation participation, including events hosted by Conservation Volunteers Australia, Ipswich Climate Action Group and Native Plants Queensland Ipswich Branch
- Event partner Suntory Oceania
- Special guest Craig Reucassel at the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival
- Panel of Sustainability Champions celebrated local groups taking positive action in the Ipswich community.

A feedback survey was sent to all participants in the program where appropriate. This survey included insight to behavioural change as a result of participating in the program. Feedback on the program was largely positive and improvements will be considered and can be incorporated into the 2026 program of activities.

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 related to this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications related to this report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications related to this report.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Environment and Sustainability Department and local residents through the event surveys.

CONCLUSION

A number of residents, community groups and local businesses participated in the 2025 Sustainable Ipswich program and demonstrated that there is an interest and desire from the community to engage with important sustainability topics.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS
RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT
The Recommendation states that the Sustainable Ipswich Overview 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. 2025 Sustainable Ipswich - Wrap up Report
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Jennifer Bonnett

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

City of Ipswich Sustainable Ipswich

2025 Overview Report



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sustainable Ipswich is an annual program of events and activities celebrating everyday actions our community can take for a “clean, green city with a circular economy”(iFuture). The program helps raise awareness of community-led sustainability initiatives and celebrates local Ipswich ‘champions’.

The program is designed to increase participation in events and activities, raise awareness of the key sustainability issues we face locally and increase council’s reputation as a sustainable city.

The program is also designed to inspire and motivate residents to reduce household waste by reusing, repairing and recycling household items, reduce food waste and garden waste from going to landfill, grow native plants in their backyard and decrease their reliance on car travel.

Some of the activities in 2025 were largely face-to-face and interactive. The six weeks of the campaign included 30 individual interactive events/opportunities for residents to engage with the program across multiple locations in Ipswich. Overall, 8,590 people engaged with the entire program in face-to-face events or activities.

Highlights included:

- Multiple collaborations from within council including Ipswich Libraries, council’s Active and Healthy program, Transportation, Disaster and Natural Hazards Management, council’s Nursery and Ipswich Waste Services
- Increased community organisation participation, including events hosted by Conservation Volunteers Australia, Ipswich Climate Action Group and Native Plants Queensland Ipswich Branch
- Event partner Suntory Oceania
- Special guest Craig Reucassel at the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival
- Panel of Sustainability Champions celebrated local groups taking positive action in the Ipswich community

A feedback survey was sent to all participants in the program where appropriate. This survey included insight to behavioural change as a result of participating in the program. Feedback on the program was largely positive and improvements will be considered and can be incorporated into the 2026 program of activities.

Program Snapshot



More than **30 individual interactive events** offered throughout the Sustainable Ipswich program across 13 locations in Ipswich.



Environment & Sustainability Department delivered **2 key events** that were free to the public to attend – the Sustainable Open Garden Trail and the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival.



This year **8,590 people** engaged with the program at face-to-face events, activities or through engagement pop ups (**7,538** people in 2024).



Promotional items were developed to include the Suntory logo and included items on the council website, Facebook event, paid social media, posters and programs distributed throughout the city.

REVIEW AND FEEDBACK

Based on both internal and external feedback surveys, a list of key points has been identified regarding the overall program effectiveness.

PROGRAM OVERALL

- ✓ Received positively by general community – social media posts and information had limited negative interactions.
- ✓ Anecdotally, residents have said in person at events that council should do more of these types of programs.
- ✓ Collaboration is key to the program and partners have stated there is benefit to them to continuing to be involved in the program.
- ✓ Sponsorship allows for a guest speaker to be a part of the program which helps to raise the profile of the program and obtain more reach.
- ✓ Changes were made to the layout of the Festival event to cater for more shade for stallholders and attendees.
- ✓ Attendees reported enjoying the variety and quality of interactive stalls at the Festival event.
- ✓ Stallholders at the Festival reported quality engagements and positive sales.



2025 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Conservation Volunteers Australia



Ipswich Climate Action Group



CleanCo Queensland



Ipswich Libraries



Native Plants QLD (Ipswich Branch)



Ipswich Active and Healthy



Ipswich Waste Services



Mallow Sustainability



ICC Mobile Nursery – Free Plant Program



EcoMarines



KEY EVENTS AND ATTENDANCE

EVENT OR ACTIVATION	LOCATION	DATE	APPROX ATTENDANCE / OUTCOME
School holiday workshops at QPEEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soap Making for Kids • Make a mini worm farm • Making seed surprises 	Queen's Park Environmental Education Centre	23 to 27 September	98
Libraries – Digital Teens – e-Waste Workshop	Various	23 to 27 September	60
Libraries – Butterfly Conservation drop in	Various	23 to 27 September	319
Libraries – Wildlife Unleashed Conservation show	Various	23 to 27 September	678
Playfest	Queen's Park Environmental Education Centre	30 September to 4 October	200
Active Healthy Bicycle workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children beginners • All abilities • Family friendly • Women on wheels session • Return Riders • Bike Maintenance 	Ipswich Cycle Park Robelle Domain Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve Tulmur Place	Various	47
Habitat Gardens - Sustainable Open Garden Trail	Tivoli Karalee	Saturday 4 October	176
Children's Library – Saturday Stories – Buzzing Bees	Redbank Plains Library	Saturday 4 October	236
X-Tree-vaganza Community Planting with Conservation Volunteers Australia	North Booval	Saturday 11 October	65
Bush Kindy in Queens Park – Sustainable Ipswich Edition	Queen's Park Environmental Education Centre	14 October	77
Adult workshops at QPEEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Cleaning • Natural Skincare • Adult Soap Making • Worm Farming at home • Food Fermentation 	Queen's Park Environmental Education Centre	Various	100
Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival	Tulmur Place, Nicholas Street Precinct	Saturday 18 October	3,842
Libraries – Learn for Life – Self Sufficient Me	Ipswich Central Library	Saturday 18 October	109
Native Plants QLD - Plant Sale and Enviro Day (Community Partner event)	Rosewood Showgrounds	Saturday 25 October	500
Reinhabiting our neighbourhood - growing food, growing connection	Leichhardt - One Mile Community Centre	Saturday 25 October	18
Making Waves – Celebration event with EcoMarines	Queen's Park Environmental Education Centre	Tuesday 28 October	32



Recycleman	Queen's Park Environmental Education Centre	Friday 31 October	14
Children's Library - In the Garden (multiple) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story Time • Toddler Time 	Ipswich Central Springfield	Various	1,979
Trashion Show with Ipswich Climate Action Group (Community Partner event)	Ipswich Central	Saturday 8 November	40
30 individual activities	13 locations		8,590

PROMOTION AND REACH

A suite of promotional and media items/opportunities were developed for the campaign to help promote the event. All promotional items directed people to the website landing page ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability as a way to share information about the events.

MEDIA ITEMS	REACH / NUMBER
Local media outlet engagement and media releases	1 media release about the Sustainable Ipswich program – provided to local outlets
Ipswich First stories	2 online stories
Organic social media posts	Organic social posts via ICC Facebook and Discover Ipswich Facebook to promote both Sustainable Ipswich program and the Festival
Mayor/Councillor speaking points at the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival	Opening and introduction ahead of keynote speaker Craig Reucassel

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	REACH / NUMBER
Website ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability	1620 individuals viewed this page during the 4 week campaign period. There were 4287 page impressions
Prominent stand in Tulumur Place	Engaged walk-bys in September and October through the Nicholas Street Precinct
Facebook event listings	Facebook events to share key events including Festival
Paid social media posts and paid advertising on Meta/Facebook.	Social media promotion (both paid and organic) which had overall positive engagement. The paid social media advertising had a general reach of 56,444 users over the 4 week campaign period
Festival posters	90 posters with distribution across the Ipswich LGA
A5 digital and hardcopy program	1500 copies distributed city-wide
Festival A3 maps	300 copies handed out on the day
Billboards - Festival event	Brisbane St Ipswich, Goodna, Tulumur Place, on high rotation during September and October
Council email signature	Ran as the main council email signature
Promotional items for the festival	1000 native seed packs and 'Sustainable Ipswich' branded bags

EXAMPLES OF PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Printed collateral examples:

A5 Program Guide



Festival program



IPSWICH SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL 2025 PROGRAM

KEEP THE GOOD TIMES GOING!

Connect with the organisations from the festival and support sustainability actions in our community.

PRESENTERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

- CRAIG REUCASSEL ipswich.qld.gov.au/sustainability
- CLAIRE BICKLE clairebickle.com
- ANTHONY CORNELIUS - WEATHERWATCH weatherwatch.net.au
- JESSICA LINDSAY - MALLOW SUSTAINABILITY mallow.sustainability.com.au
- DR. WENDELL PORTER - ENERGETIC COMMUNITIES energeticcommunities.org.au
- THE UPCYCLED SOAP COMPANY thecycledsoc.com.au
- OCEAN WEMPS' URBAN PLANT STATION urbanplantstation.com.au
- ROMAN SPUR - SPURTOSPIA spurtopia.com.au

FOR THE KIDS

- WATER RANGER VS WALTER urbanutilities.com.au/community
- STICK 'EM UP CYCLE WITH ARTIST SUE LOVEDAY sueloveday.com
- JUMBO FUNK jumbofunk.com.au
- CLEANCO PRESENTS STREET SCIENCE streetscience.com.au
- BRAIN THE WORM MAN thecocomo.com.au

HOME AND GARDEN

- IPSWICH WASTE SERVICES ipswich.qld.gov.au/waste
- 4305 DESIGN - SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND RENOVATION 4305design.com.au
- IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL - FREE PLANT PROGRAM ipswich.qld.gov.au/freeplants
- SUSTAINABLE HOME WITH NICOLE LUTZ thisismyhouse.wordpress.com
- ECOCENTRIC SISTERS ecocentricsisters.org.au
- FLYFARM AUSTRALIA flyfarm.com.au
- IPSWICH SOLAR AND ELECTRICAL ipswichsolarandelectrical.com.au
- REGENEV INSTALLATIONS regenewcharginginstall.com.au

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

- TESLA OWNERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA - QLD CHAPTER teslaclubofaustralia.org
- CLEANCO - SWANBANK CLEAN ENERGY HUB cleanco.com.au
- IPSWICH CLIMATE ACTION GROUP facebook.com/ICAGI
- SOLAR CITIZENS solarcitizens.org.au
- SPINNERS, WEAVERS AND FIBRE ARTISANS OF IPSWICH spinnersweaversipswich.com
- NATIVE PLANTS QUEENSLAND - IPSWICH BRANCH npq.org.au/pasip
- IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL - DISASTER AND NATURAL HAZARDS ipswich.qld.gov.au/emergency
- OCEAN CRUSADERS oceancrusaders.org

SEE THE MAP INSIDE!

Tulmur Place * FREE ENTRY
Saturday 18 October * 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

IPSWICH.QLD.GOV.AU/SUSTAINABILITY **SUNTORY OCEANIA** **City of Ipswich**

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

ABC's War on Waste presenter **Craig Reucassel** chairs a panel of local sustainability champions in a discussion that dives into important issues facing our community.

Bag a bargain and help reduce clothing waste at the Ipswich Climate Action Zone. Browse great pre-loved clothing and accessories and find out how to reduce, reuse and recycle items at home.

Show your rates notice or other proof of Ipswich residency to claim your six free plants from council's **Mobile Nursery**.




FREE KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Free shows will keep the little ones entertained, with Urban Utilities' **Water Ranger vs Walter** sharing our urban water story through song and dance.

Design and decorate a wicked sticker for your bike or helmet at the **Stick 'em Up-cycle** activity with artist Sue Loveday.

Move and groove with **Jumbo Funk** who will be blasting beats on the grass for all to enjoy!




ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

	9.00 am	9.30 am	10.00 am	10.30 am	11.00 am	11.30 am	12.00 pm	12.30 pm
FREE WORKSHOPS	Sustainable Champions Panel Craig Reucassel		Keeping Chickens Claire Bickle		Get Ready - Seasonal Weather Outlook Weatherwatch		Ipswich's War on Waste Craig Reucassel	
INTERACTIVE DEMOS	Eco Dyeing Fabric Ipswich Spinners & Weavers	Introduction to Native Bees Urban Native Bees	The Australian Energy Transition: How to Join and Start the Journey Wendell Porter	Wedding of the year - performance Ipswich Climate Action Group	Composting Problems Solved Mallow Sustainability	Making Soap from Food Waste Upcycled Soap Company	Reusing materials to grow your own food Spurtopia	How to shop for an electric car David Waterworth
KIDS' FUN	Water Ranger vs Walter show Main stage	ALL DAY! Dancing beats with Jumbo Funk, bike decorations with Stick em' Up-cycle, roving characters.						

Truss corflute in Nicholas Street Precinct



Digital collateral examples:

Email signature



Social media examples

Facebook Post (Top Left):
Ipswich City Council Sponsored · 1h
Free workshops during September and October! Learn practical skills from people in your community ready to share how to live sustainably.

Instagram Posts (Top Right):
Ipswich City Council 13 October · 1h
Meet Craig Reucassel from ABC's War on Waste at the Ipswich Sustainable Living Festival! Hear from Craig and other experts on everything from bees to EVs, and explore a vibrant showcase of local eco-products and initiatives. The day will be full of free workshops and demonstrations, family entertainment, a mobile nursery and more.

Instagram Posts (Bottom Left):
Ipswich City Council · 1h
Sustainable Ipswich Building bicycle... Learn more
Free workshop... Sustainable Open Garden... Visit inspiring... Learn more
DIY Fermentation Free DIY work... Learn more
Eco cleaning Learn more
Free workshop... Check out the full program Learn more
Free activities... Learn more

Facebook Post (Bottom Right):
Ipswich City Council · 1h
IPSWICH SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL 2025 Jen Bonnett, Phil Smith and 47 others · 1 Like · 12 comments · 15 shares · 1 Share

Ipswich First

Facebook Post (Top Left):
Ipswich First · 1h
Sustainable living made easy in Ipswich this spring
Ipswich · September 4, 2025
Build your bicycle confidence with free workshops for all ages.

Instagram Post (Top Right):
Ipswich First · 1h
Go behind the gates of an inspiring Ipswich garden
Ipswich · September 5, 2025
In just three years this garden has gone from looking green to beautiful abundance. It's a inspiring example of what is possible for any average-sized garden, using low-cost and free methods such as aquaponics and rocket gardening.

Facebook Post (Bottom Left):
Ipswich First · 1h
"Sustainable Ipswich features many local champions - it's a great opportunity to learn from the best and be inspired to take your lifestyle to the next level," Cr Madsen said.
"Green growing your own food, to rediscovering the joy of riding, to saving money with homemade cleaning products, to creating habitat with native plants, there's a workshop or event for everyone."

Instagram Post (Bottom Right):
Ipswich First · 1h
Dawn Kelly describes herself as a 'chaser' gardener, letting her vegetation run wild - something she has truly relished since her previous garden went in lockdown properties. Not there is a fluid transition between the spaces as you walk around the property that shows care and consideration about the function and purpose of each space. Before the front yard had a Tuckeroo tree and nothing else. Now, it's a meandering native garden full of native habitat flowers and bush-tastic spreading plants, including firewood or indigenous species, such as Sassafras Tree, Native Heliotrope and powerful floral orbweaver the Platynotus Moth.

EVENT PHOTOS





Item 3 / Attachment 1.



Doc ID No: A12118166

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: OFF-SITE STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORTS
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025

AUTHOR: WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

DATE: 13 OCTOBER 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (the Program, formerly known as Stormwater Quality Offsets program) and its annual report (Attachment 1.). Council publishes a report summarising important information about the Program for each of the financial years it operates. This includes details of the fees collected from participating developers, how they've been spent, and the stormwater pollution reductions and other benefits achieved. The attached annual report (the Annual Report) covers the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. It also describes changes made to the Program over this time and proposed next steps, including the preparation of a plan to deliver new off-site solutions over the next 5 – 10 years.

The Annual Report has been prepared in council's marketing template but will be turned into a graphic document suitable for public release after this committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the attached Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program Annual Reports 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 be received and its contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related party matters or conflicts of interest associated with this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Consistent with its commitment to best practice and transparency, council chooses to prepare and publicly release an annual report for the Program. This Annual Report summarises important information about the Program for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. It demonstrates council's efforts in addressing general challenges associated with off-site stormwater quality improvement and a maturation in Program management in recent years. However, further work is required to ensure council continues to meet its pollution reduction responsibilities in an environmentally and financially sustainable way. To

this end, council will continue to regularly monitor, review, and improve the Program. These improvements will be communicated to the Committee in future annual reports and ad-hoc briefings when appropriate.

Reports for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years have been combined for several reasons including:

- Significant improvements being made to the Program over this time including the adoption of a new corporate policy and procedure, the approval of a set of public-facing guidelines, and an update to the unit and rate used to estimate fees paid by participating developers, and
- The implementation of the new Ipswich City Plan 2025, which includes a new policy for off-site stormwater quality improvement.

These changes have previously been presented to and adopted by Council on 12 December 2024 (Attachment 2.). Further details about the changes as well as the context and history of the Program can be found in the Annual Report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
State Planning Policy 2017 (State interest – water quality)
Ipswich City Plan 2025 (Part 3)
Local Government Act 2009

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Policy updates associated with the Program were previously presented to and adopted by Council on 12 December 2024 (Attachment B). No other policy implications have been identified in the writing of this committee report or its attachments.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Annual Report summarises changes made to the Program over the last 2 financial years to address challenges identified through a review of the Program in 2022-2023. These changes have helped ensure council continues to operate the Program in accordance with statutory responsibilities and best practice. However, off-site stormwater quality improvement is still a relatively novel approach, and challenges still exist. This includes the difficulty of developing, managing, and reporting on the Program while also delivering capital projects to meet council's pollution reduction responsibilities. This challenge has seen the delivery of off-site solutions fall behind commitments in council's annual and capital works plans in recent years.

Reduced delivery of off-site solutions increases the time between the impacts of stormwater pollution from development sites being either treated or offset, resulting in a potential worsening of water quality and waterway health over this time. This means that the delivery of off-site solutions to meet pollution reduction responsibilities should be a priority for the Program. However, it also needs to be balanced with a right and proper delivery process,

considerations and management of public funds, as well as limitations on the availability of land for off-site solutions.

Council is currently preparing a plan to deliver new off-site solutions over the next 5 – 10 years. The preparation and implementation of this plan will also involve an evaluation of the resources required to develop, manage, and report on the Program while delivering off-site solutions to meet council’s responsibilities. This assessment should inform budgets and resourcing allocations that are appropriate for the Program in the future (e.g., the number of dedicated full-time equivalent employees and the level of procurement of external services).

It is likely that other challenges affecting the Program will arise in the future. Recognising this, the Program will be regularly reviewed as part of the corporate policy adopted in late 2024. This will seek to assess and control existing, emerging, and evolving challenges affecting the Program to ensure council’s purposes and principles for off-site stormwater quality improvement are achieved.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The financial contributions council has collected and spent through the Program are outlined in the Annual Report. It indicates that council has spent fewer funds than the fees it has collected year on year for the last four financial years, with the exception of 2022-2023 where there was increased construction. The reduced spending over 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 can be attributed to the focus over this period being mostly on projects and work that did not involve construction, such as the design and rectification of existing off-site solutions, and significant work reviewing the Program.

As mentioned above, the new delivery plan (in development) should help provide clarity on the requirements of the Program in terms of future delivery options and pathways. This information will help by guiding council’s budgets, resource allocations, and procurement of external services in the future.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

As with all previous reports, the Annual Report will be provided to the appropriate Queensland Government department for their consideration, in this instance the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI). Council officers and managers continue to work with the Queensland Government in their review of water quality matters and off-site stormwater quality improvement.

The program is delivered to meet statutory planning responsibilities. For the most part, this is subject to the technical feasibility and suitability of sites in Ipswich. However, community consultation is undertaken for projects delivered through the Program on a project-by-project/site-by-site basis. This includes letter box drops, community pop up and information events, and other types of engagement.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	OSQIP - Annual report 2023-2025 FY - draft version 
2.	Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting Agenda 3 December 2024 

Benny Penhallurick

WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

City of Ipswich

Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program

Annual Reports 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

Ipswich.qld.gov.au/OSQIP





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group, as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures, and stories of proud peoples.

Disclaimer

The content of this document is based on available information at the time of writing. All tables, figures, and diagrams are indicative only and should be referred to as such. While Ipswich City Council has exercised reasonable care in producing this document, it does not warrant or represent that it is accurate or complete. Ipswich City Council or its officers accept no responsibility for any loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting in reliance upon any material contained in this document.



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PREFACE

In 2012, Ipswich City Council (council) introduced a policy supporting off-site stormwater quality improvement. This allowed eligible developers to voluntarily pay fees to council instead of meeting some, or all, of their statutory responsibilities to reduce stormwater pollution on development sites (i.e. on-site). In this situation, council inherits the developer's statutory responsibilities and delivers projects off development sites (i.e. off-site) that achieve an equal or greater reduction in stormwater pollution relative to what would otherwise have been achieved on-site.

In 2014, council started accepting fees from developers. Around the same time, it began a program of works to meet its inherited pollution reduction responsibilities. This program of works has evolved significantly over the years and is now formally known as the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (the Program).

Since 2014, council has been at the forefront of off-site stormwater quality improvement in Queensland, being one of the few local governments with a formal policy and program in place to support it. While council has worked diligently to ensure the Program is operated in accordance with statutory policies and guidelines, off-site stormwater quality improvement remains a relatively novel approach and is not without its challenges. Council has worked proactively to identify and overcome these challenges as well as share its learnings with other stakeholders.

Council is committed to reporting on the Program to ensure it is operated transparently and to start conversations and share learnings amongst relevant stakeholders. To make good on this commitment, council publishes a report summarising important information about the Program for each of the financial years it operates. This includes the fees council collected from participating developers, how they have been spent, the stormwater pollution reductions and other benefits achieved, and the challenges identified and overcome.

This report begins with background information for readers who are not familiar with stormwater pollution and the Program. This information provides necessary context for reading the remaining sections of the report. It then provides a snapshot of the above outlined information for both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years before providing more details about how the Program was operated over this time. A brief description of changes made to Program to address recent and longstanding challenges is then provided, including an explanation of why they were made and how they may affect relevant stakeholders. The report concludes with a brief discussion of the next steps for the Program as well as some relevant appendices.

Reports for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years have been combined to ensure changes made to the Program over this time can be clearly communicated in one document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2014, council has collected \$31.5 million in fees from developers. With these funds, council has delivered 15 major off-site solutions including the award-winning Jim Donald Parklands Constructed Wetlands and Small Creek Channel Naturalisation projects which are pictured on the front and back of this report, respectively. These projects have been selected to maximise stormwater pollution reductions while also providing multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits to the Ipswich community.

Together, the projects council has delivered have substantially reduced and sometimes well exceeded its statutory stormwater pollution reduction responsibilities. While only spending 41% of the fees collected from developers to date, council has met 190% of its responsibility for reducing total suspended solids, 96% of its responsibility for total phosphorous, 57% of its responsibility for total nitrogen, and 102% of its responsibility for gross pollutants. These results demonstrate the overall value of the Program and council's approach to off-site stormwater quality improvement in Ipswich.

Over the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years, approximately \$4.3 million in fees were collected from developers. During this time, three projects achieved practical completion, including a bioretention project with two basins, a water smart street tree project with nine street trees, and the final stage of a waterway stabilisation project. Design and rectification projects were also progressed, with two design projects moving into construction stages in the coming financial year.

Several changes were also made to the Program over the reporting period. These changes addressed challenges identified in a review of the Program undertaken in the 2022-2023 financial year. They included the adoption of a corporate policy and set of public-facing guidelines to align how council operates the Program with industry best practice and to ensure clarity and consistency in decision making and developer participation. They also included changes to the unit and rate used to estimate fees paid by participating developers to help recover council's costs for operating the Program and to control environmental and financial risks.

These improvements have helped maintain council's position as a leader of the off-site stormwater quality improvement approach among local governments in Queensland. This has been reflected in several historic project awards and most recently, the 2024 Award for Excellence in Policy and Education from Stormwater Queensland for the Program's review.

Other improvements identified in the review will be made in the coming financial year. This includes the preparation of a new plan to identify and deliver off-site solutions over the next 5 – 10 years that will ensure council's remaining and future stormwater pollution reduction responsibilities are met.

Council will continue to monitor, review and improve the Program to meet its pollution reduction responsibilities in an environmentally and financially sustainable way. Consistent with its commitment to transparent reporting and knowledge sharing, changes to the Program will be communicated in future annual reports as well as relevant stakeholder notifications.

1. PROGRAM BACKGROUND

This section of the report provides background information about stormwater pollution and the Program. It provides necessary context for reading the remaining sections of the report.

1.1 STORMWATER POLLUTION

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off the hard surfaces of developed areas like footpaths, roads, and rooftops. It can also run off softer surfaces like gardens, lawns, and parks, particularly when they're saturated. To avoid flooding in developed areas, stormwater is drained to waterways like creeks and rivers. As it runs off the different surfaces in the landscape, it often picks up materials that are known to pollute waterways like litter, pet waste, fertilisers, sediments, and other things. In undeveloped areas, much less stormwater is generated as rainwater readily soaks into the ground, evaporates, and is used by plants to grow. These areas also generate much less stormwater pollution.

Figure 1 illustrates the process of stormwater runoff and pollution transport to waterways in developed areas.



Figure 1: Stormwater runoff and pollution transport to waterways in developed areas.



1.2 STORMWATER POLLUTION REDUCTION TARGETS

In accordance with the Queensland State Planning Policy, the quality of stormwater running off larger development sites after they have been constructed must be managed and improved by meeting targets for reducing key stormwater pollutants. Table 1 describes these pollutants and presents reduction targets that apply in Ipswich. The targets relate to a percentage reduction in the average amount of the pollutant running off a development site each year. In general, the targets must be met for development sites that are larger than 2500m² and/or involve the creation of six or more lots.

Table 1: Stormwater pollution reduction targets

POLLUTANT	DESCRIPTION	TARGET
Total suspended solids (TSS)	The total amount of solid particles floating in stormwater (e.g., organic matter and silts). Common sources of these particles include construction sites with poor erosion and sediment control and hard surfaces like footpaths, roads, and rooftops. These particles can increase the cloudiness or murkiness of water, physically harm wildlife, and degrade habitat.	80%
Total phosphorous (TP)	The total amount of all forms of nitrogen and phosphorous in stormwater. Common sources of these nutrients include lawn and garden fertilisers, pet waste, and decomposing green waste. In excess, these nutrients can cause algal blooms in waterways which in turn can cause fish kills and health hazards for humans.	60%
Total nitrogen (TN)		45%
Gross pollutants (GPs)	Any material greater than 5mm across (e.g., litter, sediments and vegetation). Common sources of these materials include construction sites and illegal dumping and littering. These materials can choke and entangle wildlife, leach toxins, and ultimately degrade waterway health.	90%

In Ipswich, like most of Queensland, developers often meet the pollution reduction targets by designing and constructing devices that detain, slow, and filter stormwater on development sites (i.e. on-site). These devices can include rainwater tanks, gross pollutant traps, bioretention basins, and other stormwater treatment devices.

Further information about stormwater pollution reduction responsibilities in Ipswich can be found in Part 3 of the Ipswich City Plan 2025 at <https://ipswich.isoplan.com.au/eplan>.

1.3 STORMWATER POLLUTION REDUCTION TARGETS

In 2012, council introduced a policy in its planning scheme that allowed eligible developers to voluntarily pay fees instead of meeting some or all of their statutory responsibilities to reduce stormwater pollution on-site. In this situation, council inherits the developer's statutory responsibilities and delivers projects off development sites (i.e. off-site) that achieve an equal or greater reduction in stormwater pollution.

In 2014, council started accepting fees from developers. Around the same time, council established a program of works to deliver projects that meet its inherited pollution reduction responsibilities, which is now formally known as the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program.

The projects that council delivers, which it calls off-site solutions, can involve designing and constructing a range of stormwater treatment devices and other works. Table 2 showcases examples of this range of off-site solutions in Ipswich.



Table 2: Off-site solutions in Ipswich

BIORETENTION BASINS	CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS	WATER SMART STREET TREES
<p>Bioretention basins are shallow, landscaped depressions that capture and treat stormwater through filtration with an engineered soil and vegetation. They remove sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants while allowing water to infiltrate or be slowly released into waterways. These systems also reduce the velocity of stormwater entering waterways and increase urban green space.</p>  <p>Bioretention basin in Ipswich</p>	<p>Constructed or ephemeral wetlands are low-lying areas that temporarily or permanently hold and treat stormwater through a combination of slowing, filtering, and biological processing. Ephemeral wetlands dry out between rainfall events, while constructed wetlands often retain water year-round. Both improve water quality, reduce stormwater velocity and improve biodiversity.</p>  <p>Constructed wetland in Eastern Heights</p>	<p>Water smart street trees function in a very similar way to bioretention basins but are much smaller and typically constructed in the road verge. They divert stormwater from the kerb into a small, depressed area, where it is filtered with an engineered soil and vegetation. The stormwater nourishes and helps the tree and other native vegetation grow.</p>  <p>Water Smart Street Tree in Pine Mountain</p>

CHANNEL NATURALISATION	FLOODPLAIN RE-ENGAGEMENT	WATER SMART STREET TREES
<p>Channel naturalisations involve reshaping and revegetating engineered drainage infrastructure to better mimic natural waterways and their processes. This includes adding meanders, riffles, pools, and native vegetation to slow stormwater and improve habitat. Naturalised channels enhance ecological function, reduce erosion and improve visual amenity.</p>  <p>Small Creek naturalisation in Raceview</p>	<p>Re-engagement involves reconnecting stormwater with floodplains and wetlands by diverting runoff into these areas. This allows stormwater to spread across the land and be treated in the same way as constructed and ephemeral wetlands. Re-engagement improves local flood resilience, ecosystem health, and ecological connectivity.</p>  <p>Floodplain re-engagement in Bellbird Park</p>	<p>Waterway stabilisation involves reducing the erosion of soils into waterways through a combination of structural elements and revegetation. This may include rock armouring, snagging (i.e. adding logs and root balls of fallen trees to waterways) and installing pile fields. Stabilisation improves waterway resilience, protects infrastructure, and supports ecological recovery.</p>  <p>Waterway stabilisation in Woogaroo Creek</p>

A statutory policy for stormwater quality improvement was first introduced in Queensland in late 2010 and updated in 2017. Over the years, the implementation of this policy drove significant work to establish best practice standards and build the capacity of the development industry and local governments to meet them. This included the launch of the Water by Design program and other capacity building initiatives, some of which remain in place to this day. However, several challenges were quickly perceived by stakeholders, including:

- The technical difficulties and sometimes impossibility of delivering well designed and constructed stormwater treatment devices on constrained development sites (e.g., sites that are too small or steep to fit them)
- The costs and logistic challenges associated with ensuring smaller, privately-owned stormwater treatment devices are being maintained for both local governments and private property owners, and
- The costs and negative outcomes associated with rectifying poorly designed and constructed stormwater treatment devices that are handed over to local government ownership.

Because of this, an alternative statutory policy was introduced that allowed local governments to adopt an off-site stormwater quality improvement approach. Ipswich City Council was one of the first local governments in Queensland to embrace this alternative policy and incorporate it into its planning scheme in 2012.

Council's off-site stormwater quality improvement approach provides flexibility to the local development industry when it comes to meeting stormwater pollution reduction targets on-site. It also provides council with the ability to plan and deliver off-site solutions in a holistic and integrated way approach across Ipswich, which may ultimately lead to better economic, environmental, and social outcomes for the community.

However, council recognises that off-site solutions are just one tool. In the first instance, council seeks to align planning and development in Ipswich with best practice stormwater management. Consistent with the Queensland State Planning Policy and associated best practice guidelines, this involves conditioning that all new developments meet pollution reduction responsibilities on-site to the greatest extent possible using water sensitive urban design principles and practices.



2. PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

This section of the report presents an overall snapshot of the Program as of 30 June 2025. It provides a high-level understanding of how council has operated the Program up to this point.

Table 3 presents the total fees council has collected from developers participating in the Program up to 30 June 2025. It also presents the total funds council has spent operating the Program, and the funds that remain.

Table 3: Total fees collected and funds spent

TOTAL FEES COLLECTED AND FUNDS SPENT	
Total fees collected	\$31,585,647
Total funds spent	\$13,071,949
Total funds remaining	\$18,513,698
Percentage of funds spent	41%

Figure 2 presents council's overall progress in meeting its responsibilities for reducing TSS, TP, TN, and GPs through the off-site solutions it has delivered up to 30 June 2025. These solutions include the award-winning Jim Donald Parklands Constructed Wetlands and the Small Creek Channel Naturalisation projects which are pictured on the front and back pages of this report, respectively.

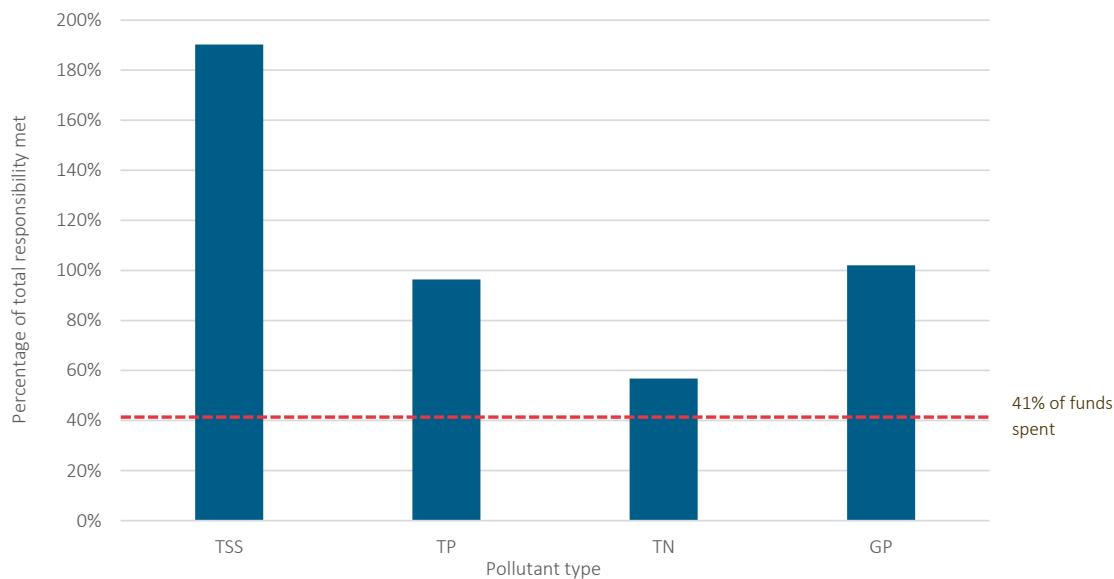


Figure 2: Total responsibilities met

Table 3 and Figure 2 indicate that using only 41% of the fees collected from developers, council has met and exceeded its responsibilities for reducing TSS and GPs and met a significant proportion of its responsibility for TP. This can be explained by council initially focusing on low-cost projects that achieve high pollution reductions as well as drawing on grants and other sources of co-investment.



The off-site solutions delivered so far have provided several benefits to the Ipswich community in addition to reducing pollution including cooling, greening and shading neighbourhoods, improving local biodiversity, and creating active transport and recreational opportunities. These results demonstrate the overall value of the Program and council's approach to off-site stormwater quality improvement in Ipswich. A full list and map of the projects council has delivered to date (i.e. that have reached an operational stage) is included in Appendix A.

Despite its successes, several challenges have affected the Program and its ability to continue to meet council's pollution reduction responsibilities in an environmentally and financially sustainable way. Over the 2022-2023 financial year, council undertook a review of the Program and recommended several changes to address these challenges. This included the preparation of a new corporate policy and set of public-facing guidelines to align how council operates the Program with industry best practice and to ensure clarity and consistency in decision making and developer participation. It also included changes to the unit and rate used to estimate fees paid by participating developers to help recover council's costs for operating the Program and control environmental and financial risks. These changes were made over the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. Work was also undertaken to ensure council's planning scheme (the Ipswich Plan 2025) was aligned with these changes. Other improvements identified in the review will be made over the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 financial years. This includes the preparation of a new plan to identify and deliver off-site solutions over the next 5 – 10 years that helps to meet council's remaining and future stormwater pollution reduction responsibilities.

Overall, the changes council has made to the Program have helped maintain its position as a leader of the off-site stormwater quality improvement approach in Queensland. This has been reflected in several historic project awards and most recently, the 2024 Award for Excellence in Policy and Education from Stormwater Queensland for the Program's review.

Figure 3 presents a timeline of major events in the Program including the delivery of award-winning projects, the Program's review, and forthcoming improvements like the preparation of a new delivery plan. Further information about these changes and next steps for the Program is included in the final sections of this report.

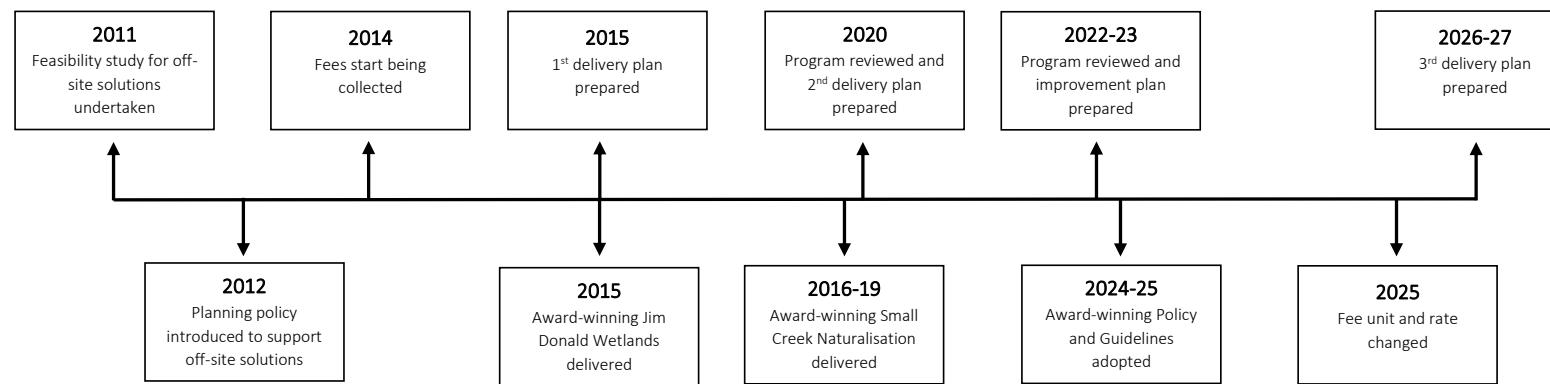


Figure 3: Timeline of major events in the Program

3. PROGRAM REPORT 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025

This section of the report presents more details about the Program as of 30 June 2025, including information about the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years (the reporting period).

3.1 FEES AND FUNDS

3.1.1 Fees collected

Figure 4 presents the fees council collected from developers each financial year since 2014-2015.

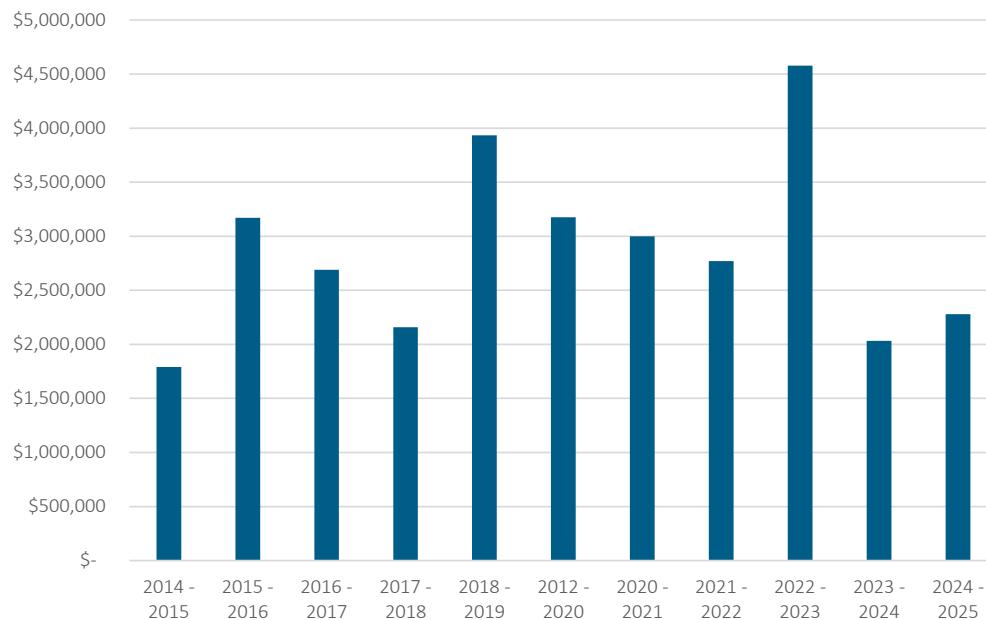


Figure 4: Fees collected each year since 2014-2015

Figure 4 indicates that over the reporting period, a total of \$4.3 million was collected from developers. The amount in each of the two financial years was less than the overall annual average of \$2.9 million.

The fees council collects from developers are likely to continue to decline in the coming financial years given the adoption of a council policy in late 2024 that introduced stricter eligibility, rules and requirements for developers seeking to participate in the Program. They are also likely to continue to decline owing to an increase in the rate used to calculate fees to be paid by developers in mid-2025. These changes to the Program are further outlined in section 5 of this report.

3.1.2 Funds spent

Figure 5 presents the fees council collected from developers relative to the funds it spent operating the Program over each of the past four financial years.

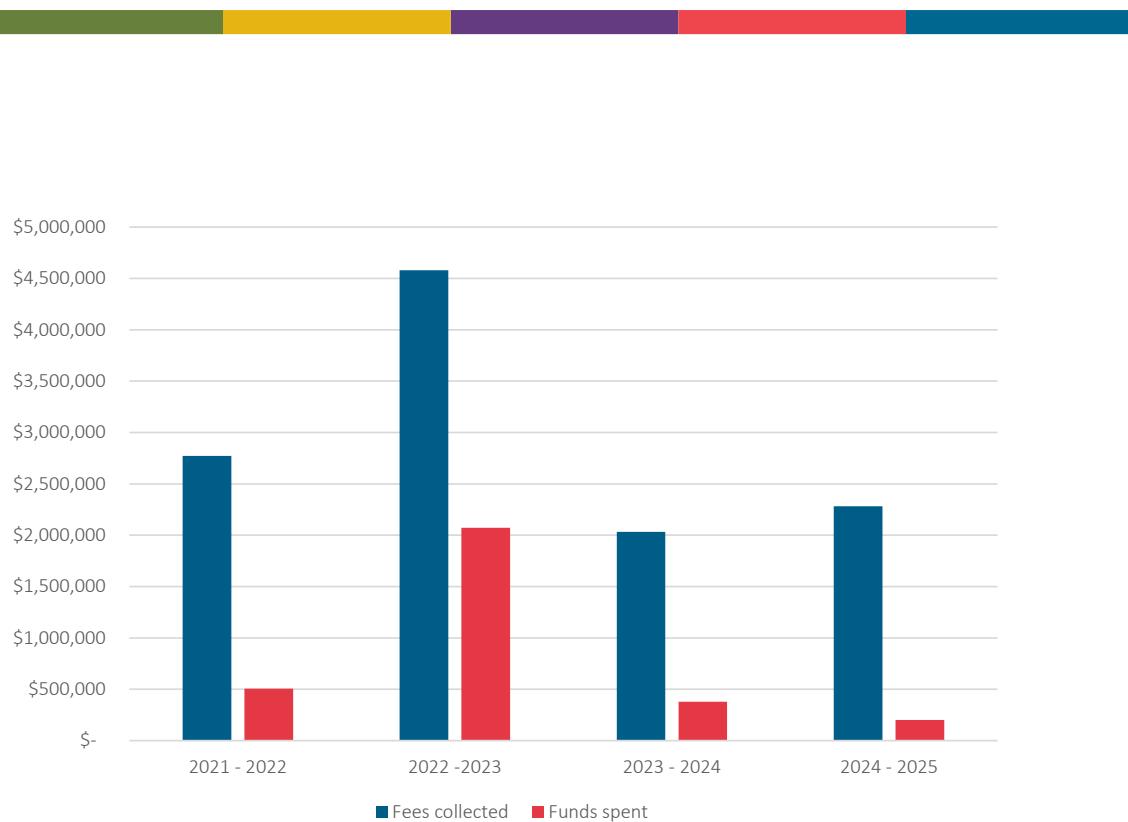


Figure 5: Fees collected and funds spent each year since 2021-2022

Figure 5 indicates that council has spent significantly fewer funds than the fees it has collected over the last four financial years, except for 2022-2023. This is due to council implementing previous delivery plans which concentrated construction projects (which typically account for most of the Program's expenditure) in 2022-2023. The reduced spending over 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 can be attributed to council focussing mostly on projects and work that did not involve construction, such as the design of new off-site solutions, the rectification of existing off-site solutions, and significant work reviewing and improving the Program.

The funds council spends operating the Program are likely to increase over the coming financial years with several projects moving into construction stages and as council designs and constructs new off-site solutions as part of the implementation of a new delivery plan, which is further outlined in section 6 of this report.

3.2 POLLUTANT REDUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES

3.2.1 Responsibilities inherited and met

Table 4 presents the pollution reduction responsibilities council inherited each financial year since 2014-2015.

Table 4: Responsibilities inherited each year since 2014-2015.

Financial Year	RESPONSIBILITIES (KG/YEAR)			
	TSS	TP	TN	GP
2014 - 2015	34,606	51	171	5,078
2015 - 2016	58,357	85	289	8,563
2016 - 2017	49,496	72	245	7,263
2017 - 2018	37,464	55	185	5,498
2018 - 2019	66,095	96	327	9,699
2012 - 2020	51,680	75	256	7,583



	RESPONSIBILITIES (KG/YEAR)			
2020 - 2021	47,815	70	237	7,016
2021 - 2022	43,184	63	214	6,337
2022 - 2023	69,387	101	343	10,182
2023 - 2024	29,364	43	145	4,309
2024 - 2025	15,719	23	78	2,307
Grand Total	503,165	734	2,490	73,834

Table 5 presents council's overall progress in meeting these responsibilities through the off-site solutions it has delivered up to 30 June 2025.

Table 5: Total responsibilities inherited and met

	RESPONSIBILITIES (KG/YEAR)			
	TSS	TP	TN	GPs
Total responsibilities	503,165	734	2,490	73,834
Total responsibilities met	957,558	708	1,414	75,371
Total responsibilities remaining	-454,393	27	1,076	-1,537
Percentage of responsibilities met	190%	96%	57%	102%

'Total pollution reductions met' refers to the aggregated pollution reductions achieved by operational off-site solutions (i.e. off-site solutions that have been constructed and achieved practical completion) by 30 June 2025.

Table 5 indicates that council has exceeded its responsibilities for TSS, met its responsibilities for GPs and has largely met its responsibility for TP. It also indicates that council has met 57% of its responsibility for TN, which is more costly and difficult to remove from stormwater than other pollutants.

3.2.2 Responsibilities in sub-catchments

Consistent with the Queensland Government's guidelines for off-site stormwater quality improvement, wherever possible, council seeks to plan and deliver off-site solutions to benefit the same waterways that are impacted by development sites participating in the Program. To do this, council keeps track of the pollution reduction responsibilities it inherits from development sites and the extent to which they have been met through the delivery of off-site solutions in each of Ipswich's sub-catchments.

A sub-catchment is an area of land surrounding the creeks that flow into rivers. Figure 6 presents the major creeks, rivers and sub-catchments in Ipswich.

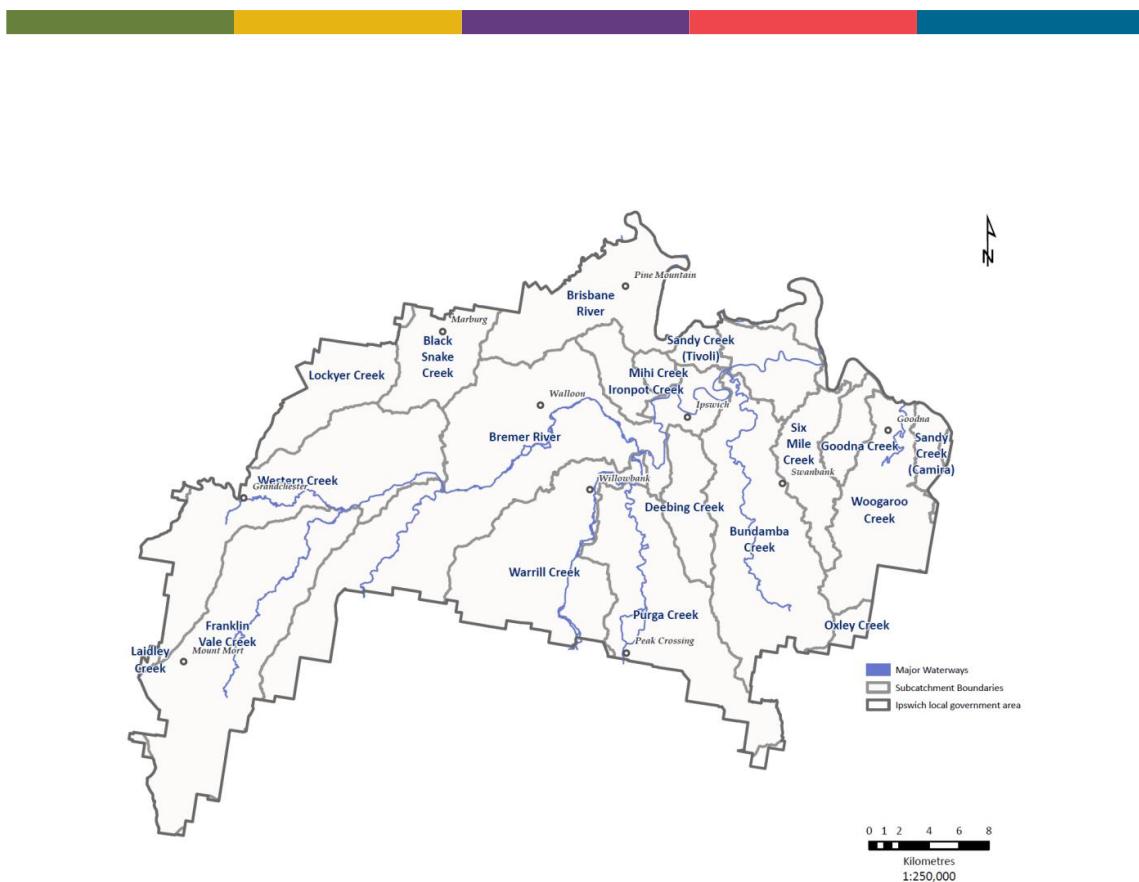


Figure 6: Map of major creeks, rivers and sub-catchments in Ipswich

Figure 7 presents council's overall progress in meeting responsibilities for reducing TSS in sub-catchments. Negative values indicate the extent to which the responsibility remains. Positive values indicate the extent to which the responsibility has been exceeded.

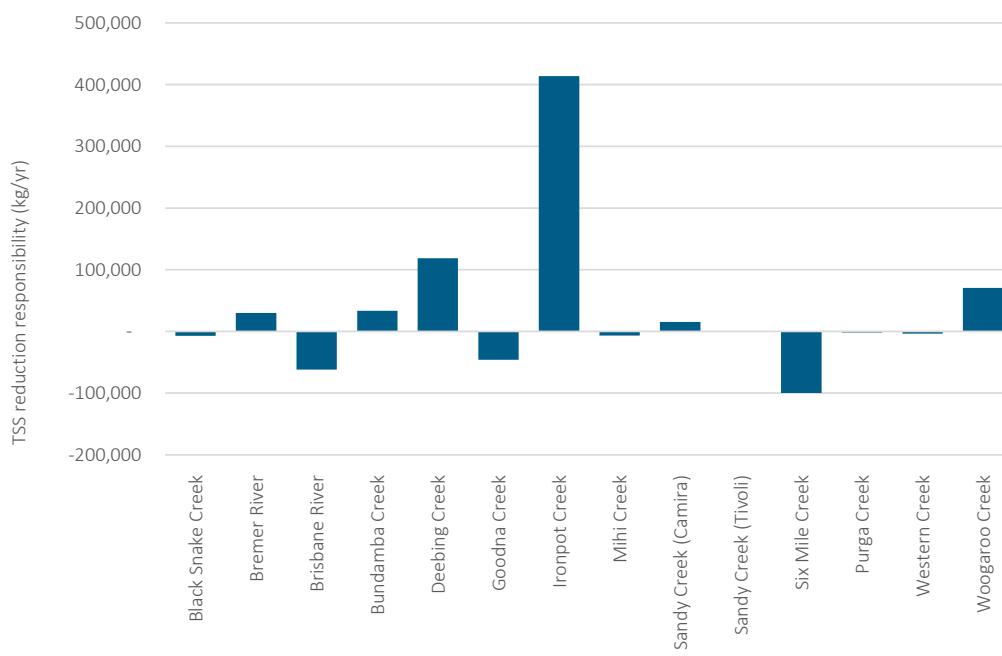


Figure 7: TSS responsibilities in each sub-catchment



Figure 8 presents the same information for TN and TP.

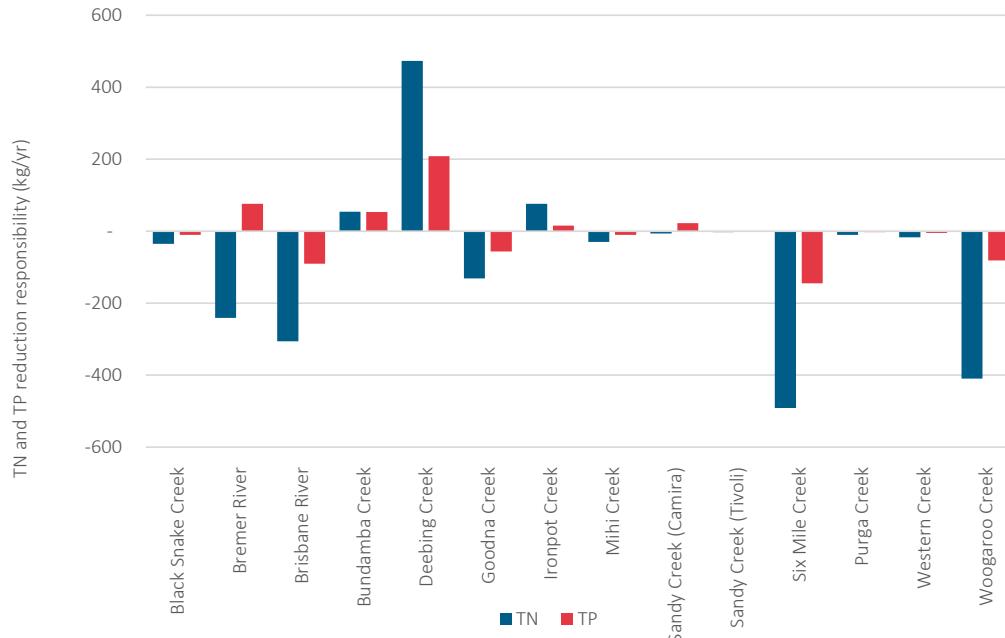


Figure 8: TN and TP responsibilities in each sub-catchment

Figure 7 and Figure 8 indicate that responsibilities remain for some pollutants in some sub-catchments (e.g. TN in Six Mile Creek, Woogaroo Creek, and Bremer and Brisbane River). It also indicates that for other sub-catchments, responsibilities have nearly been met and, in some instances, well exceeded (e.g. TSS in Ironpot Creek and TN and TP in Deebing Creek). This can be attributed to some off-site solutions being delivered opportunistically outside of sub-catchments with significant remaining responsibilities in the past.

Council's remaining pollution reduction responsibilities will likely reduce in the coming financial years with the adoption of a corporate policy in late 2024 that restricts developer participation in the Program to sub-catchments whose responsibilities have been exceeded. For example, as of December 2024, new development sites in only four of the 19 sub-catchments in Ipswich are eligible to participate in the Program.

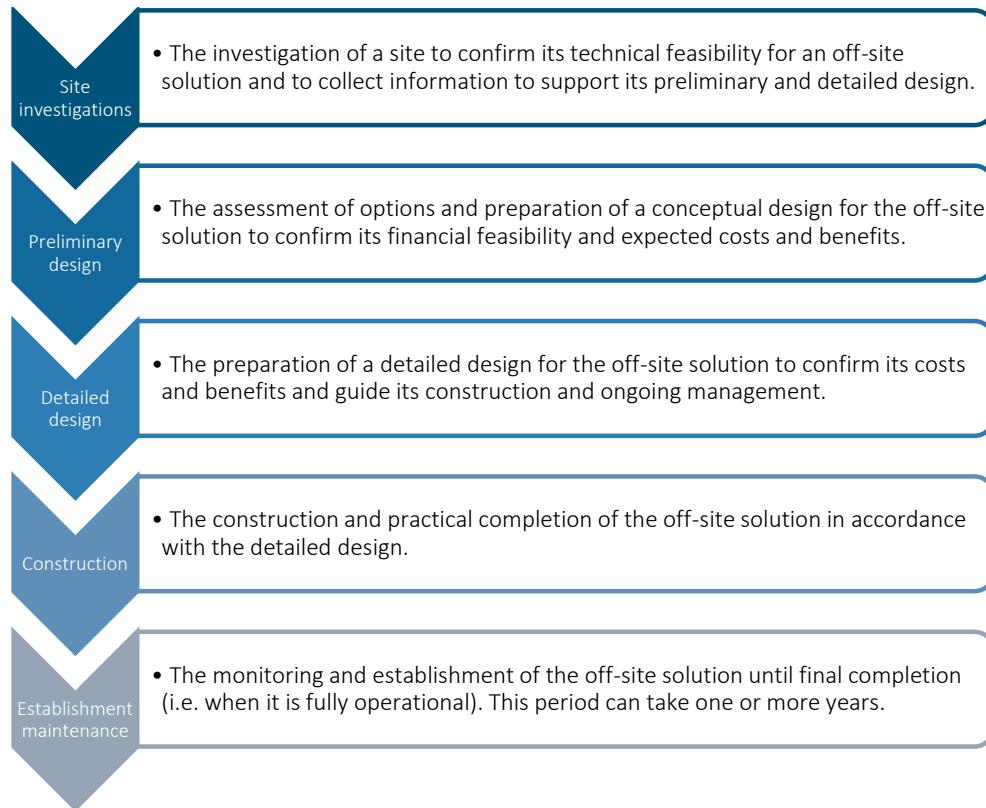
A map of sub-catchments where pollution reduction responsibilities have been exceeded, and which are eligible for developer participation in the Program, is presented in Appendix B.

3.3 OFF-SITE SOLUTIONS

Over the reporting period, council has focused mostly on reviewing and improving the Program. However, it has also progressed the delivery of several new off-site solutions as well as the rectification of existing off-site solutions to ensure they achieve their intended pollution reductions and other benefits. This section describes these projects and presents key information about their costs and benefits.

3.3.1 Status of off-site solutions

Typically, the delivery of off-site solutions has the following stages:



After establishment maintenance, off-site solutions enter an operational stage where they are monitored and maintained to ensure their pollution reduction and other benefits are achieved indefinitely. Occasionally, an off-site solution is found to be defective or fails. In this situation, the off-site solution enters a rectification stage, where council undertakes projects to diagnose the root cause of any issues and undertakes works to bring the off-site solution to a fully operational and resilient condition.

Table 6 presents general information about each of the off-site solutions whose delivery or rectification was progressed over reporting period, including their current project stage as of 30 June 2025. Further information about current and future projects, including their expected costs and timeframes for delivery, can be found in council's capital works program at www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/About-Council/Initiatives/Works-and-Projects.

Table 6: General information about projects

CURRENT STAGE	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	SUB-CATCHMENT	COMMENTS
Site investigations	61 Workshop Street Ephemeral Wetlands	NA	Mihi Creek	Site investigations determined these sites were not technically feasible for an off-site solution.
	Harry Ratnam Wetlands	NA	Goodna Creek	
	Pan Pacific Peace Gardens Floodplain Wetland	NA	Goodna Creek	
Preliminary design	Heit Family Park Wetlands and Naturalisation	Bioretention basin	Warrill Creek	
	Ipswich Central Water Smart Street Trees (Urban Greening Pilot Project)	Water Smart Street Trees	Bremer River	
	Brenda Court Stormwater Quality Improvement	Bioretention basin and channel naturalisation	Six Mile	
Detailed design	Bremervale Park Upgrade Constructed Wetlands	Ephemeral wetland	Bundamba Creek	
Establishment maintenance	Ironpot Creek Stabilisation (Stage 2)	Waterway stabilisation	Ironpot Creek	
	Small Creek Channel Naturalisation Stage 3	Channel naturalisation	Deebing Creek	
	Schoffield Court Bioretention Basins	Bioretention basins	Six Mile Creek	
Operational	Short & Alice Street Water Smart Street Trees	Water Smart Street Trees	Bundamba Creek	
	Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative (Stage 3)	Waterway stabilisation	Bremer River	
	Small Creek Channel Naturalisation (Stage 2)	Channel naturalisation	Deebing Creek	
Rectification	Bob Titcombe Park Bioretention Basin	Bioretention basin	Mihi Creek	
	Small Creek Channel Naturalisation Stage 1	Channel naturalisation	Deebing Creek	
	Pine Mountain Water Smart Street Trees	Water Smart Street Trees	Ironpot Creek	

A summary of each project that resulted in a new off-site solution is presented in the project summaries in Appendix C. Summaries for projects that have been delivered in previous financial years can be found in previous annual reports on the Program's webpage at www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/OSQIP.

3.3.2 Costs and benefits of off-site solutions

Council carefully selects the projects it delivers to ensure off-site solutions maximise stormwater pollution reductions while also providing multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits to the Ipswich community. To do this, council assesses the pollution reductions, costs, and benefits it can expect from each project before it delivers them. This section reports this information for the projects that resulted in a new off-site solution in the reporting period.

Table 7 presents information about the pollution reductions, costs, and cost-effectiveness of projects.

Table 1: Pollution reductions and cost-effectiveness of projects delivered over the reporting period

PROJECT NAME	POLLUTANT REDUCTIONS (KG/YEAR)				COST AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS	
	TSS	TP	TN	GPs	Delivery cost	Cost-effectiveness (\$/kgTN/year)
Schoffield Court Bioretention Basins	1,836	3.4	11.8	299	\$425,213	\$36,035
Short & Alice Street Water Smart Street Trees	314	0.3	1.3	80	\$18,681	\$14,370
Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative (Stage 3)	115,771	200	177	0	\$1,769,719	\$9,998

'Delivery cost' refers to the sum of all costs associated with delivering the off-site solution, including site investigations, preliminary and detailed design, and construction and establishment maintenance. 'Cost-effectiveness' refers to the levelised cost (in dollars) of the off-site solution reducing a kilogram (kg) of TN per year. TN is used as an indicator of cost-effectiveness as its removal is more costly and difficult and generally involves the removal of an equal or greater amount of the other pollutants.

Table 8 presents the other benefits the off-site solutions are expected to provide.

Table 8: Other project benefits

PROJECT NAME	ECONOMIC BENEFITS		ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS		SOCIAL BENEFITS	
	Reduced demand on stormwater network	Improved local flood resilience	Improved local biodiversity	Increased carbon capture	Cooling and greening	Improved active transport and recreation
Schoffield Court Bioretention Basins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Short & Alice Street Water Smart Street Trees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative (Stage 3)			✓	✓		



Table 7 indicates that some off-site solutions are more cost-effective than others. For example, the cost to reduce one kilogram of TN for the Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative is less than a third of the cost of the bioretention basins at Schofield Court. This is due to certain types of projects being more effective at reducing certain types of pollutants than others, while also being less costly to deliver. In this case, under the right conditions, waterway stabilisation projects like the Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative can be delivered for less cost than bioretention basins while also achieving greater TSS, TP, and TN reductions. It should be noted though that waterway stabilisations are not designed to reduce GPs, while bioretention basins are.

Council typically considers several options for off-site solutions during the preliminary design stage. The options available to council are often determined by site-specific constraints and opportunities. The selection of an option is guided by an understanding of costs and benefits. While cost-effectiveness is an important indicator of the performance of off-site solutions, it does not consider the broader benefits presented in Table 8. For example, the bioretention basins at Schofield Court were constructed in a local park and designed to provide a greater number of benefits that are more appropriate for that setting, including improved local biodiversity and recreation opportunities. The basins also provide a greening, cooling, and shading benefit which will become increasingly important as the climate becomes warmer and more variable in Ipswich.

Council is committed to ensuring off-site solutions are delivered as cost-effectively as possible while also providing multiple benefits in addition to reducing pollution. To date, this has involved strategically planning and delivering a diversity of off-site solutions in different locations across Ipswich and consulting the community at appropriate times. It has also involved drawing on grants and other sources of co-investment to fund projects (e.g. by dovetailing with other council works). This has allowed the delivery of projects that on paper may not be as cost-effective as others but have provided several other important benefits to the community, such as the bioretention basins at Schofield Court. This will continue be a focus of the Program through the development and implementation of a new delivery plan. Costs and benefits will also be assessed through formal life cycle and benefit cost analyses, allowing for detailed and reliable comparison and prioritisation in delivery planning and reporting in future annual reports.

4. CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

As one of the first local governments to establish an off-site stormwater quality improvement program in Queensland, council is well placed to reflect on what has and hasn't worked. Over the 2022-2023 financial year, council undertook a formal review of the Program and identified several challenges affecting its ability to meet pollution reduction responsibilities in an environmentally and financially sustainable way. To address these challenges, the review recommended that a new corporate policy and set of public-facing guidelines be prepared and adopted by council. The review also recommended changing the unit and rate used to calculate fees paid by developers in council's Register of Fees and Charges.

Council prepared the Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy (the Policy) and Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Guidelines (the Guidelines) over the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years. It also determined a new fee unit and rate over this time. This work involved significant research as well as collaboration with the various council departments, branches, and teams responsible for operating the Program. It also involved consultation with key external stakeholders such as the Department of Environment, Science, Tourism, and Innovation (DETSI), the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA), and other local governments in Queensland with off-site stormwater quality improvement programs.

In December 2024, the Policy and Guidelines were adopted by council. On 1 July 2025, a new fee unit and rate was added to council's 2025-2026 Register of Fees and Charges. These changes to the Program, reasons they were made, and how they may affect relevant stakeholders are summarised below.

4.1 POLICY AND GUIDELINES

The Policy is a strategic document that outlines council's purposes, responsibilities and requirements for operating the Program. The Guidelines are a public-facing document that clearly outline the eligibility, rules and requirements for developers seeking to participate in the Program. Critical changes outlined in the documents that may affect relevant stakeholders include:

- Material change of use development sites and development sites within priority development areas (e.g. Ripley Valley) are no longer being considered for participation in the Program
- Fees are no longer being accepted where development sites discharge to sensitive waterways
- Fees are only being accepted in sub-catchments with identified off-site solutions that meet or exceed inherited pollution reduction responsibilities, and
- Eligible developers can pay a fee for all, or a portion, of their pollution reduction responsibilities to be met through off-site solutions.

The Policy ensures that future Program decisions are aligned with industry best practice and the Queensland Government's guidance for off-site stormwater quality improvement. The Guidelines ensure clarity for the local development industry when it comes to their participation in the Program and what they must do to ensure compliance with its rules and requirements.

The Policy and Guidelines can be found on the Program's webpage at www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/OSQIP.

4.2 FEE AND UNIT RATE

The fee unit is used to measure the pollution generated by developments sites and therefore, the pollution reduction responsibilities council inherits from developers. The fee rate is the amount of money (in dollars) to be paid by the developer per unit of pollution.

Critical changes to the fee unit and rate included:

- The fee unit being changed from square metres (m²) of stormwater quality treatment area to kilograms (kg) of Total Nitrogen (TN) per year (kgTN/year). This change resulted in the previous fee rate of \$1,121.23/m² being updated to the equivalent value of \$29,506/kgTN/year. Note that this did not represent an increase to the rate, and therefore the fees to be paid by developers, only a change in the unit used to measure pollution reduction responsibilities, and
- The new fee rate was increased from \$29,506/kgTN/year to \$48,532/kgTN/year. This included a 64% increase in the rate, made up of a 50% increase to address modelling uncertainties and associated environmental and financial risks, and a 14% increase to recover council's Program and project management costs.

Considerable research went into changing the fee unit and rate. This included literature reviews, policy benchmarking, and consultation with relevant stakeholders including other local governments with off-site stormwater quality improvement programs. It also included a comprehensive review of historic project costs. This review suggested historic fee rates were no longer reflective of the costs for council to deliver projects that achieve an equal or greater reduction in stormwater pollution relative to what developers would have achieved on-site. This can be explained by the significant escalations in construction materials and services costs in recent years, as well as difficulties finding opportunities to construct lower-cost and higher-performance off-site solutions in Ipswich (e.g. the Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative).

The new fee unit ensures consistent assessments of the pollution reduction responsibilities council inherits from developers as well as the performance of off-site solutions in meeting them. The increased fee rate address uncertainties associated with modelling pollution reduction responsibilities and recovers council's costs for operating the Program, including the planning and delivery of off-site solutions.

The new fee unit and rate can be found in council's Register of Fees and Charges at Ipswich.qld.gov.au/fees.

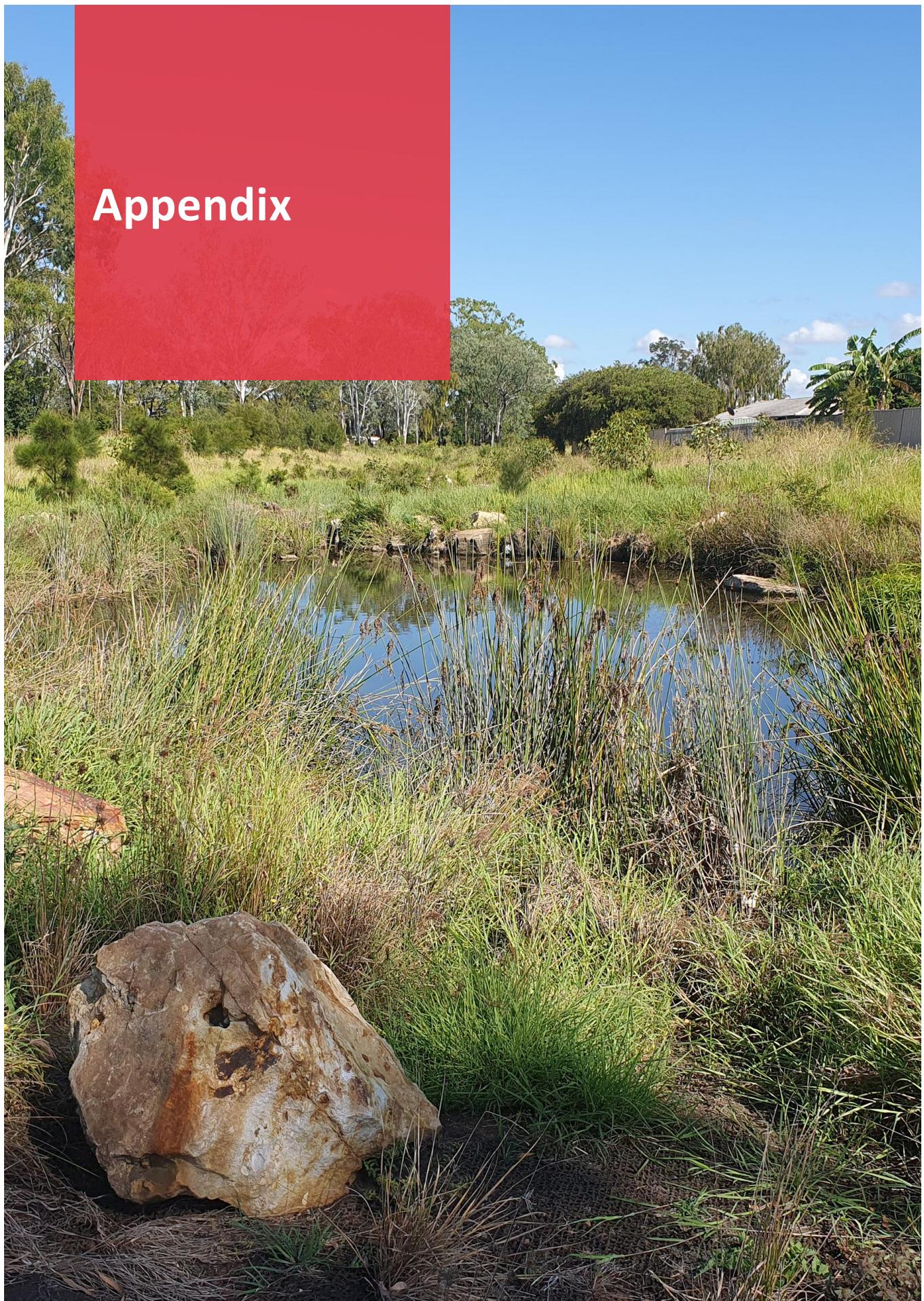
5. CONCLUSION

To date, council's Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Program has achieved significant pollution reductions and provided other economic, environmental, and social benefits for the Ipswich community. However, some pollution reduction responsibilities remain, particularly for TN. To ensure council's responsibilities remain at sustainable levels, a new Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Delivery Plan will be developed over the 2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027 financial years. This will involve reassessing all potentially feasible sites in Ipswich to confirm their technical feasibility for off-site solutions and preparing a plan for delivery over a 5 – 10-year timeframe.

In addition to the above, council will continue to monitor, review, and improve the Program to ensure it continues to meet its pollution reduction responsibilities in an environmentally and financially sustainable way. Consistent with its commitment to transparent reporting and knowledge sharing, changes to the Program will be communicated in future annual reports as well as relevant stakeholder notifications.

Further information about the Program can be found at council's webpage Ipswich.qld.gov.au/OSQIP.

Appendix



APPENDIX A: DELIVERED PROJECTS LIST AND MAP

The Table below presents a list of projects delivered to date (i.e. that have reached an operational stage). It presents information about their pollution reductions, costs, and cost-effectiveness. 'Funded by Program' refers to the percentage of the project that was funded by the Program versus grants and other sources of co-investment.

PROJECT NAME			POLLUTANT REDUCTIONS (KG/YEAR)				COST AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS		
	Project type	Sub-catchment	TSS	TP	TN	GPs	Total delivery cost	Funded by Program	Cost-effectiveness (\$/kgTN/year)
Bob Titcombe Park Bioretention Basin	Bioretention basin	Mihi Creek	6,570	9	36	1,120	\$359,875	100%	\$10,052
Fair Park Bioretention System	Bioretention basin	Bundamba Creek	3,860	6	21	791	\$254,169	16%	\$12,046
Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative	Waterway stabilisation	Bremer River	115,771	200	177		\$1,769,719	100%	\$9,977
Ironpot Creek Stabilisation	Waterway stabilisation	Ironpot Creek	417,434	21	100		\$1,164,524	100%	\$11,645
Jim Donald Parklands Constructed Wetland	Constructed wetland	Bundamba Creek	51,000	79	139	9,540	\$1,181,015	83%	\$8,497
Moodai Reserve Floodplain Re-engagement	Floodplain re-engagement	Woogaroo Creek	10,003	12	27	898	\$151,975	96%	\$5,629
Pollard Park Channel Naturalisation & Filtration Basins	Channel naturalisation	Sandy Creek (Camira)	33,100	48	81	9,148	\$624,737	100%	\$7,713
Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve Wetland	Constructed wetland	Goodna Creek	8,470	23	139	3,890	\$373,547	100%	\$2,687
Sarah Drive Park Bioretention Basin	Bioretention basin	Bremer River	6,570	11	40	1,070	\$537,132	30%	\$13,328
Small Creek Channel Naturalisation	Channel naturalisation	Deebing Creek	131,932	228	538	47,615	\$7,085,456	77%	\$13,163
Wallaby Ware Park Bioretention Basin	Bioretention basin	Ironpot Creek	3,466	5	19	614	\$201,900	100%	\$10,855
Pine Mountain Water Smart Street Trees	Water smart street trees	Ironpot Creek	2,270	3	7	153	\$141,242	100%	\$19,782
Woogaroo Creek Bank Stabilisation	Waterway stabilisation	Woogaroo Creek	162,700	56	69		\$280,469	49%	\$4,094



PROJECT NAME			POLLUTANT REDUCTIONS (KG/YEAR)				COST AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS		
Short & Alice Street Water Smart Street Trees	Water smart street trees	Bundamba Creek	314	0	1	80	\$18,681	100%	\$14,370
Schoffield Court Bioretention Basins	Bioretention basin	Six Mile Creek	1,836	3	12	299	\$425,213	100%	\$36,035

The map on the following page indicates where these projects are located in Ipswich.



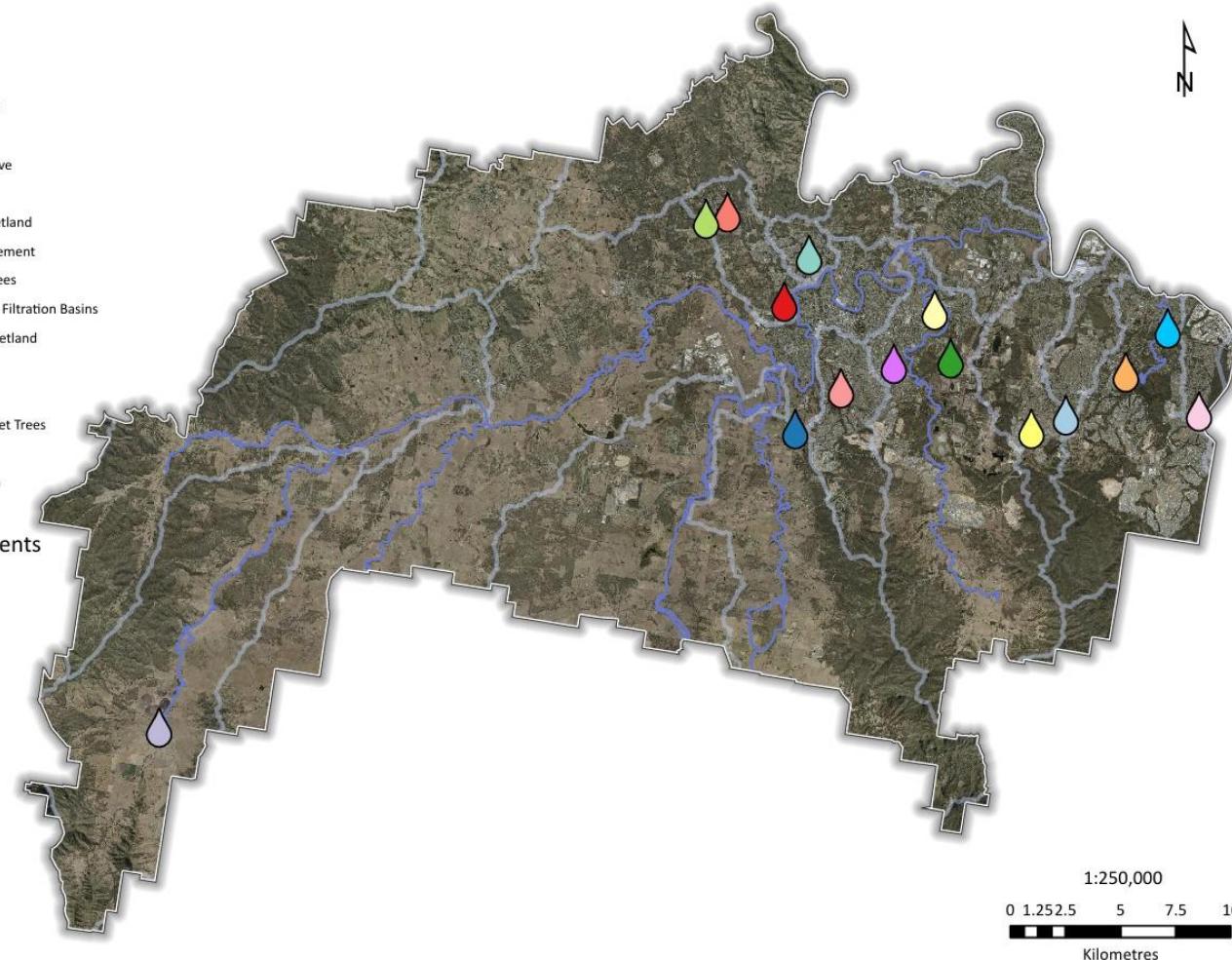
Legend

Delivered projects

- Bob Titcombe Park Bioretention Basin
- Fair Park Bioretention System
- Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative
- Ironpot Creek Stabilisation
- Jim Donald Parklands Constructed Wetland
- Moodai Reserve Floodplain Re-engagement
- Pine Mountain Water Smart Street Trees
- Pollard Park Channel Naturalisation & Filtration Basins
- Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve Wetland
- Sarah Drive Park Bioretention Basin
- Schofield Court Bioretention Basins
- Short & Alice Street Water Smart Street Trees
- Small Creek Channel Naturalisation
- Wallaby Ware Park Bioretention Basin
- Woogaroo Creek Bank Stabilisation

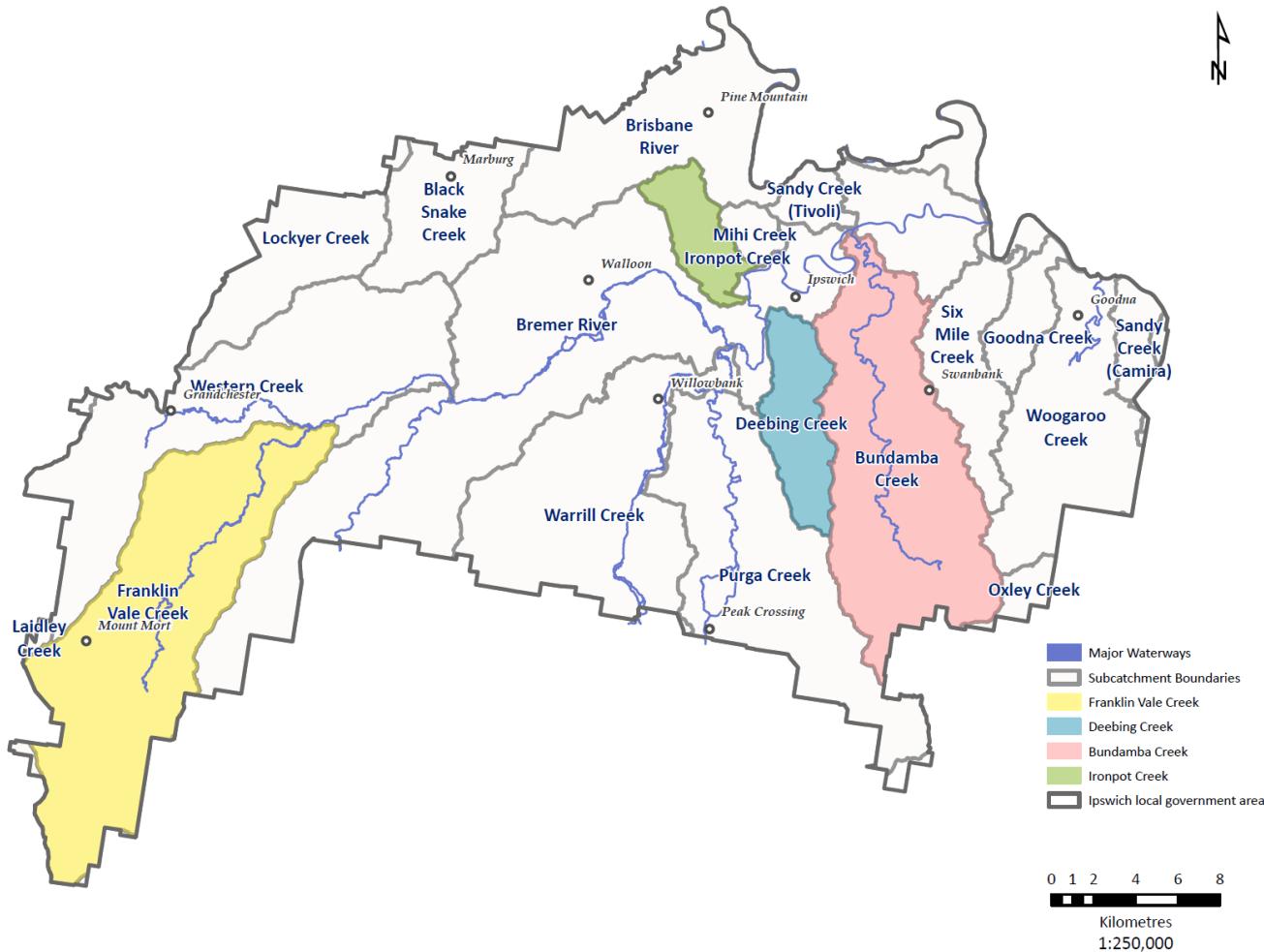
Waterways and Subcatchments

- Major Waterways
- Subcatchment Boundaries





APPENDIX B: ELIGIBILITY MAP



APPENDIX C: NEW PROJECT SUMMARIES

SCHOFFIELD COURT BIORETENTION BASINS

Location: Streeton Park, Redbank Plains

Catchment: Six Mile Creek

Project type: Bioretention basin

Cost: \$425,213

Pollutants removed:

- TSS: 1,836 kg/year
- TP: 3.4 kg/year
- TN: 11.8 kg/year
- GPS: 299 kg/year

Site context: Streeton Park is located off Schoffield Court in Redbank Plains. A grass-lined channel with a concrete base divides the park and conveys stormwater from an upstream catchment. Two bioretention basins have been constructed north and south of the channel, towards the end of Schoffield Court.

Project details: The park was identified as potentially feasible site for an off-site solution in 2020. The design process produced designs for two bioretention basins that could improve the quality of stormwater entering Six Mile Creek while also providing several other benefits to the local community, including:

- Improved local flood resilience
- Reduced demands on the stormwater network
- Improved local biodiversity
- Cooling, greening, and shading the park, and
- Improved active transport and recreation.



Northern basin



Southern basin



SHORT & ALICE STREET WATER SMART STREET TREES

Location: Alice Street and Short Street, Blackstone

Catchment: Bundamba Creek

Project type: Water smart street trees

Total Cost: \$18,681

Pollutants removed:

- TSS: 314 kg/year
- TP: 0.3 kg/year
- TN: 1.3 kg/year
- GPS: 80 kg/year

Site context: The site is a drainage reserve. It was identified as a potentially feasible location for a streetscape off-site solution in 2020 as construction costs could be subsidised by planned drainage upgrade works in the reserve. Nine water smart street trees were constructed and are located on the road verge along Alice Street and at the end of the cul-de-sac on Short Street.

Project details: Council has previously successfully trialled water smart street trees at Pine Mountain and saw an opportunity to further investigate and demonstrate the benefits of this type of project at this site. While their pollution reductions are not as substantial as larger bioretention basins, they provide other important benefits to the local community including:

- Reducing urban heat by cooling, greening, and shading local streets
- Improving local flood resilience by creating opportunities to slow and detain stormwater
- Improving the visual amenity of the streetscape, and
- Improving property values.



Water smart street trees on Short Street



FRANKLIN VALE CREEK CATCHMENT INITIATIVE (STAGE 3)

Location: Franklin Vale Creek

Catchment: Franklin Vale Creek/Bremer River

Project type: Waterway stabilisation including gully head rectification, revegetation, and the installation of cattle exclusion fencing

Cost: \$1,769,719

Pollutants removed (in reporting period):

- TSS: 155,771kg/yr
- TP: 200 kg/yr
- TN: 177 kg/yr

Note that total pollution reductions are prorated over 20-year period. The numbers reported here represent approximately 30% of the estimated amount of pollution that will be removed.

Site context:

Franklin Vale Creek flows into Western creek at Calvert before flowing into the Bremer River south of Rosewood. A history of clearing in the catchment has left parts of Franklin Vale Creek and the waterways that feed into it with instability and bank erosion that impact on water quality and the values of the creek itself. This in turn negatively impacts the productivity of graziers that depend on the creek for watering livestock and to the wildlife that depend on these productive lands.

Project details:

The Franklin Vale Initiative is a long-term project to restore waterway health. Council has partnered with landholders living on Franklin Vale Creek to restore and improve the creek's condition by reducing instability and improving water quality through actions such as revegetation, cattle exclusion fencing, tunnel erosion mitigation and bank stabilisation. This initiative offers landholders the opportunity to restore the waterways on their property and ultimately improve the overall health of Franklin Vale Creek.



Before works



After works



Doc ID No: A10869149

ITEM: 2

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

AUTHOR: WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

RELATED PARTIES

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

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

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

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

Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Policy

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

- Purpose and principles
- Eligibility requirements
- Governance requirements

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

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

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

Voluntary Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Payment

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

In-lieu fee unit

The current unit is square metres (m²) of stormwater quality treatment area, specifically the equivalent filter area of bioretention which is considered the most cost-effective stormwater quality improvement technology. The review identified that the current unit is not directly comparable to the outputs of modelling tools used to assess stormwater quality improvement responsibilities by the development industry and council, and therefore prevents reliable assessments of council's inherited responsibilities and the performance of off-site projects in meeting them. Additionally, it prevents developers from taking credit for

partial on-site stormwater quality improvement. This is inconsistent with best practice which seeks to avoid and reduce the quantity of stormwater generated on-site in the first instance.

Based on the benchmarking of in-lieu fee units and rates used by other Australian local governments, as well as advice from external consultants, it was recommended to change the in-lieu fee unit from m^2 of stormwater quality treatment area to kilograms (kg) of Total Nitrogen (TN) per year (kgTN/year). This unit is consistent with the stormwater quality modelling approach currently employed by the development industry and council and thus addresses the issues noted above.

The conversion of the unit would result in the current rate of \$1,121.23/ m^2 being updated to the equivalent value of \$29,506/kgTN/year.

In-lieu fee rate

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

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Environmental Protection Act 1994
Planning Act 2016
Queensland State Planning Policy

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

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

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Internal financial implications

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

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

External financial implications

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

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

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Internal consultation and communication

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

- Planning and Regulatory Services Department
 - City Design Branch
 - Development Planning Branch

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

3 DECEMBER
2024

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

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

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

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

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

External consultation and communication

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

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

Advice on the Policy and update of the Payment was communicated to the development industry through a meeting with relevant representatives from the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) in October 2024. Upon adoption of the Policy and update of the

Payment, further advice will be communicated to additional external stakeholders through the following.

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

CONCLUSION

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

HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS	
OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	Recommendation A state that Council approve a new council policy for off-site stormwater quality improvement and an update to council's Voluntary Off-site Stormwater Quality Improvement Payment.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by the recommendations.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	N/A
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	N/A
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

3 DECEMBER
2024

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

Benny Penhallurick
WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith
MANAGER, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
GENERAL MANAGER (ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY)

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

Doc ID No: A12457598

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT CAPITAL DELIVERY REPORT
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

AUTHOR: EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER

DATE: 13 JANUARY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the performance of the capital delivery program by the Environment and Sustainability Department for October-December 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on capital delivery by the Environment and Sustainability Department for October-December 2025 be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

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

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

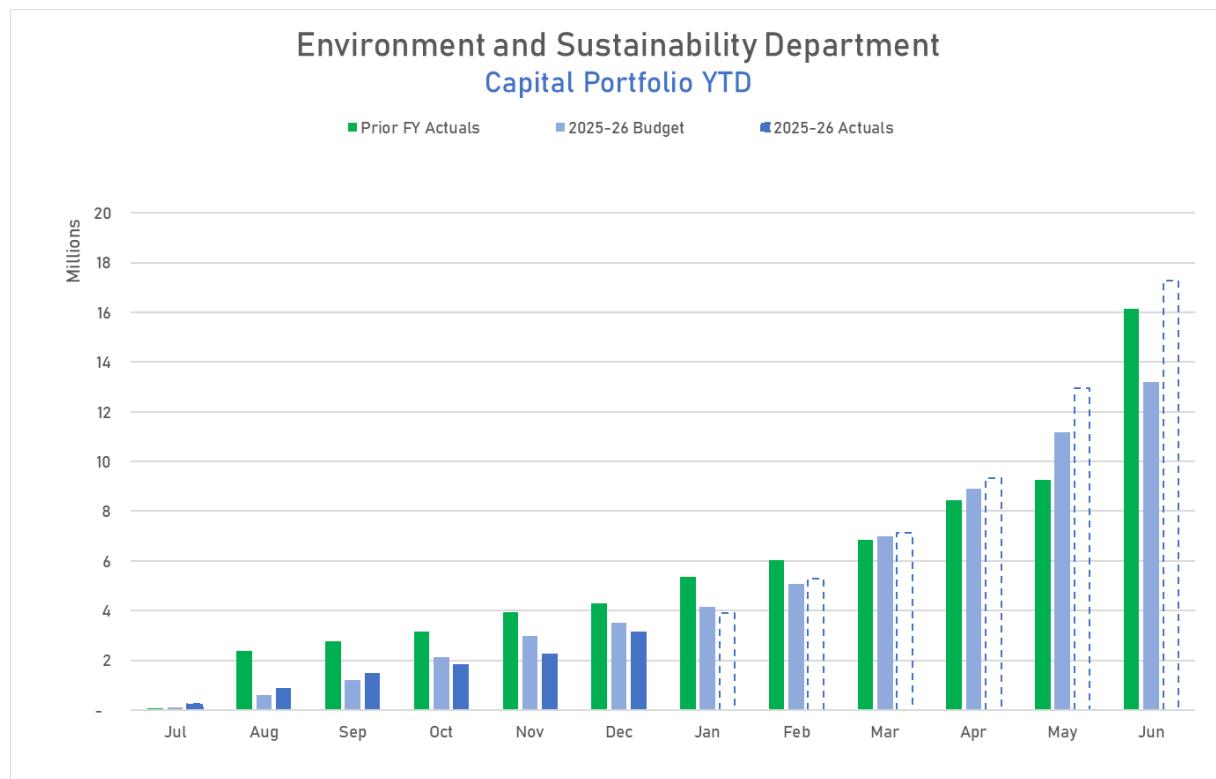
The Environment and Sustainability Department deliver a capital works program that encompasses programs and works related to asset rehabilitation (land management and water quality), disaster and natural hazard management, sustainability (climate resilience and renewable energy), resource recovery and natural environment (environment and stormwater, waterways, Enviroplan and Ti Tree Bioenergy funding).

Through this program, the department delivers integrated environmental, waste, sustainable and resilience services to enhance the quality of life for our community. We aim to enhance Ipswich's liveability, protect its natural assets, and support a clean, green, and climate-resilient city.

The Environment and Sustainability Department achieved an overall expenditure for the quarter of \$1,682,339, against an adopted baseline budget of \$3,003,750, resulting in a variance of \$1,321,411.

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of the budget, forecast spend and actual spend for the first quarter of 2025-2026 FY across the complete Environment and Sustainability Capital Program.

E&S Department – Capital Portfolio (YTD)



Under the Environment and Sustainability Program, the capital program is broken up into six programs of work. The table below provides a breakdown of actual, forecast and budgeted spend across each program for the quarter.

CAPEX – Month to Date Spend (September 2025)

E&S Deliverable (December 2025)	MTD				
	Actuals	Budget	Variance (Budget - Actuals)	Forecast	Variance (Forecast - Actuals)
Capital Program					
Asset Rehabilitation	33,058	66,000	32,942	89,643	56,585
Sustainability	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster and Natural Hazard Management	621	-	-	621	-
Environment and Sustainability	516,272	503,750	-	690,750	174,478
Infrastructure Program	549,952	569,750	19,798	780,393	230,441
Resource Recovery	306,644	290,000	-	127,700	-
Total	856,596	859,750	3,154	908,093	51,497

Asset Rehabilitation

Month	Actual Spend	Budgeted Spend
October 2025	\$15,649	\$33,000
November 2025	\$75,248	\$203,000
December 2025	\$11,747	\$163,000

Multiple projects under the Disturbed Land Management (DLM) and Water Quality Rehabilitation (WQR) programs contributed to an overall underspend in actual versus budget.

Design has been completed for the Robelle Domain project, with a request for tender to be issued shortly to reconfigure the current waterfall feature into a green wall. Works are continuing with the Surprize Ave Erosion Rectification project, with short-term erosion control works nearing completion. Concept design for the long-term solution is now underway.

Woogaroo DLM, Brittains Rd Closed Landfill Stormwater Infrastructure Remediation, and Bertila St Basin Rehabilitation projects will require project phasing to be updated due to delays relating to procurement issues and finding suitable consultants for these projects. Procurement activities continue with a request to contractors for works to start as soon as possible (mid-February).

Procurement has been completed for Waterside Drive and Bremervale Pk BRB Rehabilitation projects, with both projects due to commence mid-February.

Disaster and Natural Hazard Management

Month	Actual Spend	Budgeted Spend
October 2025	\$0	\$0
November 2025	\$0	\$0
December 2025	\$0	\$0

In the lead-up to the severe weather season, no capital projects were planned for this quarter of the financial year. The focus remains on preparation, with capital projects forecast to commence in March 2026.

Environment

Month	Actual Spend	Budgeted Spend
October 2025	\$157,241	\$35,000
November 2025	\$79,277	\$71,000
December 2025	\$245,152	\$438,750

The Natural Environment, Stormwater, and Water Recovery programs all experienced variable underspends this quarter. While projects are continuing to progress, delays in procuring contractors and resourcing and capacity constraints to some projects will require project scheduling and phasing to be reviewed and updated.

Procurement for design is currently underway or completed for many projects, including Small Creek Naturalisation, Sarah Drive Park Wetland, Bremervale Park Wetland, Heit Family Park Wetlands and Naturalisation, Brenda Court Stormwater Quality Improvement, Woogaroo Creek Bank Stabilisation, Bremer River at Bundamba and Grace Street Channel Naturalisation.

Ipswich Nature Centre projects are progressing. The biosecurity and boardwalk works have been combined and should commence in late February to early March. The footpath works within the free flight bird aviary will be undertaken at the same time as the boardwalk rebuild to minimise disruption and access to the centre.

Resource Recovery

Month	Actual Spend	Budgeted Spend
October 2025	\$81,531	\$190,000
November 2025	\$485,381	\$521,000
December 2025	\$397,766	\$440,000

Underspending this quarter can be attributed to multiple projects.

We have been able to utilise existing domestic bin stock (budgeted acquisition not required in the first half of the financial year).

The Southern Resource Recovery Centre (SRRC) and Western Resource Recovery Centre (WRRC) projects are progressing; however, there is likely to be overall underspend for this financial year due to the length of time of decision to progress the SRRC project to Stage 2 and ongoing property acquisition discussions for the WRRC project.

The Riverview Resource Recovery Centre Recycle Street project is on track, with a tender for the detailed design to go to market shortly.

Sustainability

Month	Actual Spend	Budgeted Spend
October 2025	\$8,809	\$33,000
November 2025	\$5,742	\$0
December 2025	\$3,052	\$0

The Yamanto Depot solar project has been delayed due to unforeseen electrical complexity at the site. Further scoping is required to determine the suitability of the site for any future solar installation. There has also been a delay in the Grande Avenue Smart Lighting project due to theft of cabling at the project site. Delivery of the project is now likely in March/ April.

Significant project updates

A summary of projects that have progressed significantly or been completed during the quarter is included in Attachment A – Environment and Sustainability Capital Portfolio Updates (Quarter 2) FY2025-2026.

- SES All-Terrain Vehicles
- Ironpot Creek Bank Stabilisation – Stage 3a and 3b
- Woogaroo Creek Bank Stabilisation – Stage 3b

Current phase/ status of projects for FY 2025-2026

The table below shows the status of projects scheduled for delivery in the 2025-2026 financial year:

Project Phase	Current Total per Phase
5.0 Closure	6
4.0 Execution	42
3.0 Planning and Design	7
2.0 Concept	12
1.0 Identification	14

Grant Funding

Project Name	Grant Funded	Grant Amount	Funding Received to Date	Grant Program
Bremer River at Bundamba 25	yes	\$266,250	\$95,336.25	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Bremer River BST 24	yes	\$243,750	\$131,424.65	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Brisbane River BST - Downstream of Colleges Crossing, Chuwar 25	yes	\$176,250	\$49,867.41	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Bundamba Ck BST 24	yes	\$251,250	\$188,645.34	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Goodna SES Gate Upgrade 26	yes	\$86,263.16	\$0	0
Ipswich Nature Centre Boardwalk UG 26	yes	\$190,000	\$190,000	INFO5255 Cleanaway Court Order Public Benefit
Ipswich SES Shed Replacement 26	yes	\$90,421.09	\$0	0
Ironpot Ck Bank Stab Stg 3 23	yes	\$506,250	\$476,534.39	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Ironpot Ck Bank Stab Stg 3b 25	yes	\$502,500	\$453,889.11	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Nicholas St Library Solar 24	yes	\$280,000	\$112,000	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) Phase 4
Woogaroo Ck Bank Stab Stg 3b 25	yes	\$247,500	\$247,500	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Woogaroo Ck Bank Stab Stg 4 25	yes	\$225,000	\$190,317.02	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (URCP) (2024-28)
Total		\$3,065,434.25	\$2,135,514.17	

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Environment and Sustainability Department have a departmental risk register that includes the delivery of the capital program. The leadership team of the department continues to monitor our risk in relation to this and takes mitigation action where necessary.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All projects included in the Environment and Sustainability capital program are currently funded. There are no financial/ resource implications.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The project officer, in conjunction with the stakeholder management team, engages extensively with the community impacted by our works to ensure they are informed in advance. We proactively manage any issues that arise throughout the project lifecycle.

CONCLUSION

The Environment and Sustainability Department is committed to delivering high-quality environmental and sustainable projects for the community that will protect, enhance and restore the city's natural environment.

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.	Environment and Sustainability Project Update (Quarter 2) FY 25-26	
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Louise Randall
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER

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

Environment & Sustainability | Capital Portfolio Update

PROJECT	SES All-Terrain Vehicles
Suburb/ Division	Assets will service all areas of Ipswich.
Grant Funded	SES Support Grant (2024-2025 round)
Project Start	April 2024
Project End	December 2025
Spend	\$81,076 of grant funding received.
Project Summary (bullet points or 2-3 paragraphs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As part of the 2024-25 SES Support Grant program, Council applied for and was successful in receiving funding for two ATVs (+ trailers) for the Ipswich City State Emergency Service Unit.The SES Support Grant program provides resource-focused funding to assist local governments in delivering high-quality emergency and disaster management services. Local governments play a crucial role in supporting the ongoing viability of SES operations. Their contributions ensure SES members are adequately resourced and equipped to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters within their communities.Through the 2024-25 SES Support Grant program, the Queensland Government contributed 75% of the total project costs, to the value of \$81,076, with Council contributing the remaining 25%.
Project progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following a formal procurement process, the ATVs and their custom trailers were built by the vendor and provided to Fleet Services, who ensured the ATVs had all the accessories, markings and registrations they required, before being handed over to the SES in December 2025.The ATVs will enhance the emergency response capabilities of the Ipswich City SES Unit by enabling them to navigate rough terrain and reach areas that are not easily accessible by traditional 4WD vehicles, including much of the 6,500 hectares of reserves and conservation estates within Ipswich.The ATVs will be used to transport personnel and equipment to and from affected areas quickly and efficiently, improving emergency response times and minimising the potential for loss of life. With increasing requests for assistance with searches and rescues, particularly in challenging terrain, these ATVs will be invaluable to Ipswich residents in need.





IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

Environment & Sustainability | Capital Portfolio Update

PROJECT	Ironpot Creek Bank Stabilisation Project - Stage 3A and 3B
Suburb/ Division	Division 4
Grant Funded	Urban Rivers Catchment Program
Project Start	November 2025
Project End	Nearing completion
Spend to Date	\$570,713 (design and construction)
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stabilisation of Ironpot Creek, utilising nature-based solutions to address erosion and sedimentation, improve riparian condition through large-scale revegetation and weed management, and support long-term ecological health of the waterway.17,500 native tube stock planted as part of Stage 3A.220m² of streambanks restored to date.Stage 3B has now commenced, continuing the same approach to deliver further stabilisation and riparian restoration outcomes.
Project progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stage 3a is in the final stages, and Stage 3B is in the construction stage.The project is scheduled to be completed in March 2026.







IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

Environment & Sustainability | Capital Portfolio Update

PROJECT	Woogaroo Creek Bank Stabilisation - Stage 3B
Suburb/ Division	Goodna, Division 2
Grant Funded	Urban Rivers Catchment Program
Project Start	November 2025
Project End	23/01/2025
Spend to Date	\$445,395 (design and construction)
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivering significant improvements to riparian health through dense native revegetation (5,592 tube stock) and targeted weed management.Installation of aquatic habitat (6 root balls).Pile fields to promote streambank stability, minimise erosion and sediment loss.51 metres of stream bank restored.
Project progress	Completed.



