VML:MB Vicki Lukritz 3810 6221

6 September 2018

Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the **CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** is to be held in the <u>Council Chambers</u> 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 <u>Tuesday, 11 September 2018</u>.

Yours faithfully

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 **Tuesday**, 11 September 2018 Council Chambers

Item No.	Item Title	Officer
1	"Enviroplan" Capital Works Portfolio Sub Program – Priority List of Projects 2019–2020	PO(OS)
2	"Stormwater Offsets" Capital Works Portfolio Sub Program – Priority List of Projects 2019–2020	PO(OS)
LATE ITEM 3	Outcomes of the 2018–2019 Nature Conservation Grants program and Ongoing Program	PO(NE)

\*\* Item includes confidential papers

## **CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2018(09)**

#### **11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

#### AGENDA

#### 1. <u>"ENVIROPLAN" CAPITAL WORKS PORTFOLIO SUB PROGRAM – PRIORITY LIST OF</u> PROJECTS 2019–2020

With reference to a report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018 concerning the "Enviroplan" capital works portfolio sub-program.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the interim administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That the prioritisation methodology, as detailed in the report by the Planning Officer
   (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Enviroplan" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 and future capital works portfolio.
- B. That the prioritised list of projects, as detailed in Attachment A to the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Enviroplan" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 budget and future capital works portfolio.

## 2. <u>"STORMWATER OFFSETS" CAPITAL WORKS PORTFOLIO SUB PROGRAM – PRIORITY LIST</u> OF PROJECTS 2019–2020

With reference to a report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018 concerning the "Stormwater Offsets" capital works portfolio sub-program.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the interim administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That the prioritisation methodology, as detailed in the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Stormwater Offsets" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 and future capital works portfolio.
- B. That the prioritised list of projects, as detailed in Attachment A to the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Stormwater Offsets" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 budget and future capital works portfolio.

## LATE ITEM

## 3. OUTCOMES OF THE 2018–2019 NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM AND ONGOING PROGRAM

Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 10 September 2018 concerning the outcomes of the Nature Conservation Grants Program (NCG) for the 2018–2019 Financial Year, and a proposal for the ongoing program delivery.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the interim administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That the funding for the successful applicants in the 2018–2019 Round 1 of the Nature Conservation Grants Program be approved.
- B. That the Nature Conservation Grants Program review as outlined in the report by the Program Officer dated 10 September 2018, be adopted with the grant program opened for Round 2 for the 2018–2019 Financial Year.
- C. That the Nature Conservation Grants Program Round 2 be promoted to applicants considered ineligible and unsuccessful from Round 1 and promoted to landholders who did not submit an application in Round 1 due to time constraints.
- D. That the Nature Conservation Grants Program Round 2, Landholder Guideline be endorsed.

\*\* Item includes confidential papers

and any other items as considered necessary.

Conservation and Environment Committee				
Mtg Date: 11.09.18 OAR: YES				
Authorisation: Bryce Hines				

JW: JW H:\Departmental\Commitee Reports

9 August 2018

## <u>M E M O R A N D U M</u>

TO: ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PLANNING OFFICER (OPEN SPACE)

RE: "ENVIROPLAN" CAPITAL WORKS PORTFOLIO SUB PROGRAM - PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS 2019-2020

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018 concerning the "Enviroplan" capital works portfolio sub-program.

#### BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2019–2020 capital portfolio build process, the purpose of this report is to outline the prioritisation methodology and subsequent project listing for each sub-program. This report relates to the "Enviroplan" sub-program.

#### **PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS:**

Through the strategic direction given by the Ipswich Enviroplan and its aim to secure significant conservation and bushland areas for the purpose of retaining and managing and providing nature based recreational facilities in Ipswich's valuable natural resources, a project prioritisation decision matrix has been developed to reflect the key elements outlined in the Enviroplan policy. Table 1 outlines the proposed methodology to determine the prioritisation of projects.

At the Council Ordinary Meeting held on the 28 February 2017 the following resolutions were adopted:

- A. That the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017–2022, as outlined in the report by the Principal Officer (Natural Resources) dated 21 December 2016 be adopted.
- B. That the Chief Operating Officer (Works Parks and Recreation) present a report to the 2017-2018 pre-budget meetings incorporating the priorities for capital investment and loan requirements for implementation of the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017-2022.
- *C.* That the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017-2022 be reviewed in 2020.

A copy of this report is shown in Attachment B.

As such, the nature based recreation and visitor information facilities have been included in the Enviropan sub-program for consideration.

Due to the dynamic nature of the natural environment, it is expected that a significant number of additional projects will need to be considered throughout the course of this, and subsequent years that are outside this current list. These additional projects will be assessed through the proposed methodology and added to the Enviroplan capital portfolio list as required.

Council investment in the 2018 -2019 "Enviroplan" sub program was \$2,555,000.00.

#### PRIORITISATION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY:

The prioritised assessment of projects for the "Enviroplan" sub program has been undertaken using a customized set of seven (7) strategic drivers with set percentage weightings. Table 1 of this report outlines each strategic driver, percentage weighting and rationale.

Strategic Driver Percentage Weighting		Rationale		
Conservation value	25%	Projects which demonstrate a significant level of benefit based on the conservation value present at project sites will be weighted the highest, while projects with the least benefits will be weighted the lowest. Conservation value is based on factors such as: Land management zones, the presence of iconic native species, proximity to critical habitat and waterways.		
Fire management	15%	Projects which demonstrate a significant level of benefit based on the required fire management at project sites will be weighted the highest, while projects with the least benefits will be weighted the lowest.		
Pest animal 15% management		Projects which demonstrate a significant level of benefit based on the pest animal management of project sites will be weighted the highest, while projects with the least benefits will be weighted the lowest.		

#### Table 1 – Customized Strategic Drivers

Unauthorised motor vehicle access	15%	Projects which demonstrate a significant level of benefit based on unauthorised motor vehicle access management of project sites will be weighted the highest, while projects with the least benefits will be weighted the lowest.
Nature based recreation & environmental education	15%	Projects which demonstrate a significant level of benefit based on environmental education and increased visitor experience at project sites will be weighted the highest, while projects with the least benefits will be weighted the lowest.
Compliance 10%		Investment is required to meet legislative and land management compliance purposes.
External funding	5%	Projects are assessed for their "eligibility" for external grant funding opportunities and the "confidence" of securing grant funding, based on available knowledge and precedence. These projects would relate to formally associated community groups.
	100%	

## CONCLUSION:

"Enviroplan" is a sub-program of Council's capital works portfolio. A proposed list of priority projects have been developed based on the methodology of assessing projects against a customized set of seven (7) strategic drivers with set percentage weightings. The priority listing for this sub-program is shown in Attachment A of this report.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Attachment A – Prioritised list of projects under the "Enviroplan" sub program	Attachment A
Attachment B - Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017- 2022	Attachment B

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the interim administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That the prioritisation methodology, as detailed in the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Enviroplan" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 and future capital works portfolio.
- B. That the prioritised list of projects, as detailed in Attachment A to the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Enviroplan" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 budget and future capital works portfolio.

## Jason West PLANNING OFFICER (OPEN SPACE)

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

## Mark Bastin ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

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

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

Subprogram	Priority	Property Name	Suburb	Division	Project Name
Enviroplan	1	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	VARIOUS	Various	Nature Based Recreation and Visitor Infrastructure
Enviroplan	2	Various Conservation Estates	VARIOUS	Various	Fire Management Infrastructure (Including fire control lines and access)
Enviroplan	3	Hillview Drive Reserve	MUIRLEA	5	Fencing (Along Leslie Drive boundary)
Enviroplan	4	Camerons Scrub Conservation Estate	KHOLO	10	Up-grade of Track (From "yellow tank entry" to internal gate)
Enviroplan	5	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	WHITE ROCK	3 & 9	Upgrade of estate signage (Stage 4 of 5)
Enviroplan	6	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	New signage (Stage 4 of 5)
Enviroplan	7	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	WHITE ROCK	3 & 9	Installation/Upgrade of 2 culverts over creek crossings. (Stage 3 of 5)
Enviroplan	8	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	WHITE ROCK	3 & 9	New connecting service track/firebreak (Between Archery Range Track and the IBT)
Enviroplan	9	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	Deconstruction and removal of old shed
Enviroplan	10	Camerons Scrub Conservation Estate	KHOLO	10	New connecting service track (Between "Sellars" and "River Circuit" tracks)
Enviroplan	11	Camerons Scrub Conservation Estate	KHOLO	10	New connecting service track (To Saplings Pocket Reserve)
Enviroplan	12	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	New Fire Break (2000m)
Enviroplan	13	Various Conservation Estates	VARIOUS	Various	Minor emergent projects 19/20
Enviroplan	14	Haig Street Quarry Conservation Reserve	BRASSALL	6	Upgrade entry and signage at corner High and Cameron St (one entry point/sign), and also at corner High and Emerald St (two entry points/signs). (Stage 2 of 3)
Enviroplan	15	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Construct access from Wards Road to Block 418
Enviroplan	16	Haig Street Quarry Conservation Reserve	BRASSALL	6	Up grade sections of Bearded Dragon Track - re-gravel, install steps in steep areas/erosion issues. Approx. 300mts (Stage 3 of 3)
Enviroplan	1/	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	Creation and installation of Estate Signage (Stage 1 of 5)
Enviroplan	18	Purga Nature Reserve	PURGA	10	Fencing eastern paddock – 850m
Enviroplan	19	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Fencing construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 2 of 5)
Enviroplan	20	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	WHITE ROCK	3 & 9	Bike Barrier fencing and the installation of heavy duty gates (Stage 4 of 5)
Enviroplan	21	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	WHITE ROCK	3 & 9	The installation and/or upgrade of 2 culverts over creek crossings per year. (Stage 4 of 5)

Subprogram	Priority	Property Name	Suburb	Division	Project Name
Enviroplan	22	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate		10	Construction of Mt Grandchester walking track
Enviroplan	23	Purga Nature Reserve	PURGA	10	Fencing southern boundary – 1600m
Enviroplan	24	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Track construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 3 of 5)
Enviroplan	25	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Creation and installation of new signage (Stage 5 of 5)
Enviroplan	26	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	Creation and installation of Estate Signage (Stage 2 of 5)
Enviroplan	27	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Fencing construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 3 of 5)
Enviroplan	28	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Fencing construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 4 of 5)
Enviroplan	30	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	Creation and installation of Estate Signage (Stage 3 of 5)
Enviroplan	31	White Rock - Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	WHITE ROCK	3&9	The installation and/or upgrade of 2 culverts over creek crossings per year. (Stage 5 of 5)
Enviroplan	32	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Track construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 4 of 5)
Enviroplan	33	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	Creation and installation of new signage (Stage 4 of 5)
Enviroplan	34	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Fencing construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 5 of 5)
Enviroplan	35	Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	PURGA	8	Track construction and upgrades on new acquisition blocks (Stage 5 of 5)
Enviroplan	36	Mount Grandchester Conservation Estate	GRANDCHESTER	10	Creation and installation of Estate Signage (Stage 5 of 5)

City Works, Parks Sport and Environment				
Committee				
Mtg Date: 20.02.17	OAR:	YES		
Authorisation: Craig Maudsley				

EKC: EKC

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21 December 2016

## <u>M E M O R A N D U M</u>

TO:	SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER
FROM:	PRINCIPAL OFFICER (NATURAL RESOURCES)
RE:	ENVIROPLAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017-2022

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report by the Principal Officer (Natural Resources) dated 21 December 2016 concerning the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017-2022.

#### BACKGROUND:

Over the past twenty years, Ipswich Enviroplan has funded the acquisition and management of over 5,800 hectares of native bushland within twelve dedicated conservation estates and reserves.

The primary focus for capital investment has been on the purchase of conservation land, with some funding towards the construction of visitor day use areas in the high profile estates. This has included the installation of board-walks, track networks, signage, visitor facilities and Harding's Paddock campground.

Visitation and nature-based recreation activities within the conservation estate are continually increasing. The focus for capital investment over the next five years will transition from acquisition of new conservation estates to purpose-built visitor and nature-based recreation infrastructure. Through this, Council will be better placed to balance the protection of biodiversity and cultural values with opportunities for increased visitation and use of the City's natural areas.



Figure 1. Capital investment transition from acquisition to visitor management and infrastructure from 2017 - 2022

#### ENVIROPLAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017-2022:

The Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy (Attachment A) sets the direction for investment over the next five years in the management of Council's natural area estate for increased visitation and nature-based recreation.

The Vision is for Ipswich's natural areas to be a top 10 destination in South East Queensland for nature-appreciation and nature-based recreation experiences. This will be achieved by:

- Providing places of high-valued experiences in ecotourism, nature-based recreation and adventure within well-managed natural environments
- Securing and managing connected, intact tracts of critical habitat for the long-term survival of native flora and fauna in Ipswich
- Preserving and enhancing the biodiversity and habitat values of Ipswich's natural landscapes

By 2022, we aim to have:

- Doubled visitation to the conservation estates
- Designed and constructed \$5,000,000 worth of new ecotourism, nature-based recreation, visitor access and cultural awareness infrastructure
- Delivered \$1,000,000 worth of improvements to existing infrastructure / conservation estate assets
- Employed two dedicated visitor management officers
- Acquired 500 additional hectares of conservation estate

#### PRIORITY CONSERVATION ESTATES AND RESERVES FOR INVESTMENT:

Six conservation estates and reserves have been identified as priorities for investment in visitor infrastructure. This includes visitor information centres, day use areas, digital signage, single and multi-use track networks, board walks and Ecotourism joint ventures. The priorities are:

- 1. White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation Estate
- 2. Flinders Goolman Conservation Estate
- 3. Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve
- 4. Cameron's Scrub Conservation Reserve / Sapling Pocket
- 5. Mt Grandchester Conservation Estate
- 6. Purga Nature Reserve

#### VISITOR MANAGEMENT:

Visitor and user experiences in natural areas are greatly enhanced when there is a demonstrated commitment to sustainability and conservation outcomes, and a presence of on-site visitor management officers. The dedicated field staff will have skills in visitor management, interpretative presentations (such as cultural heritage, environmental values), nature-based recreation and conservation land management. It is proposed that two dedicated officers be employed to support increased visitation and ensure users have safe access to the conservation estates.

#### FUNDING OPTIONS:

Funding of \$5,000,000 will be sourced to undertake the capital works; being, 50% from the Enviroplan Reserve (\$2,500,000) and 50% additional borrowings (\$2,500,000) to be repaid over ten years.

Funding for the two visitor management officers will be from Enviroplan revenue on an annual basis.

#### **BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS:**

Council's conservation estates are the 'green lungs' of the City, providing the scenic backdrop and a natural respite for a rapidly growing urban population. Greenfield developments at Springfield Lakes, South Redbank Plains and Ripley Valley will see a predicted 300,000 people living on the doorstep of two of Council's premier conservation estates.

Nature-based recreation is a growing industry, with an increase in the number of people involved in bushwalking, mountain-biking and trail runs. With over 6,000 hectares of conservation estate, Council is well placed to offer valuable experiences for the community in well-planned and managed natural areas.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The demand for nature-based recreation and visitation to natural areas is growing rapidly. Council owns and manages over 6,000 hectares of conservation estates and reserves, funded by the Ipswich Enviroplan levy. The focus for capital investment over the next 5 years will need to transition from acquisition of new estates to the construction of purpose-built visitor infrastructure. This will support safe access for visitors and users, whilst protecting and managing the important ecological and cultural values of the conservation estate.

## ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017 - 2022	Attachment A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Amended CWPSE Ctee No. 2017(02) of 20 February 2017

- A. That the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017–2022, as outlined in the report by the Principal Officer (Natural Resources) dated 21 December 2016 be adopted.
- B. That the Chief Operating Officer (Works Parks and Recreation) present a report to the 2017-2018 pre-budget meetings incorporating the priorities for capital investment and loan requirements for implementation of the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017-2022.
- C. That the Enviroplan Capital Investment Strategy 2017-2022 be reviewed in 2020.

## Kaye Cavanagh PRINCIPAL OFFICER (NATURAL RESOURCES)

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

#### Bryce Hines

SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

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

Craig Maudsley CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

Conservation and Environment Committee				
Mtg Date: 11.09.18 OAR: YES				
Authorisation: Bryce Hines				

JW: JW

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9 August 2018

## <u>M E M O R A N D U M</u>

- TO: ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER
- FROM: PLANNING OFFICER (OPEN SPACE)
- RE: "STORMWATER OFFSETS" CAPITAL WORKS PORTFOLIO SUB PROGRAM -PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS 2019-2020

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018 concerning the "Stormwater Offsets" capital works portfolio sub-program.

#### BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2019–2020 capital portfolio build process, the purpose of this report is to outline the prioritisation methodology and subsequent project listing for each sub-program. This report relates to the "Stormwater Offsets" sub-program.

#### STORMWATER OFFSETS SUB PROGRAM SCOPE:

The Stormwater Offsets sub program includes, but is not limited to the following project types;

- Creek stabilisation and revegetation
- Channel naturalisation
- Wetlands; and
- Bio retention Basins.

Council investment in the 2018–2019 "Stormwater Offsets" sub program was \$1,900,000.00.

## PRIORITISATION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY:

The prioritised assessment of projects for the "Stormwater Offsets" sub program has been undertaken using a customized set of five (5) strategic drivers with set percentage weightings. Table 1 of this report outlines each strategic driver, percentage weighting and rationale.

Strategic Driver	Percentage Weighting	Rationale
Cost Effectiveness	30%	The project is required to meet the obligations of the stormwater quality offsets scheme. Different options have different pollutant removal efficiencies, and hence this is critical to ensure successful delivery of the program. <b>Note: Those items that do not achieve</b> <b>minimum standards of pollutant removal will not be considered.</b>
Amenity	25%	Projects that deliver high levels of amenity to otherwise denuded areas or can be accommodated within existing attractive settings will score highly.
Integration	25%	Projects that deliver multiple benefits will be valued most highly, for example stormwater harvesting schemes that provide benefit to the amenity and functionality of sports fields, or assets that are designed to fit into a parkland in a pleasing and complementary manner will be scored highly.
Access	10%	Access for the purposes of constructability and maintenance are critical. Those with easy access will score highly.
Maintenance	10%	Those items that resolve a maintenance concern and can be built in a manner that improves the burden on maintenance crews will be scored most highly.
	100%	

## Table 1 – Customized Strategic Drivers

## CONCLUSION:

"Stormwater Offsets" is a sub-program of Council's capital works portfolio. A proposed list of priority projects has been developed based on the methodology of assessing projects against a customized set of five (5) strategic drivers with set percentage weightings. The priority listing for this sub-program is shown in Attachment A of this report.

## ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Attachment A – Prioritised list of projects under the "Stormwater Offsets" sub program	Attachment A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the interim administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That the prioritisation methodology, as detailed in the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Stormwater Offsets" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 and future capital works portfolio.
- B. That the prioritised list of projects, as detailed in Attachment A to the report by the Planning Officer (Open Space) dated 9 August 2018, be considered when developing the "Stormwater Offsets" sub program as part of the 2019–2020 budget and future capital works portfolio.

## Jason West PLANNING OFFICER (OPEN SPACE)

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

## Mark Bastin

ACTING SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

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

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

Subprogram	Priority	Location	Suburb	Division	Project Name
Storm Water Offsets	1	Small Creek (Design between Whitehill Rd & Briggs Rd, Raceview)	RACEVIEW	8	Small Creek Channel Naturalisation (Stage 3 & 4 Design)
Storm Water Offsets	2	Walter Zimmerman Park	PINE MOUNTAIN	10	Ironpot Creek Stabilisation (Wairuna Court)
Storm Water Offsets	3	Bob Titcombe Park	BRASSALL	6	Stormwater Street Tree Pilot
Storm Water Offsets	4	Sarah Drive Park	YAMANTO	10	Constructed Wetland
Storm Water Offsets	5	Citywide	VARIOUS	Various	Stormwater Street Tree Pilot
Storm Water Offsets	6	Moodai Reserve	BELLBIRD PARK	2	Water Quality Treatment Wetland
Storm Water Offsets	7	Fail Park	NORTH BOOVAL	4	Creek Filtration System
Storm Water Offsets	8	Small Creek (between Whitehill Rd & Briggs Rd, Raceview)	RACEVIEW	8	Small Creek Channel Naturalisation (Stage 3)
Storm Water Offsets	9	Small Creek (between Whitehill Rd & Briggs Rd, Raceview)	RACEVIEW	8	Small Creek Channel Naturalisation (Stage 4)
Storm Water Offsets	10	Bremervale Park	RACEVIEW	4	Constructed Wetland

Conservation and Environment Committee					
Mtg Date: 11.09.18	OAR:	YES			
Authorisation: Bryce Hines					

MM:MM

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The Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council has determined this matter is of real urgency and approval has been given to submit this report to the Conservation and Environment Committee as a late item.

10 September 2018

## <u>MEMORANDUM</u>

#### TO: ACTING SPORTS RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

RE: OUTCOMES OF THE 2018-2019 NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM AND ONGOING PROGRAM

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This is a report by the Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 10 September 2018 concerning the outcomes of the Nature Conservation Grants Program (NCG) for the 2018-2019 Financial Year, and a proposal for the ongoing program delivery.

It proposes that a Round 2 Nature Conservation Grants Program funding opportunity open to landholders who were considered unsuccessful and ineligible from the current round of funding and open to eligible landholders in the Landholder Partnerships Program who did not submit an application due to time constraints.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Nature Conservation Grant Program (NCG) is a core program delivered under Ipswich City Council's Enviroplan to support the protection and management of conservation values on private property across the City.

A key component of the program is the provision of financial incentives to support onground property management actions from small to large-scale projects. In kind contributions from successful applicants highlight the level of commitment that land owners have to the ongoing management of their project sites. The NCG is an annual funding opportunity offered to all levels of Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) landholders, including: the Nature Conservation, Bushland Conservation, Koala Conservation and Waterway Conservation Agreements. Along with current VCA landholders, the Grants are also offered to landholders under previous VCA arrangements including Rural Conservation, Vegetation Retention and Partnering Agreements. Eligible landholders can apply for grant funding up to \$6,000 per annum.

A total of \$100,000 is available for the 2018-2019 Financial Year.

#### NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS OUTCOMES 2018-2019:

For the 2018–2019 FY, Ipswich City Council (Council) received the highest number of submissions from eligible landholders to date. Forty-seven (47) applications were received in total via the online Smartygrants database.

The high number of submissions was due partly to the Landholder Partnerships Program growing in popularity per annum, in addition to the active promotion of the NCG through interactions between landholders and Program Officers of the Landholder Partnerships Program since January 2018. Promotion included updating the NCG landholder guidelines and introducing Information Sessions to allow landholders an even greater opportunity to ask questions about proposed projects/activities before formal submissions are made by applicants.

Although a high number of submissions were received, thirteen (13) applications were considered eligible for a panel assessment, with eight (8) recommended to receive funding. The main reasons for ineligibility include:

- Incomplete or incorrectly completed budget information. Most applicants have not included enough detail or description in the budget table to demonstrate project costs
- The requirement to provide sufficient detailed information on the proposed project / activity so they can be fully assessed.

Figure 1 below summarises the Nature Conservation Grants submission and assessment process for the 2018-2019 Financial Year and recommendations moving forward with the Program.

**Figure 1.** Summary of the Nature Conservation Grants Submission and Assessment Process for 2018 / 2019 Financial Year and Recommendations for future process



The following table summarises the eligible applications recommended for funding from the Panel Assessment process.

App.	Project Name	Project Suburb	Divisional	In-kind	Recommended	Total Project	Assessment
No.			Council	contribution	funding amount	Cost	Panel Score
			Area				(Average)
18018	Vine Thicket Restoration	Pine Mountain	Division 10	\$9,188.00	\$6,000.00	\$15,188.50	74.33%
18015	Weed Management And	Pine Mountain	Division 10	\$6,700.00	\$988.89	\$7,688.89	67.67%
	Rehabilitation In Pine Mountain						
18048	Bremer River Urban Corridor	East Ipswich	Division 5	\$13,281.00	\$5,971.08	\$19,281.00	57%
	Conservation Plan						
18024	Invasive pest plant control - north	Tallegalla	Division 10	\$2,280.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,080.00	55%
	east corner						
18037	Provide refuge for native fauna and	Tallagalla	Division 10	\$1,772.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,522.00	55%
	flora via fencing off large						
	freshwater dam						
18006	Weed Control and Rehabilitation	Grandchester	Division 10	\$3,120.00	\$1,102.00	\$4,222.00	52.67%
18032	Remnant Vegetation Rehabilitation	Pine Mountain	Division 10	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00	52%
	Lot 71						
18020	Weed Management along Franklin	Mount Mort	Division 10	\$4,932.00	\$4,932.00	\$9,864.00	52%
	Vale Creek						
8			Totals	\$47,273.00	\$28,544.00	\$75,846.00	58.67%

**Table 1.** Eligible Applications Recommended for Funding – Panel Assessment outcomes, Round 1

All projects recommended for funding contribute to the conservation and improvement of the natural environment within Ipswich.

Projects recommended for funding for the 2018-2019 Financial Year include:

- Weed control and restoration of dry vine rainforest
- Propagation of endemic species to be used within the project area
- Stock exclusion fencing from accessing water body / wetland
- Revegetation to create wildlife corridors and minimise sediment runoff
- Reducing fire hazards

Funding was delivered under budget as detailed below:

Nature Conservation Grant	8 grants approved
Program (2018-2019	\$28,544.00 approved funding
Financial Year)	\$47,273.00landholder contribution to the project (in-kind)
	\$75,846.00,total on-ground expenditure
	\$71,456.00 remaining available budget for Round 2

The overall outcomes of the projects recommended to receive funding for this round of grant funding is detailed in **Table 3.** The following table outlines the overall outcomes of the projects for this round of grant funding.

Table 2. 2018-2019 Project Outcomes recomm	ended to receive funding
--	--------------------------

Task	Unit/m <sup>2</sup>
Weed control and management	113,000m <sup>2</sup>
Fencing installations to protect sensitive areas	16,000m <sup>2</sup>
Native plant revegetation	25,000m <sup>2</sup>
Erosion Control installations	1,000m <sup>2</sup>

Eligible applications in the 2018-2019 Nature Conservation Grants Program were assessed against a set of criteria to determine funding (Attachment B). Applicants recommended for funding scored over 50% for their proposed project/activity (**Table 1.**)

Those applications considered unsuccessful from the Nature Conservation Grants Program – Round 1 are detailed in the following table.

App. No.	Project Name	Project Suburb	Divisional Council Area	In-kind contribution	Requested funding amount	Total Project Cost	Assessment Panel Score (Average)
18040	McAdam's Scrub	Marburg	10	\$1,347.50	\$1,347.50	\$2,695.00	47.67%
18058	Operation Environmental Weed Control – Phase 2	Tivoli	5	\$7,270.00	\$6,000.00	\$13,270.00	47%
18002	Creek Revegetation	Sadliers Crossing	7	\$13,800.00	\$6,000.00	\$19,800.00	44.67%
18047	Bremer River Gallery Forest Section	Woodend	7	\$4,458.97	\$4,458.97	\$8,917.94	42.67%
18031	Erosion Gully Remediation and Remnant Veg Environmental Weed Control	Pine Mountain	10	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00	42.33%
5	Total	\$32,876.47	\$23,806.47	\$56,682.94	44.87%		

**Table 3.** Unsuccessful Applications – Panel Assessment outcomes, Round 1

## **BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS:**

The Nature Conservation Grants Program provides funding assistance to private landholders to carry out on-ground conservation work that benefit the community. The control and removal of weeds minimises seed dispersal to neighbouring properties and high-valued conservation estates. Waterway rehabilitation and revegetation works, improves and increases riparian vegetation and broader water quality outcomes for waterway recreation users, conservation and aesthetic purposes.

## **REVIEW OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM**

The Nature Conservation Grant Program provides a high level support mechanism for landholders participating in the Landholder Partnerships Program, specifically Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) landholders and those under historical conservation agreements. The NCG Program provides council with measureable conservation outcomes, indicators for ecosystem improvements and ongoing commitment to conservation.

The highest number of applications received for the 2018-2019 round (forty-seven in total), indicate that there is a demand for a grant of this type to assist landholders with their on-ground projects/activities.

It is proposed to:

- 1. Offer a second round of the Nature Conservation Grants with the \$71,456.00 remaining available budget
- 2. To promote the Round 2 Nature Conservation Grants to eligible landholders
- 3. Implement Attachment B Assessment score sheet for Round 2 Nature Conservation Grants Program
- 4. Promote the updated Landholder Guidelines for Round 2 of the Nature Conservation Grant Program (refer to Attachment C)
- 5. Request that the annual budget for the Nature Conservation Grants Program be increased from the 2019-2020 budget of \$100,000 to \$120,000

The proposed changes for the Nature Conservation Grants Program will allow for:

- an opportunity for applicants who did not have an eligible application, an opportunity to improve their applications and re-submit
- an increase in the quality of submissions from applicants in Round 2 and future rounds
- an improved procedure to better receive, assess, score and allocate funding
- an increase in the number of submissions received annually

Applications for Round 2 2018 -2019 Nature Conservation Grants, will again be assessed in a competitive process against criteria linked to current Council strategic objectives (refer to ATTACHMENT B). The grant applications will be assessed by a panel to ensure transparency and applicants will be required to submit an acquittal after completion of the project.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Council's 2018-2019 round of the Nature Conservation Grants Program has been completed with 8 eligible applications received and grant funding recommended. Having reviewed the first round of the grant program for the 2018-2019 Financial Year and having 5 unsuccessful and 30 ineligible, it is proposed to run a Round 2 grant program for the 2018-2019 Financial Year for the remaining budget.

#### ATTACHMENT/S:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Ineligible and withdrawn applications for the 2018- 2019 Financial Year funding	Attachment A
Assessment Criteria used for scoring eligible applications in Round 1, Nature Conservation Grants Program for the 2018-2019	Attachment B
Nature Conservation Grants Program Guidelines, Round 2	Attachment C

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the interim administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That the funding for the successful applicants in the 2018-2019 Round 1 of the Nature Conservation Grants Program be approved.
- B. That the Nature Conservation Grants Program review as outlined in the report by the Program Officer dated 10 September 2018, be adopted with the grant program opened for Round 2 for the 2018–2019 Financial Year.
- C. That the Nature Conservation Grants Program Round 2 be promoted to applicants considered ineligible and unsuccessful from Round 1 and promoted to landholders who did not submit an application in Round 1 due to time constraints.
- D. That the Nature Conservation Grants Program Round 2, Landholder Guideline be endorsed.

## Melanie Mott PROGRAM 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 CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

Application	App.	Project Name	Project	Div.	In-kind	Requested	Total Project
Status	No.		Suburb	Council	contribution	Amount	Cost
				Area			
		Linking Koala Corridors in the Little	Grandchester				
	18045	Liverpool Range		10	\$6,900.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,900.00
		Watercress Creek	Pine				
	18053		Mountain	10	\$7,800.00	\$6,000.00	\$13,800.00
	18044	Weed Control	Rosewood	10	\$10,004.45	\$17,008.90	\$27,013.35
	18026	Lantana Removal	Grandchester	10	\$4,560.00	\$4,560.00	\$9,120.00
NS	18038	Lantana Control	Grandchester	10	\$4050.00	\$3,800.00	\$7,850.00
		Access Tracks For Weed And Fire	Mount				
APPLICATIONS	18023	Management	Walker	10	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$2,600.00
.A		Creek Connection	Pine				
<u> </u>	18003		Mountain	10	\$15,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$28,000.00
PI		Paddock to Bushland and Creek bank					
ΔP	18051	Restoration	Blackstone	4	\$4280.50	\$5275.50	\$11056.50
	18022	Pest Weed Eradication Along Gully	Woolshed	10	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
NELIGIBLE	18016	Salvinia Control and Management	Purga	10	\$360.00	\$60.50	\$420.50
	18030	Rejuvenation	Camira	1	\$8940.00	\$21,500.00	\$30440.00
L LIC	18013	Bundamba Restoration	Bundamba	4	\$11,520.00	\$6000.00	\$17520.00
IE I		Riparian Restoration Of The Bundamba					
<u> </u>	18017	Creek Bank	Bundamba	4	\$6420.00	\$8,920.00	\$15340.00
	18009	2018 Creek and Riparian Restoration	Blackstone	4	\$13915.00	\$13915.00	\$27,830.00
		Chad's Forest	Moores				
	18056		Pocket	5	\$3,200.00	\$12780.00	\$15,980.00
	18012	East Ipswich Echidna Reserve	East Ipswich	5	\$10940.50	\$6000.50	\$16941.00
		Native Regeneration and Waterway					
	18025	Sediment Erosion Control	Bundamba	4	\$9500.00	\$6000.00	\$15,500.00

## ATTACHMENT A – INELIGIBLE AND WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2018/2019 FINANCIAL YEAR FUNDING

Application Status	App. No.	Project Name	Project Suburb	Div. Council	In-kind contribution	Requested Amount	Total Project Cost
				Area			
		Improve Access of Happy Jack Gully					
	18039	and ongoing Revegetation	Bellbird Park	2	\$3740.00	\$3,844.88	\$7,584.32
	18027	Woods End Sandpaper Fig Project	Woodend	7	\$21,590.00	\$22,010.00	\$51185.32
		Property Erosion And Weed					
	18019	Management - Stage 1	Karalee	5	\$2850.00	\$1045.00	\$3,895.00
		Guillfoyles Gully Tributary Creek	Walloon				
	18028	Remediation		10	\$9990.00	\$12750.00	\$22,740.00
		Revegetation Of A Contaminated Site	Peak				
	18052		Crossing	8	\$2690.00	\$3254.00	\$5,944.00
		Dan's Erosion Control And Habitation					
	18043	Zone	Karalee	5	\$6000.00	\$5606.5.50	\$11606.50
		Erosion Control, Weed Management					
		and Revegetation Along The Brisbane					
	18054	River	Karalee	5	\$3510.00	\$2046.50	\$5,556.50
	18010	Name of Property Owner	Karalee	5	\$13,500.00	\$14,000.00	\$27,500.00
		Fence, Land Clearing And Planting Of	East Ipswich				
	18029	Trees Along River.		5	\$8785.00	\$8785.00	\$17570.00
	18041	Lantana Removal Project	Muirlea	5	\$4,840.00	\$4,480.00	\$9,700.00
	18049	Conservation Revegetation	Woolshed	10	\$3,640.00	\$11,000.00	\$14,640.00
	18033	Biocontrol release	Goodna	2	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
	10057		Die a Maximut i	Division	620 C1 C 02	¢c 000 00	626 646 00
	18057	Gully planting and revegetation	Pine Mountain	10	\$20,616.00	\$6,000.00	\$26,616.00
	30	Sub-totals			\$222,778.45	\$224,828.78	\$456,692.99
₽z	18036	Remnant Vegetation Rehabilitation	Pine	10			
WITHD RAWN			Mountain		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
2 X	18035	Remnant Vegetation Rehabilitation	Pine	10	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00

Application Status	App. No.	Project Name	Project Suburb	Div. Council Area	In-kind contribution	Requested Amount	Total Project Cost
			Mountain	Aicu			
	18034	Remnant Vegetation Rehabilitation	Pine	10	¢c 000 00	¢c 000 00	¢12,000,00
	18050	Leucaena Eradication	Mountain Calvert		\$6,000.00 \$18,360.00	\$6,000.00 \$455.00	\$12,000.00 \$18,815.00
	4	Totals			\$259,138.45	\$248,828.78	\$511,507.99

#### ATTACHMENT B – ASSESSMENT SCORE SHEET TEMPLATE (USED FOR ROUND 1 – NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM 2018/2019 FY)

PART A – Strategic Values of Project – Desktop Assessment completed by Program Officer												
Application No:												
Criteria											Score	
1. Level of On-going Protection												
1.1 Landholder Partnership Program Type	NCA	4	BCA KCA	3	WCA	2	Historical partnerships – PA, VRA etc.	1	Nil	0	/4	
2. Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 Alignment												
2.1 Ipswich Habitat Network Status (Refer NCS map P 13 & 14	Core Habitat Area	8	Strategic Remnant	6	Urban Node	4	Not mapped in NCS, but adjacent to area identified as high, medium, low protection level	2	No connectivity	0	/8	
2.2 Corridor Status (Refer NCS map P 13 & 14)	Regional Cross-border Terrestrial Corridor	8	Priority Local Corridor	6	Corridor	4	Urban Corridor	2	Not within a mapped corridor	0	/8	
2.3 Waterway or Wetland presence (Waterway – NCS P13 & 14; Wetlands Map 7 P50 NCS Background Report)	Contains or is immediately adjacent to a waterway or wetland	3	Does not contain or isn't immediately adjacent to a waterway or wetland	0							/3	
2.4 Iconic species habitat (NCS P9) (Advice from Biodiversity Planning Officer)	YES	2	NO	0							/2	
3. Koala Conservation and Habitat Management Plan Alignment												
3.1 Koala Habitat Management Status (Figure 13 P36.)	Core Habitat Area	4	Priority Rehabilitation Area	3	Urban Consolidation Area	2	Impact Mitigation Area	1	Nil	0	/4	
4. Franklin Vale Initiative Alignment												
4.1 Contained within Franklin Vale Initiative Area	YES	3	NO	0							/3	
5. State & Commonwealth Legislation Alig	gnment											
5.1 EVNT recorded sighting within 1km of project site	YES	3	NO	0							/3	
(NCA 1992)												
5.2 Regional Ecosystem Status (under VMA 1999)	Endangered dominant regional ecosystem	5	Endangered sub dominant, of concern dominant regional ecosystems	4	Of concern sub dominant	3	Other regional ecosystem	2	No Regional Ecosystem status	0	/5	
5.3 Threatened Ecological Community Status	Critically Endangered	5	Endangered	4	Vulnerable	3	NA	NA	No status	0	/5	
(EPBC Act 1999)												
SUBTOTAL											/45	

Name of Assessor:

\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_

#### ATTACHMENT B – ASSESSMENT SCORE SHEET TEMPLATE (USED FOR ROUND 1 – NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM 2018/2019 FY)

PART B – On-ground Values of Project – Panel Assessment											
Application No:											
6. Value for Money & Landholder Commitment											
6.1 Landholder contribution	Landholder contributes greater than 50% to the project cost	5	Landholder contributes 50% to the project costs	3					/5		
6.2 Landholder commitment to delivery (refer to Specific Outcomes, Project Timeline/Action Plan in the application form and additional information in H Drive)	Has it been demonstrated that the project can be completed by end of financial year? Hint: • is the project practical? • does the application have a detailed action plan - what they will doing, when and for how long e.g. a weed control and revegetation project should show the time of year they will be controlling the weeds and what species that will be controlled first										
6.3 Landholder commitment to maintenance (refer to Future Plans, Maintenance and Follow-up Work of application plan)	How well has it been demonstrated that the project will be maintained once completed? Hint: • Projects are generally long-term as a minimum, as a minimum more than 1 year maintenance e is required for any revegetation projects • Has the applicant described any monitoring that will occur (photo monitoring at different times of year etc.)										
6.4 Cost effectiveness (Refer to Project Budget and funding required)	Hint:  Does the project application include a budget breakdown and total budget cost?  Is the applicant contributing at least 50% in-kind (either their own time and their own money) Is there more than one quote (more than one quote will help in determining value for money for that particular activity) How well does the project demonstrate effective use of funds across all budget line items? (E.g.is each line item necessary?)								/10		
7. Improvements to Nature Conservation	Values Nature Conservation Value Improver	nents									
7.1 Project demonstrates: improvements to nature conservation values within the applicants land	YES	5	NO	0					/5		
7.2 Project demonstrates: improvements to nature conservation values in the wider community (Refer to How will the success benefit nature conservation on your land and the wider community of application form)	YES	5	NO	0					/5		
8. Methodology Alignment											
8.1 Project Practicality (Refer to List of Actions to Achieve Task, How will you manage risks that may affect the success of your project and the Budget table also)       How practical are the actions being proposed? Actions demonstrate good environmental practice, such as: • Focusing from areas of least impact to greatest impact; • Uses fauna friendly design; • Suitable plant species and technique; • Suitable plant species and technique								/10			
SUBTOTAL									AL /55		
OVERALL SCORE											

Name of Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

# Nature Conservation Grants Round 2

Applicant Guidelines



#### The Nature Conservation Grants Program – Overview

The Nature Conservation Grants Program (NCG) will provide up to \$71,456.00 from Ipswich City Council's (Council) remaining NCG budget for the 2018-2019 Financial Year. The remaining budget will go toward assisting landholders who have an existing Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) or historical conservation partnership agreement with Council undertake on-ground activities to rehabilitate degraded landscapes, protect and improve habitat and biodiversity and improve the climate resilience of Ipswich's natural environment.

#### How much can I apply for?

Applicants in this round may seek funding for grants up to \$6,000 (excluding GST).

A proposed project/activity may be partly funded.

#### When can I apply for the grant?

Applications are open from Saturday 1 September, 2018 and will close midnight 30 September, 2018. Proposals must start from December 2018 when funds are distributed to successful applicants. Successful applicants will have 12 months to acquit the project in full with all reporting requirements due within two weeks of project completion.

## How is the grant paid?

All successful applicants will receive a letter with the approved funding from Council subject to the terms and conditions that the applicant signs and returns to Council. Council, then deposits the grant amount into the nominated bank account. Funding is expected to be available to successful applicants for Round 2 in December, 2018.

#### Guidelines for applicants

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the online Smartygrants Database before beginning the application process.

All applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants for assessment by

Council Officers. The SmartyGrants online database can be accessed at <u>www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/landholderpartnerships</u>.

Only under exceptional circumstances, may a landholder submit their application by hand. Handwritten submissions must be arranged and agreed to by the Program Officer of Sport, Recreation and Natural Resources Branch (SRNR) prior to the application close date. All handwritten submissions will be submitted electronically via the online SmartyGrants database by a Council Officer of SRNR word for word. The original hand-written application will be uploaded as an attaching document via the online SmartyGrants database. Any printed photos and other relevant documents received, will be scanned and uploaded into the online application form as is.

Applicants will have a minimum of four (4) weeks to submit their application. It is expected that if landholders are interested in applying for a grant, that research has been conducted on the type of project they wish to carry out, including research into best environmental practice for the particular activity prior to submitting an application. In addition, it is expected that all relevant development approval advice and/or approvals are obtained and documentation is ready to submit with their application.

No extensions will be given to an applicant.

Throughout the application period, landholders have an opportunity to contact Program Officers to ask questions, clarify their project eligibility and conduct any pre-lodgement site visits.

In the last two weeks of the application period, at least one information session will be organized as an opportunity for landholders to come in and ask final questions before submitting their application. Representatives from the SRNR will organise and run the information session(s).

#### **Eligible Applicants**

To be eligible for funding under the Nature Conservation Grants Program, landholders must:

- ✓ have a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) which includes: Bushland Conservation Agreement (BCA), Nature Conservation Agreement (NCA), Koala Conservation Agreement (KCA) or Waterway Conservation Agreement (WCA) OR
- ✓ have an historical conservation agreement including a Partnering Agreement (PA), Vegetation Retention Agreement (VRA), Rural Conservation Agreement (RCA) or Nature Corridors Conservation Agreement (NCC)

Two or more eligible landholders can work in partnership on a single project to undertake on-ground activities across two or more properties. Partnership applications must be of a joint nature – where one applicant submits the application with a letter of commitment from the second landholder.

A representative acting on behalf of an eligible applicant may submit an application with a letter of approval from the eligible applicant.

## Eligible Projects/Activities

Funding provided under the Nature Conservation Grants Program will be for onground projects which have an environmental benefit. Projects which have an environmental benefit will be those that:

- rehabilitate natural landscapes by enhancing the condition and quality of ecologically significant areas (waterways, wetlands, revegetation areas or remnant vegetation) including projects that:
  - o control invasive plants
  - o control pest animals
  - install fauna-friendly fencing to restrict stock access to ecologically significant areas. The fence must be maintained
  - install off-stream watering points to restrict stock access to ecologically significant areas
  - o modify existing fencing to upgrade it to be more wildlife friendly
  - o increase the area and connectivity of native vegetation by planting native
tubestock plant species (revegetation) and allowing plants to naturally grow (regeneration)

- o use fire for ecological purposes
- rehabilitate degraded landscapes through projects that:
  - o control erosion and minimises sediment runoff
  - o protect and enhance groundcover

## Note:

Other projects/activities may be considered eligible after consultation with your Program Officer. Applicants should consider discussing proposed projects with their Program Officer prior to submission. A site visit may be arranged to discuss these activities with the landholder.

Your own labour should be used for all activities where possible.

## **Ineligible Applicants**

- a landholders who does not have an existing VCA, historical conservation or partnering agreement are not eligible to apply for a grant
- · an applicant who has not satisfactorily acquitted a previous NCG grant
- an applicant who has been successful to receive a grant from Round 1 of the Nature Conservation Grants Program cannot apply for funding in Round 2

## Ineligible Projects / Activities

Projects and activities that will not be considered for funding include:

- an application requesting the landholder's labour for a project be funded
- projects that do not have a primary aim of improving environmental values of an area (e.g. landscaping and planting of ornamental plants)
- construction of buildings, bridges, boardwalks, pathways or roads
- activities that are a planning approval requirement
- activities that contravene any local, state or commonwealth legislation or policy
- weed management activities in production or domestic areas (e.g. within an

orchard, pastures, crops, gardens, lawns, around dwellings are the responsibility of the landholder (e.g. requirements to provide an enclosure for animals, property rates payments, approval fees, upgrades, maintenance or repairs to property infrastructure such as dams, weirs, drains, fences, driveways, roads, boardwalks and formal paths, control of pest plant species that landholders are legally required to report to an appropriate authorised officer)

Refer to **Appendix 1**. for an example of a past project that has been approved for funding.

# What expenses are eligible and ineligible?

The table below provides a list of eligible and ineligible expenses.

Eligible expenses (including but not limited to)	Ineligible expenses (including but not limited to)		
<ul> <li>Examples of eligible expenses includes:</li> <li> <ul> <li>purchase and installation of irrigation systems associated with off-stream watering points</li> <li>purchase of chemicals, native tubestock plants, mulch and tree guards</li> <li>purchase and installation of fencing material</li> <li>purchase of catering for volunteers participating in working bees</li> <li>contractor fees</li> <li>hire of specialised equipment used to complete the project including mulcher and post hole digger</li> </ul> </li></ul>	<ul> <li>Examples of ineligible expenses include:</li> <li>your own labour</li> <li>the purchase, servicing and/or associated costs of equipment (e.g. fuel, oil etc)</li> <li>works or purchases that have already been undertaken prior to submitting an application</li> <li>contractor fees for the purposes of planting tubestock granted from another council incentive program (e.g. Land for Wildlife)</li> <li>insurances (e.g. public liability, volunteer)</li> <li>entertainment, event or celebration expenses</li> <li>alcohol</li> <li>gifts/sponsorship/membership fees</li> <li>materials associated with the construction of a formal pathway,</li> </ul>		
	bridge or boardwalk		

# **Submitting your Application**

## **Required Information**

All applicants must:

- ✓ If applicable, provide evidence of permission from eligible landholder(s) to undertake the proposed activity on the site
- ✓ If applicable provide at least one quote (refer to Appendix 2. What to include in a quote). Failure to provide at least one quote where applicable may affect the success of the application. Quotes can be in written form (email quotes are acceptable)

## Please consider:

Whilst not required, obtaining more than one quote can be beneficial to determine value for money.

For more information on what should be included in a quote, please refer to **Attachment 2.** of these guidelines.

- ✓ provide a detailed map of the project area and before photographs of the project site location and the project activities location
- ✓ answer all questions on the online Smartygrants application form
- ✓ clearly demonstrate how the project outcomes will be achieved
- clearly demonstrate the project's environmental benefits beyond their property boundary
- ensure at least a 50 per cent (50%) co-contribution to the project is evident in the application and budget table

**Please note:** Co-contribution is your contribution to the project. This can either be your own financial or labour contribution. The current wage rate for volunteers in Queensland is \$40.35. Your labour can be charged at this rate. (*https://volunteeringqld.org.au/volunteers*)

 clearly demonstrate management and maintenance of the project throughout the acquittal

- ✓ clearly demonstrate future plans, maintenance and follow up work that will occur after the acquittal period is complete
- ✓ ensure all permits and other approvals relating to the application are obtained prior to submitting your application. Evidence of planning approvals must be provided with your application
- ✓ satisfactorily met all acquittal conditions of the previous financial year's Nature Conservation Grant

## Remember:

When determining value for money, among other information such as submitting two quotes in your application, the assessment panel will look at how much 'in-kind' or co-contribution that you will be providing to the overall project cost.

Applications should provide enough information to allow someone with no prior knowledge of the project to carry out an assessment and provide a score.

Applicants seeking funding for significant capital works including contour banks, diversion banks, and levees are required to seek professional technical advice and development approval advice prior to submitting the application. This advice and any approvals required must be provided with the application.

The approval of this type of works does not guarantee that funding from the Nature Conservation Grants Program will be offered to the applicant.

Please call Ipswich City Council for more information.

## How will projects be assessed?

All applications will be assessed in two parts, Part A focusses on the strategic alignment of the project / activity. Part A is a desktop assessment which will be completed by Council Officers of the Sport, Recreation and Natural Resources Branch. Part B criteria, assesses the on-ground value of the project. Part B is assessed by an Assessment Panel, made up of at least three (3) Council Officers with expertise in natural area management or similar.

Part A will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

Strategic alignment of the project / activity (45% weighting)

- Does the proposed project / activity align with the NCG strategic goals and focus area(s) for the NCG for the financial year?
- What conservation agreement level does the applicant belong to?
- Does the proposed project / activity align with the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015
- Does the location of the proposed project / activity have iconic species habitat
- Does the location of the proposed project / activity align with the Koala Conservation and Habitat Management Plan
- Does the proposed project / activity align with State and Commonwealth legislation (i.e. the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)

Part B will be assessed against the following assessment criteria: <u>On-ground values of the project (55%)</u>

- Has the applicant contributed at least 50% or more to the total project cost?
- Does the proposed project / activity demonstrate value for money?
- Has the applicant demonstrated in the application that the proposed project / activity can be completed within 12 months?
- Has the applicant demonstrated in the application that the proposed project / activity will be maintained after the grant acquittal timeline?
- Does the proposed project / activity demonstrate improvements to nature conservation values within the project area and in the wider community?
- How practical is the proposed project / activity?
- Do the actions demonstrate best practice environmental management methodology?

Applications are assessed against a weighted assessment matrix and will be assessed and scored within four (4) weeks, from the following business day once applications have closed for submissions.

# Please note:

Where relevant, an applicant's past performance, including if there are any outstanding acquittal reports from the previous financial year, will be taken into

### consideration.

### Where can I find more information to help me with my application?

There are a range of websites available which may provide useful reference material for applicants during the application stage:

- Pest Plants (weeds) <u>https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases</u>
- 2. Pest Animals <u>https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/pest-animals</u>.
- Threatened species <u>http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/threatened-species/index.html</u>.
- 4. WetlandInfo https://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/.
- Fire and Biodiversity information Fire and Biodiversity Consortium of Southeast Queensland <u>www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au</u> (individual property planning kits, ecological guidelines and resources)
  - The Land for Wildlife Queensland Note Series 2016, introduce key terms and concepts relevant managing a property for wildlife conservation in mind. You will also find a number of regional ecosystem fact sheets. Visit <u>https://www.lfwseq.org.au/notes/</u> to view all notes
  - South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework. The Guideline can be accessed at <u>http://hlw.org.au/u/lib/cms/seqerf\_guidelines\_web.pdf</u>, the manual can be accessed at http://hlw.org.au/u/lib/cms/seqerf\_manual\_web.pdf

Ipswich City Council Reference Material

- 2. Landholder Partnerships Program http://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/landholderpartnerships
- Koala Conservation (Koala Conservation and Habitat Management Plan, fact sheets etc.) -

https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about\_ipswich/environment/wildlife/koalaconservation.

- 4. Riparian Corridor Revegetation -<u>https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about\_ipswich/environment/conservation/ripari</u> <u>an\_corridor\_revegetation</u>.
- Ipswich Native Plant Guides -<u>https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about\_ipswich/environment/conservation/nativ</u> <u>e\_plants</u>.
- Catchments and Waterways (including Riparian Corridor Revegetation Guidelines and Waterway and Channel Guidelines, catchment studies etc.) -<u>https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about\_ipswich/environment/waterways</u>
- Nature Conservation Strategy and Background Report -<u>https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about\_council/corporate\_publications/nature\_conservation\_strategy</u>.

# Do you have any other questions?

Please contact your Program Officer by telephone on (07) 3810 666 or by email at <u>Partnerships@ipswich.qld.gov.au</u> for further clarification of these guidelines or your project. Please note, the Program Officer will be able to provide you with the best advice based on the information provided to them. All decisions to a grant application will be made based on the information contained in that application.

Appendix 1. An example of a past project that has been approved for funding

## Chris and AI of Pine Mountain

#### About their Property

Chris and Al moved into their 23 ha Pine Mountain property in 2016. The property has several isolated patches of Dry Vine Forest (12.11.13) classified as 'of concern' under Queensland legislation.

Chris and Al have a high level conservation agreement as Bushland Conservation Agreement partners and were successful in receiving a grant application for their project 'Central Vine Forest Restoration' for the 2017-2018 Financial Year. They sought funding for weed management, collecting and propagating seed and planting within one of their vine scrub patches (1 ha size).

#### How much did they request from Council?

Chris and Al were approved for the full \$6,000 funding from Council, with their total project costs estimated at \$18,514.50 with the following budget (next page).

## Why were they accepted for a grant?

Chris and Al demonstrated in their application that they were providing a minimum of 50% co-contribution to the project by using their own labour toward the project. They purchased the herbicide, mulch, potting mix, tubestock plants and fertilizer themselves. They contributed more than double the amount they were requesting from Council, demonstrating value for money. Chris and Al supported their application by demonstrating that their project met the Nature Conservation Strategy by referring to particular sections of the Strategy. They submitted a hand written quote as well as a follow up email from the contractor who had specialized skills and experience in revegetation and restoration work. The quote included components listed in **Attachment 2**. Chris and Al also submitted jpeg images of all other purchases they were paying themselves (co-contribution to the project).

Chris and Al also provided detailed information on how they will monitor and track their project by stating that they will keep a journal of recorded hours, keeping their receipts of purchases, keeping a record of propagated species, planted species and planting success and by setting up several photo monitoring points at their project site. All of this information will be provided to Council when they acquit their grant through the Smartygrants webpage.

Chris and Al are in a key strategic area under the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 of Pine Mountain and highlighted the alignment to the strategy in their application form. Some key actions that demonstrated good environmental practice including engaging a contractor who was a specialist in the field of restoration ecology. In addition, their application also stated that seed from their property would be used for propagation and eventually revegetation.

# Chris and Al's Budget Table

How much are you putting into the project? In-kind MUST be 50% of the total project cost. If you are not providing 50% in-kind contribution, the application is considered ineligible.		How much are you spending on the project, this column is what you are requesting from Council.		
In-kind Contributions (list all contributions)	In-kind Amount (total dollar amount)	Expenditure (List all project items)	Expenditure (total dollar amount)	Attachment
		Contractor labour costs for weeding and planting	\$6,000.00	Attached quote
Landholder labour for weeding, planting and propagation - 360 hrs @\$30/hr	\$10,800.00			
Herbicide purchase – 2 x 20L glyphosate \$210/L	\$420.00			
Potting Mix, fertilizer – 150L potting mix @ \$0.36/L, 300 forestry tube @ \$17.50 p/100	\$106.50			
Mulch - 40m3 forest mulch @ \$29.70/m3	\$1,188.00			
Budget Totals				
Total in-kind costs (how much I am contributing to the project?	\$12,514.50	Total Expenditure Amount (Requested amount of funding from council)	\$6,000.00	

Total Project Cost: \$18,514.50

# Hint:

Please provide a new line for each expense/co-contribution item. You <u>must</u> contribute at least 50% of the total project cost. Your application will not be accepted if 50% of co-contribution is not demonstrated in your budget table.

#### Appendix 2. What to include in a quote

A thorough, well-written quote demonstrates the businesses professionalism, attracts new customers, meets your consumer obligations and protects you from legal and financial risks.

#### A good quote will include the following components:

#### **Business details**

Providing an Australian Business Name (ABN) and contact information is a legal requirement.

#### **Total cost**

Details the specifics of the job and outlines what the costs cover, also making notes of what is not covered. For example, 'cost covers labour of planting but does not include delivery of plants'. **Breakdown of costs** 

Describes the job proposal, detailing the elements involved, and itemise costs for labour and materials.

#### Variations

Explains how different scenarios or variations will affect the cost. For example, 'This quote covers the cutting and poisoning of woody weeds, mulching is an additional 15%'. **Revisions** 

Explains that if the job changes, the quote can be revised once work has begun.

#### Schedule for work

Indicates when they will start the job and how long it will take. When you use the contractor, they will be contractually obliged to finish it in this time so make sure it is reasonable. If your project schedule is based on variables, such as good weather, make sure you request that the contractor have this in the quote.

Payment terms and conditions

Indicates when they require payments and for how much. For example, periodical payments, half up front and half on completion. It is advised that you pay an unfamiliar contractor at the end of the job or periodically and have this detailed on the quotation.

#### Quote expiry date

Clearly notes the date the quote needs to be accepted by and often has an expiry date. Remember that the NCG assessment period can be up to two months. Make sure that the quotation has an expiry date of at least 6 months from the date of the quote to cover at least the application submission period and the assessment period.

#### Customer acceptance signature

Include a 'sign here' statement to fix the agreement, such as 'I, [name], accept the above terms and conditions. Signed \_\_\_\_\_. Date \_\_\_.'

#### **Payment methods**

Indicates the contractors preferred method of payment. Please note that the NCG cannot make a direct payment to the contractor. You must pay the contractor and ensure you keep all the receipts, invoices etc. to acquit the grant successfully.

Reference: Business Queensland http://www.business.qld.gov.au/

