



City of
Ipswich

**IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

of the

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Held in the Council Chambers
2nd floor – Council Administration Building
45 Roderick Street
IPSWICH QLD 4305**

**On Thursday, 11 February 2021
At 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry Development
Committee**

<u>MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE</u>	
Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson) Councillor Andrew Fechner (Deputy Chairperson)	Mayor Teresa Harding Councillor Jacob Madsen Councillor Kate Kunzelmann

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

*10 minutes after the conclusion of the Economic and Industry
Development Committee on **Thursday**, 11 February 2021*
Council Chambers

Item No.	Item Title	Page No.
	Declaration of Interests	
	Business Outstanding	
	Confirmation of Minutes	
1	Report - Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020	5
	Officers' Reports	
2	Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Annual Contribution	9
	Notices of Motion	
	Matters Arising	

** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 1

11 FEBRUARY 2021

AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **REPORT - ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05) OF 3 DECEMBER 2020**

This is the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020 be received and noted.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **QUEENSLAND FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION**

This is a report concerning the ongoing annual financial contribution to, and partnership with, the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC) (Previously South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC)), for the 2020-2021 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to provide a financial contribution of \$7,874 (excl. GST), as detailed in the partnership letter from the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium outlined in Attachment 1, to be funded through the 2020-2021 Enviroplan budget.

** Item includes confidential papers

and any other items as considered necessary.

Doc ID No: A6766547

ITEM: 1

SUBJECT: REPORT - ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05) OF
3 DECEMBER 2020

AUTHOR: ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 2021

INTRODUCTION

This is the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020 be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Environment and Sustainability Committee Report No. 2020(05) of 3 December 2020 ↓
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3 DECEMBER 2020

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05)]

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05)

3 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT

<u>COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:</u>	Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson); Councillors Andrew Fechner (Deputy Chairperson), Mayor Teresa Harding, Jacob Madsen and Kate Kunzelmann
<u>COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:</u>	Nil
<u>OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:</u>	Chief Executive Officer (David Farmer), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Peter Tabulo), General Manager Coordination and Performance (Sean Madigan), General Manager Infrastructure and Environment (Charlie Dill), Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Team Leader (Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning)(Tim Shields), Natural Environment and Land Manager (Phil Smith), Manager Economic and Community (Cat Matson), Media and Communications Manager (Darrell Giles), Theatre Technician (Ben Harth) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(04) OF 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Jacob Madsen:
Seconded by Councillor Andrew Fechner:

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2020(04) of 19 November 2020 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
Councillors:	Councillors:
Milligan	Nil

3 DECEMBER 2020

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05)]

Fechner
Harding
Madsen
Kunzelmann

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICER'S REPORT

2. **ADOPTION OF IPSWICH PLATYPUS RECOVERY PLAN**

This is a report concerning the creation and adoption of the Ipswich Platypus Recovery Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Andrew Fechner:
Seconded by Mayor Teresa Harding:

- A. That Council adopt the Ipswich Platypus Recovery Plan as a supplementary document to the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015, focussed on the management and recovery of identified iconic species.**
- B. That the actions from the Ipswich Platypus Recovery Plan be considered in Council's operational and capital budget development processes.**

AFFIRMATIVE
Councillors:
Milligan
Fechner
Harding
Madsen
Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE
Councillors:
Nil

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 11.44 am.

3 DECEMBER 2020

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2020(05)]

The meeting closed at 11.52 am.

Doc ID No: A6765570

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: QUEENSLAND FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

AUTHOR: TEAM LEADER (LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL AREA PLANNING)

DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the ongoing annual financial contribution to, and partnership with, the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC) (Previously South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC)), for the 2020-2021 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to provide a financial contribution of \$7,874 (excl. GST), as detailed in the partnership letter from the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium outlined in Attachment 1, to be funded through the 2020-2021 Enviroplan budget.

RELATED PARTIES

QFBC is hosted by Healthy Land and Water with the membership committee being made up of representatives from:

- Brisbane City Council
- The City of the Gold Coast
- Gympie Regional Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Redlands City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- South Burnett Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Council Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council
- Powerlink
- Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (including the Rural Fire Service Queensland)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- EQ Water

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME

Caring for the community

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

QFBC was established in 1998 and is a network of land managers and stakeholders devoted to providing a coordinated response and best-practice recommendations for fire management, fire ecology and the conservation of biodiversity throughout Queensland. QFBC is supported through financial and in-kind funding arrangements with currently 19 supporting organisations including South East Queensland local councils, other government agencies, non-government organisations, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Powerlink.

Ipswich City Council has been a member of QFBC since 2000.

This partnership has enabled Ipswich to continue to advance the Natural Area Estate Fire Management Program through the most up to date fire ecology science and help to support the long-term conservation and biodiversity values contained within Ipswich and throughout South East Queensland.

The benefits to both Council and the community include:

- Fire Management Information - access to the most up to date information and research on fire management techniques and vegetation processes.
- Educational Information - access to all QFBC products and services, such as manuals, planning kits, information brochures and interpretive materials.
- Partnership Assistance - assistance with extension, through provision of information, recommendations and guidelines to landholders, such as facilitating workshops.
- Specialist Technical Advice - technical support regarding management of fire in bushland including appropriate monitoring techniques, operational and strategic planning guidance.
- Networking - access to a network of information regarding fire and management issues.
- Promotional Opportunity - promotion of Council's activities through the Consortium.
- Council Involvement - representation at Consortium meetings including input into the direction of the Consortium's activities to ensure maximum benefits to Council.

In addition to the broader benefits above, Council has worked continuously over the past 12 months with QFBC to ensure their services specifically address the practical requirements of the Natural Area Estate Fire Management Program. These specific outcomes are detailed in the attached letter from QFBC (see Attachment 1), and will set up the basis for Council's support in 2020-2021.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

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

Local Government Regulation 2012

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The primary risk associated with not approving the recommendation is a disconnect with a key multi-stakeholder network that provides support, services and training regarding best practice fire science from an International, National and Local perspective.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Consortium has sought stakeholder commitments for 2020-2021. An annual Council contribution of \$7,874 (excl. GST) was requested as detailed in Attachment 1.

This financial contribution has been included within the Enviroplan budget for the 2020–2021 financial year.

The payment will be progressed as a procured service under the Local Government Regulations 2012 Section 235 (b) which resolves that, because of the specialised or confidential nature of the services that are sought it would be impractical or disadvantageous for the local government to invite quotes or tenders.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

No community consultation was required for this report.

Relevant internal stakeholders, including Procurement, were consulted as were the external stakeholders listed as party to the consortium.

CONCLUSION

Council has been requested to provide a funding contribution to the QFBC for the 2020-2021 financial year. Council has continued to work with partners and QFBC to provide the necessary support for the important work that QFBC undertakes and which offers significant and direct benefit to Council through services detailed in the attached letter. The continued commitment to funding aligns with actions identified in Council's Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 and the Natural Area Estate Fire Management Program.

The many benefits from partnering with the QFBC ensures that Council continues to receive the latest fire research and management practices for the protection of life and property, as well as supporting the long-term conservation and biodiversity values contained within Ipswich and throughout South East Queensland.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	QFBC 2020-2021 Partner Letter ↓
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John Young

TEAM LEADER (LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL AREA PLANNING)

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Phil A. Smith

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Sean Madigan

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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



18 December, 2020

John Young
Coordinator Environment & Sustainability
Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191
Ipswich Qld 4305

RE: Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Partner Funding 2020- 2021

Dear John,

As Manager of the Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (QFBC), I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ipswich City Council for their partnership and contribution over many years. I would also like to recognise the partnership we have with you as a valuable member of the QFBC Steering Committee and with the team at Ipswich City Council, including Darryl Porche, Samantha Smith (as our previous contact) and the Land for Wildlife officers, as highly skilled and knowledgeable fire and land management operators.

QFBC Partnering with Key Stakeholders

One of the key strengths of the QFBC is the number and diversity of partners. Each supporting organisation contributes financially and in-kind to the QFBC and these contributions increase significantly the value, networking reach, influence, skill base and knowledge potential of the QFBC, which in turn allows us to better provide for our partners.

For the 2020/2021 financial year, the QFBC is seeking financial support from: Brisbane City Council (CC), The City of the Gold Coast, Gympie Regional Council (RC), Ipswich CC, Lockyer Valley RC, Logan CC, Moreton Bay RC, Redlands CC, Scenic Rim RC, Somerset RC, South Burnett RC, Sunshine Coast Council, Toowoomba RC, Powerlink, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Transport and Main Roads and SEQ Water. This impressive list of supporting organisations reflects the extensive support for the QFBC and illustrates our active and dedicated partnerships over the past 21 years.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge Healthy Land and Water, who administer the QFBC. Healthy Land and Water is an independent not-for-profit organisation and the regional delivery body for the Federal Governments' National Regional Land Partnerships program.

2020 - 2021 QFBC Partner Contributions

The contribution of partners is vital in securing and ensuring our ongoing function and we are enormously grateful to Ipswich City Council for the continued support. As you know, we manage the business of the QFBC on an efficient and very conservative budget. Our service is highly regarded and increasingly in demand, which is very positive, but our goal is to continue improving support and resourcing for the program, so that we may better deliver outcomes for our partners. For the 2020-2021 year, we are requesting Ipswich City Council contribute **\$7,874 (ex GST)** to the QFBC.





QFBC Services and Resources

The QFBC offers partners a range of support, services and training – some of these are tangible and easily documented and others are reputational, value driven and go beyond a monetary figure. For example, our non-government status is highly valued by our partners, especially with regards to providing responses to matters of state and regional bushfire significance (e.g. the Bushfire Royal Commission, see attached) and community engagement. Furthermore, our ability to represent our partners in a way that individual agencies or local governments cannot, is also highly valued. **The attached report details outputs and deliverables produced and facilitated by the QFBC from July 2019 to May 2020.**

In return for a highly valued partnership and financial support from the Ipswich City Council, the QFBC provides opportunity for the following outcomes to be delivered in 2020/2021, as direct services from its partnership:

- Management and Coordination of the QFBC activities and services by Dr Samantha Lloyd and Craig Welden at a continued high standard, (estimated value \$9378 for every \$5000 contribution or \$4378 in additional value);
- Free and subsidised attendance to the annual QFBC Fire Science forum – due to COVID-19 this was delivered as an online seminar series in November (estimated value of \$4369/partner) – program attached;
- Delivery of two QFBC coordinated training workshops, e.g. *Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment* (OFHA) training (estimated delivery value of \$2067/partner based on delivery of seven OFHA training workshops);
- Delivery of a QFBC coordinated Fire Information Night and/or Fire Management Planning Workshop (estimated delivery value of \$6260 - \$13,772/partner);
- Continued provision of the SEQFBC *eNews* (estimated \$1,060 value/partner);
- Two x advertising opportunities in the QFBC *eNews* (estimated \$2,120 value);
- Completion of new QFBC *Introduction to Fire Ecology – Information Booklet*, hard copies were posted in October/November (production and printing value/partner \$2400);
- Provision of hard copies of the QFBC produced *Recommended Fire Regimes– Information Booklet* (estimated printing/partner \$300 based on twelve-page information booklet) - see attached;
- Preparation of detailed submissions, as required and in response to matters of state and national significance, including the Bushfire Royal Commission (estimated production value \$2035/partner); and
- Facilitate completion of the name change from SEQFBC to QFBC, including development of the new logo, updating of the website and resources, and communication with stakeholders (estimated value \$2543/partner).

In addition, the QFBC commit to recognising and acknowledging partnering organisations through all relevant promotional and reporting avenues. We believe this agreement represents better value than if a single organisation directly engaged the QFBC, or a consultancy, to provide these services. When considered cumulatively, along with the other partners, we believe this represents significant opportunities to improve fire management, build capacity, provide continued support and valuable networking opportunities to expert staff within our partner organisations.

I thank you again for the ongoing support and invite you to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Samantha Lloyd'.

Dr Samantha Lloyd
Manager
Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium

