

VML:MB
Vicki Lukritz
3810 6221

COUNCILLOR

24 November 2017

Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the **CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** is to be held in the **Council Chambers** on the 2nd Floor of the Council Administration Building, 45 Roderick Street, Ipswich commencing at **10.30 am or 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Works, Parks and Sport Committee, whichever is the earlier** on **Monday, 27 November 2017**.

<u>MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</u>	
Councillor Silver (Chairperson) Councillor Bromage (Deputy Chairperson)	Mayor Deputy Mayor Councillor Morrison Councillor Martin

The agenda for the meeting is attached to this notice.

Yours faithfully

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

10.30 am or 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Works, Parks and Sport Committee, whichever is the earlier on **Monday, 27 November 2017**
Council Chambers

Item No.	Item Title	Officer
1	South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Annual Funding	PO(NE)
2	Proposal to Expand the Healthy land and Water Clean Up Program on the Bremer River	WHO

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2017(03)

27 NOVEMBER 2017

AGENDA

1. SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL FUNDING

With reference to a report by the Planning Officer (Natural Environment) dated 6 November 2017 concerning the ongoing financial contribution to and partnership with the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide a financial contribution of \$7,020.00 (excl. GST), to the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium to be funded through the 2017-2018 Enviroplan budget.

Report

2. PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE HEALTHY LAND AND WATER CLEAN UP PROGRAM ON THE BREMER RIVER

With reference to a report by the Waterway Health Officer concerning a proposal to expand the current levels of service provided by the Healthy Land and Water Clean-up Boat on the Bremer River in response to increased levels of litter and public concern.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Healthy Land and Water be engaged to provide an expanded Bremer River Clean-up initially for 6 months, focussing on litter hotspots around the Ipswich CBD.
- B. That Council investigate the value of the clean-up program with consideration for a further continuation of the program in 2018–2019.

Report

and any other items as considered necessary.

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 27.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

JAY:JAY

H:\Departmental\Committee Reports\1711 JAY SEQFBC 2017 Funding CR.doc

6 November 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PLANNING OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

RE: SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL FUNDING

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Planning Officer (Natural Environment) dated 6 November 2017 concerning the ongoing financial contribution to and partnership with the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC).

BACKGROUND:

SEQFBC 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 in the South East Queensland (SEQ) region. SEQFBC is supported through sponsorship and in-kind funding arrangements with currently 18 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 SEQFBC since 2000.

CONSORTIUM FUNDING:

The Consortium is now seeking stakeholder commitments for 2017-2018. An annual Council contribution of \$7,020 (excl. GST) is being sought as detailed in Attachment A. This contribution will enable 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.

This financial contribution has been included within the Enviroplan budget for the 2017–2018 financial year and will be reviewed annually to ensure the partnership continues to provide value for money and close alignment with Council’s goals and future direction.

BENEFITS OF CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP:

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 SEQFBC 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 recently undertaken discussions with SEQFBC to investigate how to better align the services available from SEQFBC to specifically address the practical requirements of the Natural Area Estate Fire Management Program. These specific outcomes are detailed in the attached sponsorship letter from SEQFBC (see Attachment A) and include:


- Contacts and support with regards to fuel load hazard assessments and ecosystem health assessments
- Provision of two “street meets”, in areas subject to development, high fire risk and fuel reduction measures (e.g. Springfield, Ripley Valley etc.) - as directed by Ipswich City Council
- Provision of information on fire trail specifications/guidelines, collated by the SEQFBC for the SEQ region - by mid-December, and
- Provision of comments/review of the document “*Standards and guidelines for the construction and maintenance of service tracks and firebreaks with the Natural Area Network, 2013*”.

CONCLUSION:

Council would like to continue with the funding contribution to the SEQFBC for the 2017-2018 financial year, to provide the necessary support for the important work the SEQFBC undertakes and which offers significant benefit to Council. The commitment to funding aligns with actions identified in Ipswich City Council’s Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 and the Natural Area Estate Fire Management Program.

The partnership contribution will be reviewed annually to ensure the partnership continues to provide value for money and close alignment with Council's goals and future direction. The many benefits from partnering with the SEQFBC will ensure 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.

ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
SEQFBC 2017-18 sponsorship letter	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provide a financial contribution of \$7,020.00 (excl. GST), to the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium to be funded through the 2017-2018 Enviroplan budget.

John Young
PLANNING OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Bryce Hines
ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS & RECREATION)



2 November 2017

Ipswich City Council
John Yong
PO Box 191
Ipswich Qld

RE: Funding for the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium 2017 - 2018

Dear John

As Manager of the South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (SEQFBC), I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ipswich City Council, for their valuable financial contributions to the SEQFBC, and in this, the second year of Phase 6 (2016/2017 - 2018/2019). I would like to recognise the valuable contribution of you and other staff, including (but not limited to) Samantha Smith, Darryl Porche, Tim Shields and your previous Land for Wildlife Officer, Stephanie Groves, as highly skilled and knowledgeable fire and land management operators. We also look forward to working with your new Land for Wildlife officers, Nicholas Swanson and Melanie Mott.

In particular, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback surrounding our coordination of the national bushfire conference, **Bushfire 2016: Connecting Science, People and Practice**. The conference was a huge success (as outlined in Appendix 1) with significant positive outcomes and attendee satisfaction, including 75% of attendees who completed the post-conference survey (121/334) reporting they were "*extremely satisfied*" with the experience. I'm pleased Samantha and Stephanie were able to attend and gain from the experience.

SEQFBC Partnering with Key Stakeholders

One of the key strengths of the SEQFBC is the number and diversity of partners. Each supporting organisation contributes financially and in-kind to the SEQFBC and these contributions increase significantly the value, networking reach, influence, skill base and knowledge potential of the SEQFBC. The number of partners has risen from five in 2009/2010 to 14 in 2010/2011 and 18 in 2017/2018. This is more than a 3-fold increase in eight years. Again, I would like to say thank you to Ipswich City Council for partnering with us to deliver services, training, support and information and help improve fire management and planning in SEQ.

For the 2017/2018 financial year, the SEQFBC 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, Redland CC, Scenic Rim RC, Somerset RC, South Burnett RC, Sunshine Coast RC, Toowoomba RC, Powerlink, Queensland Fire & Emergency Services, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Transport and Main Roads - Darling Downs Region, SEQ Water and Healthy Land and Water. This impressive list of 18 supporting organisations (our largest to date) reflects our extensive support in SEQ and illustrates our active and dedicated partnerships over the past 19 years. I would also like to gratefully acknowledge our valuable partnership with Healthy Land and Water, who support the SEQFBC through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

As you know, I manage the business of the SEQFBC on an efficient and very conservative budget. As such, the contribution of partners is vital in securing and ensuring our ongoing function and we are enormously grateful for the continued support. To ensure stability and thereby consistent and continued high standard delivery of services and outcomes for partners, I am requesting a contribution of **\$7020** (excluding GST) from Ipswich City Council for the 2017 - 2018 year. This request is based on the previous payment plus a modest 4% CPI. This year, we are also asking partners to consider paying an additional \$500 - \$1000 (which would bring your contribution to \$7520 - \$8020). As mentioned previously, SEQ Catchments and now Healthy Land and Water have provided significant support and funding to the SEQFBC via the National Landcare Programme, for which we are very grateful. However, this programme is now under



substantial funding pressure and subsequently we are in a position where we must increase our funding to continue delivering such a sought-after service.

Partner Benefits and Resources

As negotiated at our meeting on the 19th of October, in the 2017-2018 year you are entitled to:

- assistance in researching the option of possible decision support tool development with the UQ CEED lab and Prof. Kerrie Wilson, either via the Linkage Project or independently;
- contacts and support with regards to fuel load hazard assessments and ecosystem health assessments;
- provision of a follow up evening mini-workshop/session with landholders who attended the very successful fire management planning workshop earlier in the year, conducted in partnership with Nicholas and Melanie;
- provision of two "street meets", in areas subject to development, high fire risk and fuel reduction measures (e.g. Springfield, Ripley Valley etc) - as directed by Ipswich City Council;
- provision of information on fire trail specifications/guidelines, collated by the SEQFBC for the SEQ region - by mid-December;
- provision of comments/review of your document "*Standards and guidelines for the construction and maintenance of service tracks and firebreaks with the Natural Area Network, 2013*".
- highly subsidised attendance at training opportunities like the *Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment* training (offered again in 2017) and *Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas*;
- free attendance at our SEQFBC Forums - the next one to be held in Autumn 2018;
- hard copies of any new educational or promotional materials - including the recently delivered Land for Wildlife Fire Tech Notes, on which we collaborated and materials outlined below;
- targeted invitations to special events, like the AFAC National Burning Project workshops, which you attended;
- regular updates, including weekly *Enews*, scientific papers and other fire related information; and
- our help and/or advice on fire-related matters relevant to your work.

We are also pleased to report that we will soon deliver to you hard copies of the following resources:

- *Bushfire 2016: Outcomes and Learnings* - a synopsis of the highly successful Bushfire 2016 conference.
- *Property Fire Management Planning Kit - Part A User Manual and Part B Workbook*. This resource has been prepared by the SEQFBC for use by landholders and land managers attending SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium facilitated Property Fire Management Planning Workshops.
- *An Introduction to Fire Ecology* - this booklet provides an overview of how fire interacts with the natural environment, in particular how plants and animals respond and survive in a fire-prone environment.

Please find below a summary of the key deliverables from the 2016 - 2017 year and attached to the email *Table 1: Key SEQFBC Deliverables and Outcomes from January 2015 - June 2017*.

I look forward to our continued partnership and invite you to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Samantha Lloyd
Manager
South East Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium



Appendix 1: Key Strengths and Outcomes

SEQFBC, Service Delivery & Outcomes

Established in 1998, the SEQFBC, is a network of land managers and stakeholders committed to improving fire and biodiversity management outcomes, supporting and disseminating fire ecology research, facilitating partnerships between key stakeholders and building the capacity of land managers and private land owners to address issues of fire management and biodiversity in south-east Queensland.

The SEQFBC are recognised nationally as a lead player across the bushfire sector and in December 2016, SEQFBC Manager, Dr Samantha Lloyd was appointed as co-convenor of the Fire Ecology and Management Research Chapter of the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA). The SEQFBC's *e News* service is recognised as one of the best sources fire science, management and general fire information in the nation by key organisations, including the Australian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC), the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards (BNH) CRC. The SEQFBC is recognised as a regional authority on fire science and management issues and the SEQFBC Coordinator and Manager sit on numerous advisory committees, including the NSW Hotspots Fire Project Advisory Committee, housed with the NSW Rural Fire Service, this project was originally inspired by the SEQFBC and operates on a similar agenda.

The SEQFBC continues to receive positive feedback on the services and products provided and once again have completed a substantial amount of work in the key areas of:

- 1) *Education and engagement* - assisting land managers and private land holders with practical information on fire management and biodiversity conservation;
- 2) *Applied research* - fire ecology research investigating knowledge gaps in biodiversity and fire management; and
- 3) *Representation and response* - provision of coordinated responses to matters of significant fire management and fire ecology importance (e.g. legislative amendments and government inquires).

Whilst the SEQFBC will always strive to achieve and deliver more with the limited time available (i.e. Coordinator four days per week and the Manager three days a week), their skills and time are well coordinated to deliver the best possible outcomes for the SEQFBC and partners. In particular, hosting and coordinating Bushfire 2016 last year was enormously successful and a credit to the SEQFBC and partners, as described in brief below.

Bushfire 2016: Connecting Science, People and Practice

Hosted and coordinated by the SEQFBC, *Bushfire 2016: Connecting Science, People and Practice* (Bushfire 2016) was a national bushfire conference held on the 28 - 30th September, at the University of Queensland, aimed at connecting fire scientists, ecologists and students with onground fire operators, land managers and other fire and environmental professionals and showcasing collaborative fire projects and applied fire ecology and management research.

Bushfire 2016 was a huge success and attracted over 330 people from every state and territory of Australia, including some of Australia's most prominent fire scientists and emergency service fire specialists. The conference had a strong indigenous focus with twelve indigenous fire presentations and a strong indigenous



attendance. The response from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, as illustrated by this comment from Dr Neil Burrows, “*Congratulations to you and the team on organising a highly successful conference...Thanks for inviting me to be part of it*”.

Bushfire 2016 received support across the sector with ten official sponsors and eight trade and promotional partners, a very impressive outcome that illustrates the positive relationships and reputation built by the SEQFBC. In particular, thanks are given to Gold Sponsors, Fireland Consulting, Healthy Land and Water and the University of Queensland.

Bushfire 2016 offered 77 presentations across ten themed symposia, over two days with three concurrent sessions each day. A trade display and poster session were held on Wednesday evening, a dinner on Thursday night and two field trips on the Friday. A panel discussion on the theme “*Intelligent Fires – how can fire research and knowledge better connect with drip torches?*” was chaired by Dr Simon Heemstra of the Rural Fire Service, NSW. Bushfire 2016 was very fortunate to be joined by three world-class keynote speakers:

- **Professor Ross Bradstock** - Director - Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, University of Wollongong;
- **Dr Neil Burrows** - Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia; and
- **Associate Professor Alan York** - Head of the Fire and Biodiversity Research Program at University of Melbourne.

Key Outcomes:

- Of the 121 attendees who completed the post-conference survey, **75% reported they were “extremely satisfied” with their experience, 93% reported the relevance of the conference content as “excellent” or “very good” and 88% reported the quality of presentations as “excellent” or “very good”**. Overall the feedback was very positive, as illustrated by this quote “*I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, one of the best conferences I’ve attended, in my 20 years of working in the environmental field and attending conferences around the world, this was one of the best well organised conferences.*”
- Attracting **334 people** from every state and territory of Australia, with 286 people (5148 person hours) attending both days, 20 people (180 person hours) attending Wednesday only and 18 people (162 person hours) attending Thursday only.
- Design of a Bushfire 2016 **website** and accompanying “*Eventbrite*” registration page.
- Generation of a sponsorship prospectus resulting in **three gold** sponsors (outlined above), **three silver** sponsors (GHD, QFES, and the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network), **four bronze** sponsors (BNH CRC, ESA, Powerlink and the University of Melbourne) and **eight** promotional and exhibition partners.
- Securing three internationally recognised **keynote speakers**, Professor Ross Bradstock (University of Wollongong), Associate Professor Alan York (Melbourne University) and Dr Neil Burrows (WA Department of Parks and Wildlife).



- Coordination of a “*Call for Abstracts*” that resulted in the submission of **over 80 abstracts** and development of a program with 77 presentations in ten different themes and across three concurrent sessions.
- Coordination of a **dedicated panel discussion**, Chaired by Dr Simon Heemstra of the NSW Rural Fire Service, joined by six fire experts and with the theme “*Intelligent Fires - how can fire research and knowledge better connect with drip torches?*”
- Coordination of **two field trips**, to North Stradbroke Island (NSI) and Sunshine Coast, with 96 attendees and delivered in partnership with *Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, The University of the Shine Coast, Buyna Bunya Aboriginal Corporation, Powerlink, HQ Plantations, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Griffith University and the University of Queensland*. The NSI field trip had 48 attendees (504 people hours) and the Sunshine Coast had 48 attendees (384 people hours).

Traditional Owner Engagement – Bushfire 2016

2016 was very pleased to offer delegates a day-long session on cultural fire management - “*Cultural Burning and Traditional Custodian Fire Projects*” chaired by Oliver Costello, co-founder of the Firesticks Initiative and Visiting Fellow at Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Initially, this session was planned for half a day, but due to overwhelming interest and the provision of travel grants (in partnership with GHD) and presenter registration waivers, the session was rapidly expanded to fill a whole day. The final program allowed for **12 indigenous-led presentations comprising 13 different indigenous and Traditional Owner groups (26 presenters and 182 person hours)**. It is also noted that QPWS and the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program featured in three presentations. The travel grants were generously sponsored by GHD and in partnership with the SEQFBC. Registration was waived for eight indigenous presenters and travel grants were provided to speakers from five presentations to a total of \$4460.

This session featured as one of the most popular of the conference, as illustrated in the post conference survey where 12.5% (14/112) of respondents reported the Indigenous presentations as “most valuable”. The following comments demonstrate this popularity:

- “*The indigenous presentations were a highlight, this was an amazing aspect*”; and
- “*Mobs, sharing knowledge, experience on fire & healing country with best practices, great to catch up*”.

Traditional Owner groups were also integral in both field trips at Bushfire 2016. Darren Burns and Traditional Owners from the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation were involved in delivering the North Stradbroke Island field trip (48 people and 504 people hours). Kerry Jones of the Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation gave his time to present at Wild Horse Mountain Lookout during the Sunshine Coast field trip (48 and 384 people hours).

Supplementary 2016 - 2017 Outcomes and Achievements

Despite the demands of coordinating Bushfire 2016, the SEQFBC delivered numerous additional outcomes in the July - December 2016 period, including (but not limited to):



- Three **property level fire management planning workshops** and talks to approximately 50 people.
- Continual maintenance of the SEQFBC **website**, which attracted over **7600 page views** in 6 months.
- Distribution of **19 editions** of the SEQFBC **E news** service to approximately 1000 people per edition.
- **Four articles** distributed to over 15,500 people, including one in the QFES publication *Response* and a joint press release with the University of Queensland.
- **Presentations** at the annual conference of the Australasian Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), in Brisbane (Aug 2016) and the Ecological Society of Australia, in Fremantle (Dec 2016).
- **SEQFBC Research Scholarship Student, Brooke Williams, was awarded First Class Honours**, for her work at the University of Queensland looking at **modelling fire management options that maximise outcomes for both asset protection and conservation**.
- Production of the SEQFBC **2016 formal newsletter**.

Likewise, the January – June period, without the burden of Bushfire 2016, has supported the delivery of a substantial volume of outcomes, including (but not limited to):

- **Five** property level fire management planning **workshops** to approximately 114 people.
- **Six** fire ecology and management **presentations** to approximately 120 people.
- **Seven training events to over 143 participants at nine locations**, including the ever-popular Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment Training (provided in partnership with QPWS and Francis Hines of the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) provided at four different locations.
- Coordination of the SEQFBC **Autumn Fire Research Forum** at the Mount Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens, on 20 April, attended by over 111 people, with keynote speaker Dr Liz Tasker (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service), who spoke about “*Vegetation change over four decades associated with reduced fire frequency in Border Ranges: loss of grassy forests and associated decline of the endangered Eastern Bristlebird*”.
- Total of **14 publications to over 38,000 recipients**, with SEQFBC Scholarship recipient and 1st Class Honours student Brooke Williams publishing her research in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* and PhD candidate Orpheus Butler publishing his research in the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*.
- **Nine media articles** in print, online and radio.
- Continual maintenance of the SEQFBC **website**, which attracted over **5164 sessions** and **10,529 page views** in 6 months.
- Distribution of **13 editions** of the SEQFBC **E news** service to over 1000 people per edition.
- **Presentation** at the Queensland Murray Darling Committee “*Fire and Biodiversity Forum*”, held in Toooloombilla on June 14 and attended by 50 people.
- Development of a research partnership with Dr Mark Ooi and Professor David Keith, of the University of NSW, as part of their **National Environmental Science Programme’s Threatened Species Recovery Hub**, which aims to provide a clearer understanding of fire management of threatened species and specifically, will study the ecology of the threatened species *Boronia keysii* in response to **fire**.



- **Representation** of SEQFBC membership at a regional, state and national level, including on the NSW Hotspots Project Advisory Committee, Regional and State Interdepartmental Committees on Bushfires and the Interstate Alliance.
- A **post conference report** *Bushfire 2016: Outcomes and Learnings* and transcript of keynote speakers has been prepared for Bushfire 2016. The report will be made available electronically and hard copies will be provided to all SEQFBC partner organisations and sponsors of Bushfire 2016.
- After many years of preparation, the SEQFBC are thrilled to announce that a new **Fire Management Planning Workshop Manual and Workbook** have been developed (currently in final design stages) for the Fire Management Planning workshop series. The manual and workbook have been professionally designed and printed for use with workshops and hard copies will be provided to partner organisations when available.
- A revised and extended version of the **SEQFBC Fire Ecology fact sheet** is currently in the final stages of development as a booklet, having been expanded to eight pages and professionally designed, the new fire ecology resource will be provided electronically and hard copies will be provided to all partnering organisations.

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 27.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

PS: PS
H:\departmental\committee reports\1710PS HLW Clean-Up Program CR.doc

6 November 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: WATERWAY HEALTH OFFICER

RE: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE HEALTHY LAND AND WATER CLEAN UP PROGRAM
ON THE BREMER RIVER

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by Waterway Health Officer concerning a proposal to expand the current levels of service provided by the Healthy Land and Water Clean-up Boat on the Bremer River in response to increased levels of litter and public concern.

BACKGROUND:

Ipswich City Council pays an annual contribution of \$16,000 for the services of Healthy Land and Water (HLW) to provide one day per month litter collection on the Bremer River where it is navigable.

The HLW Clean Up Program includes a clean-up crew of 2 staff and one boat who collect floating and bank bound waterway litter from the Bremer River. In previous years the State Government has contributed extra funding to this project which has allowed for the use of a second boat and nearly doubling the amount of time spent out on the water collecting litter. This funding was cut back in 2016 and the service reduced as a result.

The program currently services the high traffic and public visibility area of the Bremer River through the Ipswich CBD. Currently the crew are collecting up to 20 large bags of rubbish each month, and are not able to collect all rubbish they see due to lack of time. The servicing schedule of 1 day/month only allows the Clean Up crew to collect approximately half of the total amount of floating and accumulated litter from the river. It does not allow the crew to effectively service recognised hot spot areas such as Cribb Park, Riverheart Parklands, Bob Gamble Park, Riverlink Shopping Centre and Goodna Boat Ramp.

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE BREMER RIVER CLEAN UP PROGRAM:

Litter is an important driver, not only for the health of the river, but also in shaping people's perceptions. Recent research through Healthy Land and Water's social value studies has shown that the presence of litter and debris is the biggest influence on the community's opinions of whether a river is healthy or in poor health. Rivers perceived as dirty are then undervalued and often neglected further by the community.

A recent increase in community enquiries regarding the amount of debris in the river, specifically after ex tropical Cyclone Debbie in March this year, led to Healthy Land and Water proposing an expansion of the current service levels targeting an extra 200 hours at high profile hotspots as shown in Attachment A.

Council currently manages litter in parks and reserves which includes some river banks and creeks. Further to this Council has a program of maintenance focussed on collecting litter from gross pollutant traps' (GPTs) such as trash racks which act to prevent some litter getting into waterways.

The proposal includes:

- servicing of the Bremer River and recognised hotspot sites for an additional 200 hours per annum;
- data collection, collation and management with contribution of data to the Tangaroa Blue National litter and waste database;
- project management; and
- delivery of further information in the Annual Report.

The cost for the extended service inclusive of the above would be \$12,000 on top of the current annual fee of \$16,000.

As this service is over and above the standard baseline service, funding will be sourced through the Creek Habitat Improvement budget under the Integrated Water Resources program.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS:

Litter is an obvious and real problem. As such the Clean-up project which is funded across multiple partners, offers Council a mechanism to get out and be proactive in beautifying the Bremer River and also improving the health of the river system.


The Clean-up boat itself is a highly visual method of litter collection carrying the logo of all partners and is often out during the day and seen by many people frequenting the Riverheart Parklands and Riverlink areas.

The clean-up program, as well as picking up and disposing of the litter, collects and processes data on the type and amount of items collected which can be later used in focusing on source reduction or education campaigns or increased litter collection services for hotspots such as parks.

CONCLUSION:

The current levels of service provided by the clean-up boat on the Bremer River can collect up to 20 large bags of litter per service. With the amount of debris and litter at present based upon observations, public concerns and data from the clean-up program, it is proposed that this service be extended. It is further proposed that Council engages Healthy Land and Water to extend this program for an initial period of 6 months to align with current funding arrangements on a financial year basis, and that the success of the program be assessed to inform any further continuation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Healthy Land and Water proposal	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That Healthy Land and Water be engaged to provide an expanded Bremer River Clean-up initially for 6 months, focussing on litter hotspots around the Ipswich CBD.
- B. That Council investigate the value of the clean-up program with consideration for a further continuation of the program in 2018-2019.

Philip Smith
WATERWAY HEALTH OFFICER

I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh
ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Bryce Hines
ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)



Tuesday, 17 October 2017

Attention Phil Smith
Waterway Health Officer
Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191
Ipswich Q 4305

Dear Phil,

Re: Project Quotation: Expansion of the Healthy and Water Clean Up program – Bremer River

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a quote to Ipswich City Council to expand the Healthy Land and Water Clean Up program for the Bremer River. This letter outlines our understanding of the project, a timeframe and our fee.

Our understanding of the project

The Healthy Land and Water (HLW) Clean Up Program includes a staff of 2 clean-up crew and one boat who collect floating and bank bound waterway litter from the Bremer River.

The program currently services the high traffic and public visibility area of the Bremer River through the Ipswich CBD approximately 1 day/month. Currently the crew are collecting up to 20 large bags of rubbish each monthly servicing visit, and are not able to collect all rubbish they see due to lack of time. The servicing schedule of 1 day/month only allows the Clean Up crew to collect approximately half of the total amount of floating and accumulated litter collected from mangroves, pontoons, and eddies etc. It does not allow the crew to effectively service recognised hot spot areas such as Cribb Park, Riverheart Parklands, Bob Gamble Park, Riverlink Shopping Centre and Goodna Boat Ramp.

Through discussions with Ipswich City Council Environment and Waste staff, and in response to growing community concern regarding waterway litter within and around the Bremer River, it is recommended that Ipswich City Council expand the current clean-up program on the Bremer River to 2 days/month. This will enable the Clean Up crew to service floating and bank bound waterway litter as well as address accumulation and 'hot spot' points along the River. Further it will increase the communities' exposure to the Clean Up Program boat and raise awareness locally that Council is proactively managing and protecting the Bremer River.

Importantly the increased program will provide a rigorous set of data to understand the amount, type and source of litter entering the Bremer River enabling Council and community to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of source reduction initiatives in high priority/target sites. This will also include the opportunity to collect targeted data that will help measure the effectiveness of State Government legislation such as the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme and a Plastic Bag Ban in July 2018.

Our approach to the project

We take a holistic approach to manage the impacts of waterway litter using data analysis and synthesis to inform actions that address waterway litter at its source. The key components of the HLW Clean Up program include:



- Remove waterway litter from SEQ's waterways via the Clean Up boat and at various Clean Up events;
- Implement informed and targeted actions that address litter at its source;
- Monitor and report on the impact of litter on waterway health;
- Educate and engage the community on waterway litter impacts and solutions, supporting community action to address waterway litter;

Supporting this proposal will provide Ipswich City Council with a host of benefits including:

- Development of a dataset that will inform targeted source reduction initiatives, developed by and for the local community that stop waterway litter at its source, improving amenity and recreation values;
- Removal of waterway litter from the Bremer River providing enhanced amenity and a cleaner environment;
- Access to standardised reporting, data collection and methodology at a regional and national level for waterway litter statistics;

Our team

We are a dynamic and independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care of our unique and beautiful land, waterways and biodiversity. We share our in-depth knowledge, tools and networks to protect against the impacts of population growth and extreme weather on our natural environment. Our work also helps to protect and enhance the many social and economic benefits our natural environment provides such as recreation, tourism, agriculture and a clean drinking water supply. For more information, please visit hlw.org.au

Since 1999 HLW has been at the forefront of addressing waterway litter impacts in SEQ and are recognised as the pre-eminent organisation in SEQ in relation to waterway litter and marine debris. We work across community, government, industry and business in a collective effort to address this growing concern.

We have a proven delivery mechanism through the HLW Clean Up Program, and have experience delivering a range of source reduction initiatives across SEQ. We are also key representatives on a range of State and Regional bodies whose aim is to reduce the impacts of litter on the social, environmental and economic values of SEQ's natural assets.

The work undertaken by HLW through the Clean Up program helps deliver on legislative requirements regarding mitigation of water pollution impacts and on actions listed under multiple Queensland State and local Government strategies and policies and Federal Government Acts and Plans, including:

- QLD Waste Reduction and Recycling Act, 2011;
- QLD Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011;
- QLD Nature Conservation Act;
- Local government litter and illegal dumping action plans;
- Local government waste minimisation strategies;
- Queensland Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy, 2014-2024;
- Queensland Container Deposit Scheme (2018) and Queensland Plastic Bag ban (2018);
- Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan (Draft to be released September), 2017, EHP;
- 'Toxic Tide – the threat of marine plastic pollution', Australian Senate, 2016;



- Threat Abatement Plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life, 2017;
- Reef 2050 Action Plan;
- Container Deposit Scheme (July 2018);
- Plastic Bag Ban (July 2018);
- EPBC Act; and
- RAMSAR convention¹.

Fees

Healthy Land and Water can undertake this project for **\$12,000 (ex GST)**.

Inclusions:

- Servicing of the Bremer River and recognised hotspot sites for an additional 200 hours/annually;
- Data collection, collation and management. Contribution of data to the Tangaroa Blue National database;
- Project management;
- Delivery of Annual Report.

Project timeframes

Task	Deliverable	Delivery Date	Completion Date
1	Undertake servicing of the Bremer River to collect floating and bank bound litter. Collect data on the location, type and number of litter items collected.	November 2017	November 2018
2	Annual Report for the program with data analysis and synthesis including trend analysis, priority litter items and source reduction recommendations.	November 2018	November 2018
3	Meeting with relevant Council staff (namely Environment and Waste) to analyse data and discuss targeted source reduction campaigns	November 2018	November 2018
4	Data collection, collation and storage.	November 2017	November 2018
5	Project management – manage crew, staff, boat and other public liability etc.	November 2017	November 2018

Important notes

¹ RAMSAR listed Southern Moreton Bay Marine Park



- This fee proposal is valid for 30 days.
- A contract for this project will be arranged within 15 days upon acceptance of the project proposal.
- Payment terms and conditions will be included in the contract.

Acknowledgement and acceptance

You may accept this offer by signing the Acceptance page and returning a copy of the proposal to myself to expedite the process.

On receipt of acceptance, we will issue a contract under our Standard Terms and Conditions within 15 business days.

Should you require any clarification in relation to any aspect of this letter, or wish to further discuss the terms or inclusions of our proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Rachael.n@hlw.org.au or on (07) 3177 9100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael Nasplezes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachael Nasplezes
Senior Project Coordinator