



City of
Ipswich

**IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

of the

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Held in the Council Chambers
8th floor – 1 Nicholas Street
IPSWICH QLD 4305**

On Thursday, 5 August 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, 5 August 2021***
Council Chambers

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** Item includes confidential papers

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 7

5 AUGUST 2021

AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(06) OF 8 JULY 2021**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee No. 2021(06) on 8 July 2021 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **BREMER RIVER SHOPPING TROLLEY CLEAN UP PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2020-2021**

This is a report concerning Council's 2020-2021 shopping trolley removal program for the Bremer River. Having been recently completed, Council has received a summary report of the key findings and recommendations for the program from the contractor, Healthy Land and Water, which forms the basis of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council continue to schedule the removal of dumped shopping trolleys on a 3-monthly basis with funding through the waterway health program.
 - B. That Council undertake further investigations to identify the primary source(s) of dumped shopping trolleys and develop mitigation plans in partnership with key retailers of Riverlink to reduce the incidence of trolley dumping into the river.
 - C. That additional deterrent measures be investigated to discourage behaviours leading to the dumping of trolleys in the Bremer River.
-

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(06)

8 JULY 2021

MINUTES

<u>COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE:</u>	Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson); Councillors Andrew Fechner (Deputy Chairperson), Mayor Teresa Harding, Jacob Madsen, Kate Kunzelmann and Marnie Doyle (Observer)
<u>COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES:</u>	Nil
<u>OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE:</u>	Acting Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Environment (Sean Madigan), General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development (Ben Pole), Manager Economic and Community Development (Cat Matson), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Peter Tabulo), Acting General Manager Corporate Services (Sylvia Swalling), Executive Services Manager (Wade Wilson), Senior Policy and Communications Officer (David Shaw), Manager Environment and Sustainability (Kaye Cavanagh), Team Leader (Strategic Catchment and Conservation Planning)(Tim Shields), Acting Senior Emergency Management Officer (Kristie Mckenna), Principal Media Advisor (Darrell Giles) and Theatre Technician (Harrison Cate)

NAIDOC WEEK – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Russell Milligan (Chairperson) moved the following acknowledgement of Country in celebration of NAIDOC Week:

I would like to begin today by acknowledging the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. I pay my respect to their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region. I honour the Elders, past, present and emerging and I extend my welcome to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who are present today for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation.

Council have engaged Wirrinyah Conservation Services to provide revegetation and weed eradication at the Evelyn Dodd Park. This work provides a local First Nations business opportunity to apply cultural knowledge to care for Country, increase their business knowledge and upskill their staff. Our Elders and leaders have the opportunity to provide peer to peer mentoring, practise culture through land management and strengthen further community involvement.

This enhances the value Council places on Aboriginal cultural heritage restoration and maintenance and acknowledges the importance for caring for our natural areas, waterways and open spaces. This investment in Indigenous engagement improves the environmental and cultural heritage outcomes for Ipswich and fosters culture, family and language.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE NO. 2021(05) OF 10 JUNE 2021**

RECOMMENDATION

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

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 10 June 2021 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Kunzelmann (Abstain as was not present)

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **ADOPTION OF IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS POLICY**

This is a report concerning adoption of a new Council policy. Council requires a corporate Environmental Offsets Policy to guide decision making in relation to the use of environmental offsets in line with both the *Environment Protection and*

Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth) and Environmental Offsets Act 2014 (Qld). A draft policy has been created which is proposed to sit independently but work alongside the Biodiversity Offsets Planning Scheme Policy (PSP) currently in draft. These are intended to set the principles and guide the process for good offset management, governance and delivery for Council.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- A. That Council adopt the Environmental Offsets Policy as detailed in Attachment 1 of the report by the Team Lead (Strategic Conservation and Catchment Planning) dated 31 May 2021.**
- B. That Figure 1 on page 4 of the Environmental Offsets Policy be included in a larger font.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

Fechner

Harding

Madsen

Kunzelmann

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

The motion was put and carried.

3. REVIEW OF LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021

This is a report concerning the legislated annual review of the City of Ipswich Local Disaster Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Councillor Kate Kunzelmann:
Seconded by Mayor Teresa Harding:

- A. That the Local Disaster Management Plan for the City of Ipswich, as detailed in Attachment 2 be approved.**
- B. That the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to make amendments deemed necessary based on further comment received from members of the Local Disaster Management Group, who form part of the governance arrangements for the adoption of this plan.**

AFFIRMATIVE

Councillors:

Milligan

NEGATIVE

Councillors:

Nil

Fechner
Harding
Madsen
Kunzelmann

The motion was put and carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 11.11 am.

The meeting closed at 11.22 am.

Doc ID No: A7422403

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: BREMER RIVER SHOPPING TROLLEY CLEAN UP PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2020-2021

AUTHOR: WATERWAY HEALTH OFFICER

DATE: 20 JULY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning Council's 2020-2021 shopping trolley removal program for the Bremer River. Having been recently completed, Council has received a summary report of the key findings and recommendations for the program from the contractor, Healthy Land and Water, which forms the basis of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That Council continue to schedule the removal of dumped shopping trolleys on a 3-monthly basis with funding through the waterway health program.**
- B. That Council undertake further investigations to identify the primary source(s) of dumped shopping trolleys and develop mitigation plans in partnership with key retailers of Riverlink to reduce the incidence of trolley dumping into the river.**
- C. That additional deterrent measures be investigated to discourage behaviours leading to the dumping of trolleys in the Bremer River.**

RELATED PARTIES

There are no related party matters nor conflicts of interest associated with this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Natural and Sustainable

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

The dumping of shopping trolleys which are originating from the Riverlink retail precinct into the town reaches of the Bremer River has been a long-term, on-going issue. It appears that shopping trolleys are being thrown off the Bradfield and David Trumpy bridges, and the adjoining pathways into the river. Here they present both an amenity and environmental issue for the local community and ecology of the waterway.

Whilst these trolleys do not belong to council, nor is it council's direct responsibility to remove them from the Bremer River, the combination of council's commitment to improving

the natural environment and community expectations results in this clean up being delivered by council.

Trolleys being dumped into the river causes several issues including:

- Degrading the aesthetic of the most public/high profile section of the Bremer River
- Being a health and safety issue for anybody engaging with our river or riverside foot paths from the perspective of falling/being thrown from the bridges above
- Encouraging a broader notion that the river is in poor health and in turn poorly valued as the valuable asset it is
- Presenting navigational challenges for watercraft
- The on-going financial cost for council to remove trolleys from the river, and
- Financial loss for Riverlink retailers

The attached clean-up program report provided by the contractor shows the following breakdown of trolleys removed for the 2020-2021 FY, highlighting some retailers existing mitigation measures may be more effective than others.

Retailer	No. of Trolleys Removed
Woolworths	30
Coles	26
Kmart	12
Other (Aldi, Best and Less)	7
Total	75

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The continued dumping of trolleys into the Bremer River presents a number of risks. One of the greatest risks that has been raised from a health and safety perspective is that, in the event that a trolley is thrown from one of the bridges and lands on a community member or council worker utilising the riverside foot paths below. This risk has been noted previously by community members in the media, but also by council staff operating in the Riverlink and Riverheart areas.

It is noted that discussions have been on-going with TMR regarding the establishment of a barricade along the David Trumpy bridge to increase community health and safety

measures. Whilst this would contribute to mitigating against trolley dumping if constructed, the number of trolleys under the Bradfield Bridge (which already has a barricade) suggests it is not a complete solution to the issue.

A strategic, integrated approach incorporating a number of trolley security, community safety and behavioural change initiatives will be required to fully mitigate this risk to Riverheart and Riverlink park users.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

OTHER DECISION	
(a) What is the Act/Decision being made?	The report attached has three key recommendations. Recommendation A proposes that Council continue to schedule the removal of dumped shopping trolleys on a 3-monthly basis with funding through the waterway health program. Recommendation B proposes Council undertake further investigations to identify the primary source(s) of dumped shopping trolleys and develop mitigation plans in partnership with key retailers of Riverlink to reduce the incidence of trolley dumping into the river. Recommendation C proposes additional deterrent measures be investigated to discourage behaviours leading to the dumping of trolleys in the Bremer River.
(b) What human rights are affected?	No human rights are affected by these recommendations.
(c) How are the human rights limited?	Not applicable
(d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable?	Not applicable
(e) Conclusion	The decision is consistent with human rights.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The 2020-2021 trolley clean-up program costs \$9,000 (excl. GST) to contract three separate clean up events. It is anticipated that a similar annual expenditure will be required to continue the program while trolley dumping remains an issue.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

No formal community consultation was undertaken for this report. Council does however receive regular correspondence on the issue of trolley dumping in the river from the community. Regular requests for their removal, social media feedback and previous engagement around the development of the Waterway Health Strategy (2020) indicate that


our community view this dumping as detrimental to our environment, a risk to health and safety and anti-social behaviour on the part of those contributing to the problem.

There has been significant internal stakeholder engagement communicating the results and recommendations of the program across council. This has extended to the relevant parks crews, the Works and Field Services branch and also to the necessary officers in the Compliance branch. This has led to our compliance branch indicating they will look into re-opening discussions over the coming months with retailers around shopping trolley security measures.

CONCLUSION

The 2020-2021 shopping trolley clean-up program has removed 75 trolleys from the town reaches of the Bremer River. It is hoped through an increased focus on this issue, and a strategic approach to addressing the source and reasoning across departments of council, this number can be reduced in the future, thus improving the environmental values, aesthetics, and community appreciation for the Bremer River. In the meantime, Council will continue to remove the trollies through contracted services.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Bremer River Trolley Collection Summary Report 2020-2021 ↓ 
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Jack McCann

WATERWAY HEALTH OFFICER

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”



Ipswich River Trolley Collection – Field Notes Report

Beginning in early 2019, Healthy Land and Water's Clean Up Program have undertaken five individual clean up events to remove shopping trolleys from the waterways of the Bremer River.

The area serviced for trolley removal is determined by where the trolleys are found, however generally, trolleys have been found to accumulate upstream of the pedestrian bridge crossing from Riverlink Shopping Centre to the Ipswich CBD – known as the 'Bradfield Bridge' – downstream to the end of the formal riverside walking trail along the Riverheart Parklands to what has been identified in Figure 1 below as the 'gravel island'. This constitutes approximately 3 kilometres of riverbank and approximately 5 hectares of area.



Figure 1: Current trolley servicing area of the Bremer River





Date of trolley collection	Number of trolleys collected
23rd February 2019	15
4th September 2019	23
18th December 2020	31
2nd April 2021	10
27th June 2021	34
TOTALS	113

Collection events have been undertaken 5 times between February 2019 and June 2021.

Over that time a total of 113 trolleys have been removed and responsibly managed, either through a partnership with Ipswich City Council where trolleys are taken to the local waste facility, or via Healthy Land and Water disposing of collected trolleys through local metal recyclers.

There are three identified accumulation points where trolleys can be collected out of the river, these are:

1. Pedestrian Bridge Crossing between Riverlink Shopping Centre and Ipswich CBD – 'Bradfield Bridge', both upstream and downstream
2. David Trumpy Bridge – both upstream and downstream
3. Gravel island downstream of David Trumpy Bridge

Ideally, collection takes place on a 0.4m tide or thereabouts, as this provides the best opportunity to collect as many trolleys as possible. In April 2021 for example due to the river having experienced a large rain event prior to our visit the tide height was less suitable, and efforts were somewhat hampered, resulting in a smaller number of trolleys being removed.

Pedestrian Bridge Crossing between Riverlink Shopping Centre and Ipswich CBD – 'Bradfield Bridge', both upstream and downstream

Both the northern and southern side of the river are accumulation points for trolleys at the site of the 'Bradfield Bridge', with approximate even distribution of trolley accumulation on both sides.

Many trolleys are collected from these sites and are generally not too difficult to remove. Trolleys at this site tend to have been recently dumped as they are not yet 'set' or stuck in the sediment too deeply.

David Trumpy Road Bridge

There are an unknown amount of buried and accumulated trolleys that are found both on the upstream and downstream sides of the David Trumpy Bridge. Almost all of the trolleys in this site accumulate on the northern bank (the bank of the Riverlink shopping centre side of the River).

It is theorised that, due to the level of burial of trolleys within this site that David Trumpy Bridge has been a historical site for dumping trolleys, perhaps for several decades and that there may be large numbers of trolleys buried within the sediment across the span of the river (from bank to bank). Trolleys here are generally completely submerged in the sediment and in the main cannot be moved by boat and human effort alone.





Some trolleys have been collected here, however these tend to represent recently dumped trolleys due to their relative ease of removal. Healthy Land and Water have attempted to winch buried trolleys out of this section with the boat, to no avail. Anecdotally when the clean-up crew entre the water within this section of the River, in several instances they have been standing on a 'bed' of trolleys, instead of the sediment of the creek bed. This was particularly apparent during the June 2021 clean up event as the river was at its lowest point to date during a clean-up.

The historical build-up of trolleys within this site is likely currently causing a navigational hazard within the river. Healthy Land and Water recommend consideration of heavy machinery options to remove accumulated loads of historical trolleys. Figure 2 for example demonstrates use of crane removal of trolleys in Port Augusta, South Australia.

Gravel Island – downstream of David Trumpy Bridge

The gravel Island downstream of the David Trumpy Bridge is another trolley accumulation point. Though not as many trolleys as the other bridge sites occur here, the crew has collected up to 12 trolleys in just one clean up event. It is somewhat perplexing how trolleys are accumulating on this gravel island. There is no clear 'trail' of trolleys being pushed from upstream, and as the Bremer is unlikely to have the system force (unless in flood events) for trolleys to be pushed along the riverbed, although possible, this is an unlikely cause. Another possible source of trolleys at this site is trolley abandonment at the end of the boardwalk at Riverheart Parklands leads to these land based trolleys somehow ending up in the water and on the gravel island.



Figure 2: removal of dumped trolleys in Port August, South Australia (ABC News, 2018)





The trolleys collected over the last 2 years are not fit to be re-used and are in various stages of disrepair, with some trolleys obviously having been in the waterway far longer than others. The trolleys collected on average belong to the following retailers:

- Kmart – constitutes approximately 15% of trolleys collected
- Woolworths – constitutes approximately 40% of trolleys collected
- Coles – constitutes approximately 35% of trolleys collected
- Other – constitutes approximately 5% of trolleys collected

The loss of these trolleys to local retailers can constitute a financial loss of between \$150-\$600 per trolley to replace, equating to many thousands of dollars.

The number of trolleys entering the river is extremely difficult to predict and it is apparent that trolleys will continue to be dumped in the river and on the riverbanks unless source reduction strategies are put in place. Healthy Land and Water have removed 75 trolleys in the last six months.

Community feedback whilst the Healthy Land and Water Clean Up crew are collecting trolleys is high, with up to 15 residents on average shouting down to or approaching the crew at each clean up event and thanking them for their efforts. The crew always explain that Ipswich City Council have arranged for the work to be done and communicate that the Clean Up program, also funded by Council, operates regularly on the Bremer river, removing other forms of floating and bank bound litter. Local residents speak with passion about the river and express their frustration at seeing it disregarded in such a visible way through the trolley dumping.

Using the knowledge and on-ground intelligence gained over the last 18 months of trolley removal from the Bremer River, Healthy Land and Water would recommend the following actions:

- Trolley removal be scheduled for quarterly one day events annually, spaced approximately every 3 months, with consideration given to additional visits as required.
- Undertake a roundtable discussion with Council to identify the potential sources and behaviours associated with trolley abandonment and develop source mitigation plans to reduce the incidence of trolley dumping within the identified sites. Consideration should be given to include the three major retailers whose trolleys are being removed from the Bremer river; K-Mart, Coles and Woolworths.





Images of trolley clean up events



Item 2 / Attachment 1.





Contact Details

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver these important works.

Should you require any information or would like to discuss these findings further please do not hesitate to contact Rachael Nasplezes, Team Lead Climate Adaptation on Rachael.n@hlw.org.au or on 0459 213 477.

