

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A winding creek flows through the center, bordered by dense green trees and vegetation. To the right of the creek, there is a small farmstead with a white house and a blue-roofed shed. The surrounding area is a mix of green fields and scattered trees. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a clear sky.

Franklin Vale Creek Catchment Initiative

Enhancing Franklin Vale Creek and its tributaries to form part of a highly productive landscape supporting primary industry as the core land use and complementing the biodiversity values of the surrounding ranges.

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City of
Ipswich

Franklin Vale Creek

The Franklin Vale Creek Catchment is an area of particular beauty, bordered by the picturesque Little Liverpool Range. The wildlife and biodiversity values of the area are high and the flats of Franklin Vale Creek are highly productive agricultural and pastoral land.

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.

The Franklin Vale Initiative

The Franklin Vale Initiative is a bold ambition to restore waterway health and catchment productivity. Our vision is to partner with landholders living on Franklin Vale Creek to restore and improve the catchment condition by reducing instability and improving water quality through actions such as vegetation. This initiative offers landholders the opportunity to restore the waterways on their property and ultimately improve the overall health of Franklin Vale Creek.

Council will make a substantial investment to work with landholders and begin the process of restoring this waterway and building a legacy of best practice land management to ensure the productivity of the land is maintained for you, the community and the environment.

Funding comes from the Council's stormwater quality offsets scheme which is a developer funded program to improve water quality and waterway health.

Benefits of Healthy Waterways

A healthy waterway has benefits to both landholders and the environment and will maintain productivity for future generations. Benefits include:

- Native vegetation in and above the channel provides stability to prevent erosion
- Improved water quality from good riparian cover, elimination of weed and algae species and increased stability
- Improved health and condition of livestock as a result of better water quality from reduced pollutants entering waterways
- Improved productivity and reduced stress on stock due to cooler areas surrounding well vegetated waterways
- Salinity issues reduced through establishment of vegetation around waterways
- Reduced flooding by slowing the flow of water and improving infiltration from revegetation in the upper catchment
- Supporting an abundance of wildlife, both aquatic and land dwelling



Why Participate in the Initiative?

This is a unique opportunity to restore the waterways of the Franklin Vale Creek catchment and as a landholder, directly receive the benefits of a healthy waterway and incentives for participating. Together, we will be improving the waterways by undertaking works such as:

- revegetation and weed removal
- construction of creek stabilisation measures
- offline watering points
- stock exclusion fencing

The works will be provided free of cost and payments to the landholder will be provided allowing Council and/or contractors to access the land to perform the works.

Riparian land often has deeper and better quality soils, and supports a higher diversity of plants and animals. Vegetation on riparian land supports in-stream life through shading, as well as supplying energy and nutrients for animals. The trees and shrubs that fall into the river provide homes for fish, while roots act like a scaffold, binding and stabilising soils so it does not get washed into the stream.

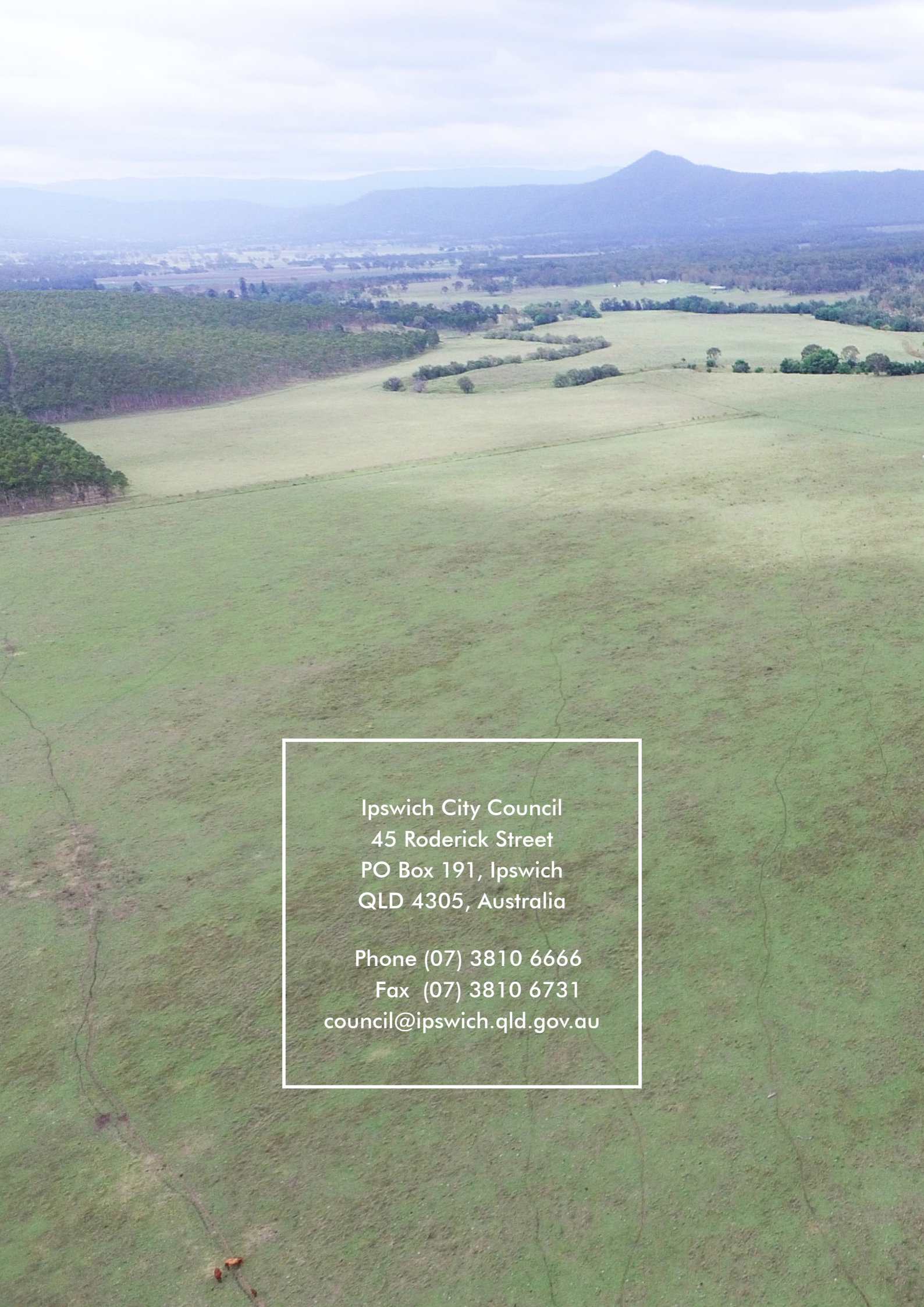
Evidence has also shown that properties with well vegetated waterways have a higher value than properties with degraded waterways.

Participation in the Initiative will not impact on the rights of landholders.

- Periodic controlled access for crash grazing may be negotiated as a riparian management tool in stock exclusion areas
- Landholders will retain access to the improvement areas with locations for appreciation developed in the site based management plan (eg clear areas for picnic locations adjacent waterholes)
- existing water extraction rights will not be impacted by works undertaken
- re-zoning will not be undertaken as part of the works

If you would like to discuss this opportunity or find out additional information, please contact Council's Waterway Improvement Officer on (07) 3810 6666.





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