

VML:MB
Vicki Lukritz
3810 6221

2 November 2017

Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the **CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** will 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 **Wednesday, 8 November 2017**.

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

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 **Wednesday,**

8 November 2017

Council Chambers

Item No.	Item Title	Officer
1	Outcomes of the 2017–2018 Nature Conservation Grant Program	PO(NE)
2	Support for Study Into Measuring Local Urban Climatic Conditions Through Community Involvement	PO(SCP)
3	Review of the Natural Area Estate Pest Animal Management Program	PO(Biod)
4	Redbank Plains Fossil Site – Jones Road Reserve – Divisions 2 and 9	PO(Biod)
5	Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program	PO
6	Sustainability Advisory Group October 2017 Minutes	EARO
7	Status of New Native Title Claim – Ipswich City Area	EA
8	Environmental Issues – November 2017	CM

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2017(02)

8 NOVEMBER 2017

AGENDA

1. OUTCOMES OF THE 2017-2018 NATURE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

With reference to a report by the Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 17 October 2017 concerning the outcomes of the Nature Conservation Grant Program for the 2017-2018 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and contents noted.

Report

2. SUPPORT FOR STUDY INTO MEASURING LOCAL URBAN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

With reference to a report by the Project Officer (Strategic Conservation Planning) dated 19 October 2017 concerning Council's in-principle support to participate in a nation-wide study measuring local urban climatic conditions through community involvement.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council support the University of New South Wales study titled *Scientists Working with Communities to Improve Urban Microclimate*.
- B. That Council promote the Study through Council's media channels.
- C. That an update on the results from the study be presented at a future meeting of the Conservation and Environment Committee.

Report

3. REVIEW OF THE NATURAL AREA ESTATE PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

With reference to a report by the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) dated 17 October 2017 concerning the review of the Pest Management Program for the Natural Area Estate.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report

4. REDBANK PLAINS FOSSIL SITE – JONES ROAD RESERVE – DIVISIONS 2 AND 9

With reference to a report by the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) dated 19 October 2017 concerning a request from Queensland Museum Network to undertake fossil research at the Redbank Plains Fossil Site in Jones Road Reserve, Augustine Heights.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council grant permission for the Queensland Museum to access Jones Road Reserve for the purposes of conducting an audit of the Redbank Plains Fossil Collection, as detailed in a letter from the Queensland Museum dated 10 October 2017.
- B. That Council advise the Queensland Museum that the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) will be the point of contact for the Museum for the duration of their study.

Report

5. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

With reference to a report by the Partnerships Officer dated 9 October 2017 concerning the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program be open for applications from 1 February 2018 to 30 April 2018.
- B. That a report be provided to a future meeting of the Conservation and Environment Committee outlining the successful applications under the first round of the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program, with recommendations for the on-going roll-out of the grant program.

Report

6. SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES

With reference to a report by the Executive Support and Research Officer dated 20 October 2017 attaching the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Group meeting held on 6 October 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report

7. STATUS OF NEW NATIVE TITLE CLAIM - IPSWICH CITY AREA

With reference to a report by the Executive Assistant dated 26 October 2017 concerning the status of the new Native Title Claim on the Ipswich City area.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Clause 16.4 of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (“The Agreement”) Council provide written notice to the parties of their intention to terminate the Agreement.

Report

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES – NOVEMBER 2017

With reference to a report by the Compliance Manager dated 1 November 2017 providing an update in relation to environmental compliance issues that the Health, Security and Regulatory Services Department is dealing with.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report

and any other items as considered necessary.

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

MM:MM

H:\Departmental\Committee Reports\1710MM Nature Conservation Grants 2017 2018.doc

17 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORTS RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PROGRAM OFFICER (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT)

RE: OUTCOMES OF THE 2017-2018 NATURE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Program Officer (Natural Environment) dated 17 October 2017 concerning the outcomes of the Nature Conservation Grant Program for the 2017-2018 financial year.

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 on-ground property management actions from small to large-scale projects. In kind contribution from successful applicants highlights the level of commitment that land owners have to the ongoing management of their project sites.

The annual Nature Conservation Grants are offered to all levels of Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) landholders, being: the Nature Conservation, Bushland Conservation, Waterways Conservation and Koala 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.

The Nature Conservation Grant Program provides measurable on ground outcomes which further contribute to the overall sustainability of Ipswich’s environment.

NATURE CONSERVATION GRANTS OUTCOMES 2017-2018:

This year, thirty (30) applications were received, with twenty-nine (29) approved for funding. All projects contributed to the conservation and improvement of the natural environment within Ipswich, with one application not having a VCA over the property, therefore not eligible. Attachment A outlines the projects by Division in which the project will be carried out as well as the approved funding amount.

Funding was delivered within the allocated budget under Enviroplan.

Nature Conservation Grant Program (2017-2018 Financial Year)	29 grants approved \$114,684.39 approved funding \$193, 302.59 landholder contribution to the project (in-kind) \$307,986.98 total on-ground expenditure
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Projects approved for the 2017-2018 Financial Year include:

- Wetland and riparian restoration
- Dry Vine Rainforest restoration
- Propagation of endemic species to be used within project area
- Weed management
- Stock exclusion fencing to waterways
- Installation of nest boxes
- Fire management

The following table outlines the overall outcomes of the projects for this round of grant funding.

Table 1. 2017-2018 Project Outcomes

Activity	Measurement
Mulching	0.34ha
Native revegetation	38.3ha
Weed control and maintenance	73.4ha
Stock exclusion fencing	10.3ha
Erosion control measures installed	20.8ha
Flora & Fauna monitoring conducted	11.3ha
Confirmed threatened species recorded within 1ha of project area	13 species

BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY:


Individual projects provide a number of benefits to the community. The control and removal of woody weeds reduces the risk of fire entering neighbouring properties, including council neighbouring conservation estates as well as enhancing the natural regeneration of native plant species. Waterway restoration and revegetation works, improves and increases riparian vegetation and broader water quality outcomes for waterway recreation users, conservation and aesthetic purposes.

CONCLUSION:

The Nature Conservation Grant Program provides a high level support mechanism for landholders participating in sustainable land uses. The program provides council with measureable conservation outcomes, indicators for ecosystem improvements and an ongoing commitment to conservation.

The ongoing partnerships between landholders and council, through the Nature Conservation Grant Program, continues to attract high value projects and participants.

ATTACHMENTS:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Proposed Nature Conservation Grant projects	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report be received and contents noted.

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

ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)

Attachment 1 – Nature Conservation Grants (2017-2018 Financial Year) Proposed Projects

Project Name	Short description of project	Approved Funding Amount	Division
<i>Happy Jack Gully and adjoining Rainforest - improving native vegetation and habitat</i>	Weed management and restoration works.	\$3,065.00	2
<i>Ongoing Revegetation of Happy Jack Gully</i>	Weed control, revegetation with 600 native plants and maintenance.	\$2,328	2
<i>Bundamba Creek Restoration</i>	Weed management, bank stabilisation and revegetation along Bundamba Creek.	\$5,085.00	4
<i>Creek Riparian Rehabilitation</i>	Erosion control, weed management and riparian rehabilitation.	\$6,000.00	4
<i>Paddock to Bushland & Creekbank restoration</i>	Control and maintenance of weeds along Bundamba Creek, revegetating with native species and mulching to suppress weeds.	\$5,063.50	4
<i>Restoration of Upper & Mid Banks to Gully</i>	Removal of weed trees and control vine weeds to minimise encroachment to the Brisbane River.	\$2,638.74	5
<i>Upper Hillside Lantana Clearing</i>	Lantana control, reduction in fuel load, natural regeneration and maintenance.	\$3,500.00	5
<i>Operation environmental weed removal</i>	Control and maintenance of environmental weeds and progressive revegetation along the Bremer River.	\$6,000.00	5
<i>The Rainforest Project</i>	Weed control and maintenance, revegetation with native plants and a timelapse recording to monitor progress of project area.	\$6,000.00	5
<i>Woods End Creek Sandpaper Fig Project</i>	Weed management, propagation of endemic species and maintenance along the Bremer River.	\$2,271.50	7
<i>Bush regeneration of riparian zone</i>	Weed control, revegetation with native species along riparian zone, installation of nest boxes, organise a community meeting and maintenance.	\$2,760.00	7
<i>Sandy Creek Tributary Erosion Control</i>	Stabilisation and revegetation works along Sandy Creek.	\$5,940.00	8
<i>Central Vine Forest Restoration</i>	Weed management, propagation of endemic species, revegetation and ongoing maintenance of Dry Vine Rainforest.	\$6,000.00	10
<i>Clean and Tidy Riverbank Area</i>	Weed management, revegetation of riparian area and maintenance.	\$2,533.00	10
<i>Pump Project</i>	The installation of a pump for off-stream watering for cattle and long-term waterway health protection of Franklin Vale Creek.	\$5,888.00	10
<i>Establishing alternative water source and tree planting</i>	Assist in the recommissioning of an old bore to be used for off-stream watering for cattle and long-term waterway health protection of Purga Creek. Weed management and revegetation along Purga Creek to support the ongoing protection of koalas within the koala corridor.	\$2,497.05	10
<i>Weed management along Franklyn Vale</i>	Weed management and maintenance along Franklin Vale Creek.	\$5,600.00	10

<i>Creek</i>			
<i>Removal of Panic Weed from Dam</i>	Mechanical removal of invasive grass species in their dam to encourage natural regeneration of native species and reduce the spread of weeds into the Bremer River.	\$1,000.00	10
<i>Waterways Exclusion from livestock</i>	Riparian fencing to restrict livestock, protect and enhance the Brisbane River and weed management and maintenance.	\$6,000.00	10
<i>McAdam's Scrub</i>	Continue with weed management works within Dry Vine Forest remnant area.	\$440.00	10
<i>Leucaena Control</i>	Control <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (Leucaena) and remove off-site to prevent reshooting and fire risk.	\$6,000.00	10
<i>Top Paddock West - Lantana Removal 2017/18</i>	Weed management and maintenance.	\$780.00	10
<i>Lantana Management</i>	Lantana control, reduction of fuel load, natural regeneration and maintenance.	\$2,695.00	10
<i>Watercress Creek</i>	Control and maintain weeds, revegetate with native species and conduct a pest and native fauna survey of the project area.	\$6,000.00	10
<i>Riverbank & Erosion Gully Remediation</i>	Repair riverbank slips and erosion control installation for long-term protection of the Brisbane River. Weed control and maintenance along riparian buffer.	\$3,400.00	10
<i>Lantana and Weed Control 6</i>	Weed control and maintenance.	\$5,500.00	10
<i>Fence and Water point NCG17</i>	Completion of fencing to restrict stock accessing Western Creek.	\$6,000.00	10
<i>Restoration of waterway supporting sandy creek (part 4)</i>	Weed control and maintenance along Sandy Creek.	\$3,700.00	10
Total		\$114,684.39	

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

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19 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORT, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PROJECT OFFICER (STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING)

RE: SUPPORT FOR STUDY INTO MEASURING LOCAL URBAN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Project Officer (Strategic Conservation Planning) dated 19 October 2017 concerning Council's in-principle support to participate in a nation-wide study measuring local urban climatic conditions through community involvement.

BACKGROUND:

Council was recently approached by the University of New South Wales to participate in a nation-wide study to measure urban heat island, overheating and local climate change through data collection and participation of the local community – refer Attachment A. Referred to as *Scientists Working with Communities to Improve Urban Microclimate*, Ipswich has been selected due to the alignment of the study to initiatives contained within its *Sustainability Strategy*.

In brief the study involves engaging 100 residents in outdoor microclimate measurements (i.e. temperature and humidity, during the summer of 2018-2019). The university has developed protocols for selecting locations within areas, recruiting citizens and undertaking measurements. Residents will be supplied with instrumentation and training in order to:

- Perform scientific measurements
- Use a mobile app for the project
- Understand matters that influence microclimate, and
- Estimate the potential for mitigating impacts

Council has been asked to:

- Promote participation via Council’s channels such as its website
- Provide input on urban areas to be included in the study
- Support with determining a suitable location and installation for a weather station, and
- Collaboration during delivery of the study.

BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS:

The benefits to Council in participating in the study include:

- Increased community knowledge about impacts of local micro-climate and the contribution made by various design features and materials;
- Raise awareness of social, economic and environmental consequences of climate change;
- Empowering and motivating residents to implement actions to improve the micro-climate in their home and/or neighbourhood;
- Recognition of Council as leading the way in implementing innovative techniques that address climate change risks; and
- Recognition of Council’s involvement through nationwide media coverage of the study.


CONSULTATION:

An overview of the study was presented by the Acting Sport, Recreation and Natural Resources Manager at Council’s Sustainability Advisory Group meeting held on 6 October 2017. Recognising the alignment with Council’s *Sustainability Strategy*, the group indicated value in supporting a study that both builds community awareness while also increasing Council’s local data for decision making.

CONCLUSION:

A relatively low investment by Council in the university study will contribute to delivery of key strategic sustainability initiatives. The study aligns strongly with the objective to work together with the community, industry and other levels of government as identified in Council’s Sustainability Strategy.

ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Letter of Enquiry to Participate in Study	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That Council support the University of New South Wales study titled *Scientists Working with Communities to Improve Urban Microclimate*.
- B. That Council promote the Study through Council's media channels.
- C. That an update on the results from the study be presented at a future meeting of the Conservation and Environment Committee.

Darryl Porche

PROJECT OFFICER (STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING)

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)



Sustainable Building
Innovation Laboratory



To the attention of the Sustainability Manager
Ipswich City Council

05/10/2017

Re: Citizen Science project- Scientists working with Communities to improve urban microclimate

Dear Ipswich City Council,

We would like to invite Ipswich City Council to participate in the project “Scientists Working with Communities to Improve Urban Microclimate”. This project, administered by RMIT University in collaboration with University of New South Wales, is one of the successful grants announced by the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Arthur Sinodinos to mobilise a league of enthusiastic citizen scientists to assist Australia’s leading universities and scientific organisations with their research.

Project Background and Aim: The number of extremely hot days is predicted to increase significantly over the next few decades in all Australian cities with a huge impact on public health, mortality rates, energy demand, and economy. With the help of citizens, this project will measure urban heat island, overheating, and local climate change in selected Australian Councils, providing the data required for citizens to understand, mitigate and adapt to extreme heat. Project results may assist policy makers in predicting future health and energy needs and planning the urban built environment and open space. Importantly, through data collection and participation, citizens will be empowered to respond to extreme heat through an understanding of influential factors.

A number of councils in Victoria and New South Wales have already committed to participating in this project.

Why you are selected: Ipswich has been selected to be included in this study as environmental sustainability is one of your key strategic objectives. We greatly appreciate Ipswich Council’s initiatives towards meeting the climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, and strong focus on community engagement activities to alleviate climate change impacts.

What is involved in your participation: Working closely with the sustainability department of your council, we aim to engage 100 citizens to perform outdoor microclimate measurements during selected periods in the summer months (December 2018-February 2019). Please note that this project will have nationwide media coverage. We have developed detailed protocols for selecting the measurement locations, recruiting the citizens, delivering and managing the equipment and performing the measurements. We will provide necessary training and supply required instrumentation for the citizens,

enabling them to: (1) perform scientific measurements, (2) use the mobile app specifically designed for this project, (3) understand the parameters influencing the microclimate of selected locations and (4) estimate the potential for major mitigation strategies.

Benefits to the Council: Through participating in this project, the Ipswich City Council will be seen as a leading organisation with a proactive and precautionary management approach to address the risks associated with climate change. Ipswich citizens will gain knowledge about the various design features and materials that impact the local microclimate of their neighbourhood. Awareness of the social, economic and environmental consequences of climate change will also be raised. Better informed citizens can more effectively respond to Council climate change mitigation policies as well as State and Federal Government legislation. Ultimately, we hope that we can empower and motivate a number of citizens to implement appropriate mitigation techniques to improve the microclimate in their home and/or neighbourhood.

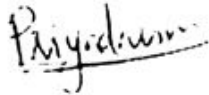
We would greatly appreciate the participation of the Ipswich City Council in this project. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries about the project and your involvement.

Could you please let us know your interest in participating this project by 24th October 2017?

Looking forward to your earliest reply

Yours sincerely

Associate Professor Priya Rajagopalan
RMIT University



Professor Mat Santamouris
University of New South Wales

On behalf of the project team



Please address correspondence to:
Riccardo Paolini
The University of New South Wales, UNSW Built Environment
Red Centre - West Wing, UNSW Sydney NSW 2052
r.paolini@unsw.edu.au, T: +61 (02) 9385 0730, M: +61 40 103 9747

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

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1711TS Review of the Natural Area Estate Pest Animal Management Program CR.docx

17 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORTS RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

RE: REVIEW OF THE NATURAL AREA ESTATE PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) dated 17 October 2017 concerning the review of the Pest Management Program for the Natural Area Estate.

BACKGROUND:

In 2010, the Ipswich City Council Pest Management Plan 2010-2014 was developed to guide pest management on publically owned land. This document focussed on the requirements for Council as a land owner / manager as opposed to compliance requirements managed by the Health, Security and Regulatory Services Department which deals with the regulatory requirements under the relevant legislation – now the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

The Pest Management Plan has now been reviewed to provide up-to-date guiding documentation and specific actions that align with Council's Nature Conservation Strategy and Conservation Works Program (CWP).

CONSERVATION WORKS PROGRAM:

As of July 2016, operational program works within the Natural Area Estate (NAE) are undertaken through the Conservation Works Program (CWP). The CWP aims to reduce threats and improve conservation and habitat values with the NAE, and to enhance habitat for native fauna including Ipswich's iconic species.

2017 PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FRAMEWORK:

The primary purpose of this review is to create a framework document to guide the Pest Animal Management Program in its strategic direction and to provide tools to deliver clear and prioritised pest management outcomes for the Natural Area Estate.

VISION AND AIM:

“To ensure native species can persist within Council’s Natural Area Estate and are not compromised by the impacts of pest animals; including through direct predation, competition or habitat destruction”.

The aim of the Pest Management Framework is:

“To manage the impacts of pest animals in locations where they are a threat to native flora or fauna of high conservation value.”

OBJECTIVES:

To meet the vision and aim, the program has the following objectives:

- To prioritise and manage areas highlighted in the Conservation Works Program, where pest animals are likely to impact native species of high conservation value
- Use best available knowledge of native species to determine what pest animal species are likely to be key threats within an area
- To enhance Council’s knowledge of pest animal abundance, distribution and impact through improved and more coordinated data collection and mapping
- To eradicate pest animal species with small populations, limited distribution or invasive potential, wherever possible, and contain existing populations where eradication is not feasible
- To ensure Council meets its pest animal management responsibilities as a land owner under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- To manage pest animal numbers in high visitor recreation areas to avoid interaction between pest animals and members of the public.

Further detail on the updated Pest Animal Management Program and updated framework is contained within Attachment A.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Pest Animal Management Program will now operate on a 12 monthly action plan which will be set at the start of the financial year between the Pest Management Officer and the Planning Officer (Biodiversity). Management actions will be prescribed based on:

- Season
- Priority locations under CWP
- Locations of prescribed burns
- Recent data trends
- Legal obligations

- Emergent threats from new pest animals, and
- Community safety.


REVIEW:

Yearly action plans will be conducted for a period of five years. After year 5 a broader review of the program will occur and will align with the review of the CWP.

CONCLUSION:

The 2017 Pest Animal Management Program Framework provides a clear direction for the Pest Management Program by providing tools for spatially explicit identification of actions that align with the CWP and the primary objectives of the Natural Area Estate. This also allows for the quantitative benefits of pest management to be measured more effectively and reported.

ATTACHMENTS:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
2017 Pest Animal Management Program Framework	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Tim Shields
PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

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)

Works, Parks and Recreation

NATURAL AREA ESTATE

PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FRAMEWORK



Priority based pest animal management

Version 1.0

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VISION:

To ensure native species can persist within Council's Natural Area Estate (NAE) and are not compromised by the impacts of pest animals; including through direct predation, competition or habitat destruction.

AIM:

To manage the impacts of pest animals in locations where they are a threat to native flora or fauna of high conservation value.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To prioritise areas highlighted in the Conservation Works Program (CWP), where pest animals are likely to impact native species of high conservation value
- 2) Use best available knowledge of native species to determine what pest animal species are likely to be key threats within an area
- 3) To enhance Council's knowledge of pest animal abundance, distribution and impact through improved and more coordinated data collection and mapping
- 4) To eradicate pest animal species with small populations, limited distribution or invasive potential, wherever possible, and contain existing populations where eradication is not feasible
- 5) To ensure Council meets its pest animal management responsibilities under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- 6) To manage pest animal numbers in high visitor recreation areas to avoid interaction between pest animals and members of the public

CONTEXT:

Pest animal management has been undertaken since the creation of the NAE in 1997. Initial management actions were largely reactive, being driven by requests from the Natural Areas operational crews and the public. In 2010, the Ipswich City Council Pest Management Plan 2010-2014 was developed to formalise city-wide pest management actions, with the primary aim to "Prioritise areas for control under the greatest threat by pest animals". With the NAE having grown to almost 7000 hectares, a more focused program structure was required.

As of July 2016, operational program works within the NAE are undertaken through the CWP. The CWP aims to reduce threats and improve conservation values with the NAE through identification, development and implementation of unique projects, with pest animal management being a key component. The CWP fills in gaps present in the previous Pest Management Plan by allowing spatially explicit identification of biodiversity and conservation values. An assessment can then be undertaken of pest animals that are likely or known to be impacting on an area. Project areas are then defined and actions undertaken to protect native species of high conservation value from the impacts of pest animals, meeting objectives of both the Pest Animal Management Program (PAMP) and CWP.

This document will set the strategic direction for the next 5 years of the PAMP based on direction from the NCS and CWP, including:

- Defining which Estate or Reserve are within the scope of the PAMP

- Analysing conservation values within each Estate or Reserve
- Assessing the vulnerabilities of conservation values relating to pest animals either by predation, competition or habitat destruction
- Flagging additional influencers such as seasonal and climatic variables
- Visually display conservation values within each Estates and Reserve
- Prescribe how all information is synthesized and formulated into a yearly action plan.
- Prescribe actions that will be ongoing throughout the life of the PAMP
- Set data analysis protocols, including how data is collected, including templates and run sheets for reporting and monitoring
- Set direction for yearly updates to action plans and program review

SCOPE:

The PAMP applies to the NAE comprising:

- White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate
- Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate
- Mt Grandchester Conservation Estate
- Purga Nature Reserve
- Stirling Road Reserve
- Kholo Enviroplan Reserve
- Sapling Pocket
- Hillview Drive Reserve
- Haig Street Quarry Conservation Reserve
- Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve
- Ric Natrass Environmental Park
- Redbank Rifle Range
- Woodend Nature Centre

VALUES AND THREATS BY ESTATE OR RESERVE:

Species and ecosystems of high conservation value are recognised in the CWP and Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 (NCS 2015). This section lists each Estate or Reserve and what significant flora and fauna are known to occur. This is followed by a list of pest animals that are known to be a threat to each native species of conservation value. This data is based on best available knowledge, Councils flora and fauna database and prior experience in local pest management. Additional considerations have been included (e.g. seasonal variations) as these are important in establishing a management program and maximise program efficiency.

Table 1: Native animal values and threats from pest animals for each estate or reserve

Estate/Reserve	Values	Threats – from pest animals only	Additional Considerations
White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	Little pied bat, Koala, Brush tailed phascogale, Greater glider, Powerful owl	LPB – Cats Koala - Dogs BTP – Cats, Foxes GG – Indian mynas PO – Indian mynas, dogs, cats, foxes	Koala - Breed from September to March Greater glider – competition for tree hollows Powerful owl – competition for tree hollows and predation of fledglings
Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	Brush tailed rock wallaby, Brush tailed phascogale, Koala, Little pied bat, Powerful owl, Black breasted button quail, Short beaked echidna, Black striped wallaby	BTRW – Cats, foxes, dogs, pigs BTP – Cats, foxes Koala – Dogs LPB – Cats BBBQ – Cats, foxes, pigs, cattle BSW – Foxes, dogs, pigs, cattle Echidna - dogs PO – Indian mynas, dogs, cats, foxes	Koala - Breed from September to March BBBQ - Susceptible to trampling and veg destruction by hoofed animals BSW – Susceptible to simplification of vegetation by hoofed animals Hot weather – predation on animals by dogs Feral pigs – habitat destruction via spread of weeds Powerful owl – competition for tree hollows and predation of fledglings
Mt Grandchester Conservation Estate	Powerful owl, Short beaked echidna, Brush tailed phascogale, Little pied bat, Glossy black cockatoo, Koala	BTP – Cats, foxes LPB – Cats GBC – Cats, Indian mynas Koala – Dogs PO – Indian mynas, dogs, cats, foxes Echidna - dogs	GBC – vulnerable to nest competition. Also vulnerable to predation when on the ground around dams by cats Powerful owl – competition for tree hollows and predation of fledglings
Purga Nature Reserve	Black striped wallaby, Brush tailed phascogale, Short beaked echidna, Koala, Greater glider	BSW – Foxes, dogs, pigs, cattle BTP – Cats, foxes Koala – dogs Echidna - dogs	BSW – Susceptible to simplification of vegetation by hoofed animals Koala - Breed from September to March

Stirling Road Reserve	Short beaked echidna	Echidna - dogs	
Kholo Enviroplan Reserve	Black breasted button quail, Rose crowned fruit dove, Short beaked echidna, Noisy pitta	BBBQ - Cats, foxes, pigs, cattle	BBBQ - Susceptible to trampling and veg destruction by hoofed animals
Sapling Pocket	Black necked stork, Black breasted button quail, Platypus	BBBQ - Cats, foxes, pigs, cattle Platypus – Dogs	BBBQ - Susceptible trampling and veg destruction by hoofed animals Platypus - Breed from August to October
Hillview Drive Reserve	N/A		
Haig Street Quarry Bushland Reserve	N/A		
Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve	Koala	Koala – dogs	Koala - Breed from September to March
Ric Natrass Environmental Park	Koala	Koala – dogs	Koala - Breed from September to March
Redbank Rifle Range	Koala	Koala – dogs	Koala - Breed from September to March
Woodend Nature Centre	Grey headed flying-fox, Black flying-fox		

Table 2: Native plant values and threats from pest animal for each NAE Estate or Reserve

Estate/Reserve	Values	Threats – from pest animals only	Additional Considerations
White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate	<i>Plectranthus harbrophyllus</i> , <i>Marsdenia coronata</i> , <i>Eucalyptus curtisii</i> , <i>Flemingia parviflora</i> , <i>Sophora fraseri</i> , <i>Notelaea lloydii</i>	<i>Sophora fraseri</i> – cattle	Trampling
Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate	<i>Cupaniopsis tomentalla</i> , <i>Planchonella eerwah</i> , <i>Marsdenia coronata</i> , <i>Notelaea lloydii</i> , <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	<i>Planchonella eerwah</i> & <i>Cupaniopsis tomentalla</i> –pigs	Trampling
Mt Grandchester Conservation Estate	<i>Callitris baileyi</i>	<i>Callitris baileyi</i> – pigs, cattle	Trampling
Purga Nature	<i>Melaleuca irbyana</i>	<i>Melaleuca irbyana</i> –	Trampling, grazing

Reserve		cattle, European brown hare	
Stirling Road Reserve	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> , <i>Callitris baileyi</i>	<i>Callitris baileyi</i> – pigs, cattle	Trampling
Kholo Enviroplan Reserve	<i>Notelaea lloydii</i> , <i>Hernandia bivalvis</i>		
Sapling Pocket	N/A		
Hillview Drive Reserve	N/A		
Haig Street Quarry Bushland Reserve	N/A		
Denmark Hill Conservation Reserve	N/A		
Ric Natrass Environmental Park	N/A		
Redbank Rifle Range	N/A		
Woodend Nature Centre	N/A		

Note: Where an estate or reserve is given a N/A value this does not reflect that there are no conservation values in that location. Rather it suggests that minimal survey effort has been undertaken within that estate or reserve or has not been a large focus for the pest management program to date.

PRIORITY LOCATIONS:

Many species have niche habitat requirements or are dependent on features that are not uniform across the NAE. In addition, some areas may have a number of priority species located within them, elevating their overall significance. One of the primary goals of the CWP is to identify and map these areas so that appropriate management actions can be prescribed to maintain and improve the conservation values of these areas. Given the CWP develops and co-ordinates other works such as fire and pest plant management, project sites defined under the PAMP will correspond and support other CWP Projects.

Figure 1 displays an example of CWP Values mapping for White Rock–Spring Mountain Conservation Estate, highlighting areas of value around White Rock and at the back of the estate near Spring Mountain.

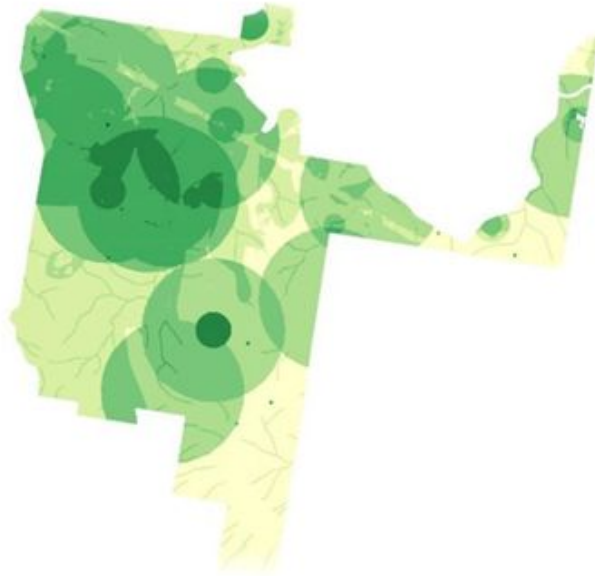


Figure 1: Example of Conservation Works Program Mapping for White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate (Printed 12/09/2017)

Note: for some species the potential distribution is uniform across the vast majority of the NAE. For these species it is more important to ensure that threats are monitored and managed in known sites or where most practical.

Note: in some priority areas pest animal management may not be necessary and will be determined when setting up yearly action plans.

Pest animal management actions will be then based on species of conservation significance and which pest animals threaten the species at that location. See “Implementation” and Appendix B section for further detail on how actions are set.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to priority locations, pest management activities are required to meet other objectives and interests. The following is a list of other interests that may require periodic or reactive pest animal management:

- Protect green assets such as tree plantings
- Control populations of pest animals in high visitor use areas
- Where Council is legally obliged to destroy a pest animal under the relevant authority
- Where a potential pest animal has had a noticeable increase in range or abundance. The list of potential and emerging pest animals is located within Appendix D.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The NAE PAMP will operate on a 12 monthly action plan. Management actions for each Estate or Reserve will be set for the financial year at the beginning of September, to correspond with seasons, by the Pest Management Officer and Planning Officer (Biodiversity). Both new and ongoing management actions will be prescribed and provide clear direction in terms of target species and geographic area.

Management actions will be prescribed based on:

- Season
- Priority locations under CWP
- Locations for prescribed burns
- Recent data trends
- Legal obligations
- Emergent threats from pest animals, and
- Community safety

For example, in a particularly wet year an increase in pig activity may be anticipated and management actions prescribed in areas where they are likely to damage threatened plant species such as Scott's scrub.

For project areas, all stages of pest management should be considered, including site selection, camera monitoring, control method and required resources.

Each year's action plan should be completed using the Pest Animal Action Plan template located in Appendix B.

MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING:

Monitoring pest animal distribution and impacts are essential components of the PAMP. Camera monitoring will be the primary tool of the program, being used to:

- Identify pest animal species
- Count and identify individuals of a particular species
- Recognise which types of species are likely to interact in a given location
- Measure changes and trends over time

This type of data is important when assessing and reporting on the effectiveness of management actions within project sites. To ensure that monitoring data is consistent and comparable, a monitoring protocol has been developed.

Pest animal management program related information, data, records, images, reports etc. are stored under the relevant folder in Objective.

MONITORING PROTOCOL:

- Monitoring periods are to be standardised to 14 camera nights to ensure results can be compared temporally and relative abundance can be calculated. Images recorded at >15 camera nights will be considered for pest management actions, however will not be included in abundance calculations.
- Monitoring should use a combination of roaming or study sites, along with fixed sites. Roaming sites are used to investigate new, irregular or seasonally used areas. Fixed sites represent areas that are used regularly and long term trends can be detected. Cameras at fixed sites can be installed regularly or permanently (even in permanent sites, cameras should still be checked on a 14 day rotation).
- Where a recurring monitoring site does not exist within a priority area, monitoring sites should be established using advantageous features such as t-intersections, tracks and territory markers.
- Data is analysed using the Minimum Known to be Alive (MKA) principle. This principle attempts to calculate the total number of individuals for a species recorded over a monitoring period (e.g. 4 different dogs were recorded). Where individual recognition cannot be achieved (e.g. poor angle), the maximum number of individuals for a species recorded within a single image frame is to be used.
- All data for a monitoring run is to be recorded on the Pest Animal Monitoring Runsheet in Appendix C. This includes both pre and post analysis information, such as GPS Location, date and image results.

ANALYSIS:

- The Planning Officer (Biodiversity) will extract all records recorded during monitoring periods, including animals trapped or destroyed and record them in the Flora and Fauna database.
- For fixed sites, trend lines will be created to visualise changes in relative abundance over time. This can then be combined with data showing animals destroyed within the same area to demonstrate the impact of management actions on local pest animal numbers.

- Thematic maps will also be created to illustrate the distribution of pest animals across the NAE. Further information should also be included and demonstrated spatially, including direction of travel. This information can assist in identifying movement corridors and long term movement and distribution patterns.

REPORTING:

- The Pest Management Officer and Planning Officer (Biodiversity) will collaborate to produce an internal summary report every 3 months. This report will highlight pest animal management activities that have occurred with the NAE, and will indicate successes, points of interest and barriers. Reports will be produced at the end of August, November, February and May.
- Reports are to be produced quarterly in order to capture seasonal variation and easy comparison season to season throughout the course of a year and compare a particular season over years.
- Any reporting in addition to internal requirements should be done through a separate template, e.g. pest animal management as part of an offset requirement uses a separate template designed for the proponent of the offset. Templates will be designed as required.
- Internal reporting will be completed using the Pest Animal Report Template in Appendix E.
- Distribution list for the pest animal reports should include key members of the Sports, Recreation and Natural Resources Branch that have an active management role or interest in the NAE, the Natural Areas Coordinator, Natural Area Supervisors and Leading Hands.
- The Pest Management Officer will have a fortnightly catch up with the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) and/or Principal Officer (Natural Resources) and Planning Officer (Natural Environment) to set a two weekly Program of Works (POW). POW will detail which reserves the Pest Management Officer will be visiting during the fortnight and flag any requirements needed to conduct these activities. The POW is also sent to the same distribution list used for quarterly reports.

EVALUATION:

The PAMP will be reviewed every year in August, as action plans are set on a yearly basis in September. Yearly reviews will rely on:

- Yearly updates of the CWP Values mapping to identify priority areas
- Analysis of pest animal data trends
- Analysis of the previous year's reports
- Early knowledge of CWP projects planned for the next financial year, e.g. planned burns
- Consideration of strategic direction and changes to NAE management
- New anecdotal evidence

Yearly action plans will be conducted for a period of five years. After year 5 a broader review of the program will occur and will align with the review of the CWP. As a subset of the CWP, the PAMP review should take into account any new direction of the CWP as well as operational management changes within the NAE.

TEMPLATE

APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS PRIORITIES

White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation Estate: European red fox, wild dog, feral pig, theft and vandalism, domestic dog issues, illegal vehicle issues

Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate: European red fox, wild dog, feral pig, European cattle, pig hunters, peacock

Mt Grandchester Conservation Estate: European red fox, wild dog, feral pig (minor), feral cat (minor) European cattle, red deer

Purga Nature Reserve: European red fox, wild dog, feral pig, European cattle (minor), theft and vandalism

Stirling Road Reserve: European red fox, wild dog, feral cat

Kholo Enviroplan Reserve: European red fox, wild dog, feral pig

Sapling Pocket: European red fox, feral pig, red deer

Hillview Drive Reserve: Not a previous priority

Haig Street Quarry: Not a previous priority

Denmark Hill: Not a previous priority

Ric Natrass: Not a previous priority

Redbank Rifle Range: Fallow deer (minor)

Woodend Nature Centre: Not a previous priority

APPENDIX B – NAE PAMP ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

The PAMP Action Plan comprises three main components:

1. Synthesize information and understanding of which pest animals to target within the NAE, at different times of the year and why
2. Highlight priority locations within the NAE that have the highest conservation value through use of CWP mapping. This is represented through being the “hottest” areas on the CWP heat maps.
3. Determine and set locations and timing for targeted pest management to maximise protection of conservation values and meet other obligations. This is done by determining which values are driving heat in these areas, using Tables 1 & 2 to determine which pest animals threaten them and then using seasonal considerations to set timing for implementation.

NAE PAMP Action Plan

[Insert Year] – [Insert Year]

Seasonal focus

Timing	Focus Species	Reasoning and behavioural considerations
SPRING: SEPTEMBER [YEAR] TO NOVEMBER [YEAR]	Feral pigs	Pigs struggling to find water and last remaining water sources can be targeting for pig control
	European red fox	Year round management
	Feral cat	Year round opportunistic management
SUMMER: DECEMBER [YEAR] TO FEBRUARY [YEAR]	Wild dogs	Dog pups are active. May travel up to 300m from a den or shelter when they begin to learn new areas.
	European red fox	Fox cubs are active. May travel up to 300m from a den or shelter when they begin to learn new areas.
	Feral cat	Year round opportunistic management
AUTUMN: MARCH [YEAR] TO MAY [YEAR]	Wild dogs	Breeding season. Dogs more likely to be highly active and mobile during this time, making trapping easier.
	Red deer	Breeding season. Males very vocal and day stalking is a suitable technique. Rest of the year should be managed using night time hunting in feeding areas

	European red fox	Year round management
	Feral cat	Year round opportunistic control
WINTER: JUNE [YEAR] TO AUGUST [YEAR]	Feral pigs	Need to visit water daily. During dry season pigs are easy to locate at remaining water sources. Pigs are searching for extra protein during winter and are susceptible to grain feeding
	Wild dogs	Back end of breeding season. Dogs still likely to be mobile
	European red fox	Year round control

Pest Animal Locality Plan - [insert Estate/Reserve Name] Area (ha) – [insert]

TEMPLATE

[Insert Values & Pest Threat Map for Reserve]



TEMPLATE

Site Actions – example from 2017/2018 Action Plan

SITE	TARGET PEST SPECIES	TIMING				VALUES	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
		SP	SU	AU	WI			
Flinders 1	Wild dog					Black striped wallaby, Koala		
	European red fox					Brush tailed phascogale, Rufous bettong		
	Feral cat	Opportunistic				Glossy black cockatoo	Dam sites	
	Feral pig					Planchonella eerwah, Cupaniopsis tomentella, Black breasted button quail		

- SP – Spring; SU – Summer; Au – Autumn; WI - Winter

APPENDIX C – PROGRAM MONITORING TEMPLATE

Reserve Name

Date Camera Placed

Date Camera Collected

Camera No.

Site No. Way Point

Trap Site?

Direction camera facing (NSEW)

Coordinates

Regular site?

No. Camera Nights

Wild dog - MKA

Wild dog - no. adults (M/F)

Wild dog - no. juveniles (M/F)

Red fox - MKA

Red fox - no. adults (M/F)

Red fox - no. juveniles (M/F)

Feral pig - MKA

Feral pig - no. adults (M/F)

Feral pig - no. juveniles (M/F)

Red deer - MKA

Red deer - no. adults (M/F)

Red deer - no. juveniles (M/F)

Cattle - no. head

Other pest animals

Native animals detected

APPENDIX D – POTENTIAL AND EMERGING PEST ANIMALS

Deer spp. (Red, Fallow and Rusa)

Feral Goat

Rabbit

Cane Toad

Asian House Gecko

Indian Myna

Water Buffalo

Exotic parrots e.g. macaws

Indian Peafowl (Peacock)

Fire Ant

European brown hare

Tilapia

Other pest fish spp.

Red eared slider turtle

TEMPLATE

APPENDIX E – PEST ANIMAL OFFICER WORKPLACE SAFETY PRACTICES

Calendar scheduling:

- Have an indicative schedule of site visits detailed in calendar for 2 weeks in advance
- Update calendar each morning before heading to site for schedule to remain accurate
- Subject line “Nature of work”
- Location line “Where are you doing it”

Check that First Aid qualifications are current and update as required, including;

- Investigate “First Aid for Self” course
- Normal first aid course (Red Cross One)
- Advanced snake bite first aid

Key actions:

Investigate options for digital communications:

- Satellite Phone
- Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

TS:TS
1711TS Redbank Plains Fossil Site - Jones Road Reserve CR.docx

19 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORTS RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

RE: REDBANK PLAINS FOSSIL SITE – JONES ROAD RESERVE
DIVISIONS 2 AND 9

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) dated 19 October 2017 concerning a request from Queensland Museum Network (Attachment A) to undertake fossil research at the Redbank Plains Fossil Site in Jones Road Reserve, Augustine Heights.

BACKGROUND:

The Redbank Plains fossil site on Brittain's Road at Augustine Heights has attracted the attention of palaeontologists and geologists since the 1930s and is an important scientific location that has been listed on both State and Federal Heritage registers.

The Museum holds the key fossil collections that have been described from the Redbank Plains site, and has also acquired additional material from the site over many years. This includes fossil material that came to the Museum from the University of Queensland and the Geological Survey of Queensland.

REQUEST:

The Queensland Museum are proposing to do an audit of the Redbank Plains fossil collection. This is part of the Museum's long term goal of fully curating their collections. Part of the audit of this collection will involve some field work to Jones Road Reserve. The Queensland Museum is therefore requesting Council's permission to access and undertake studies over the next few years. In addition, the Museum is also requesting a single contact person from Council to report to and seek advice from throughout the study. It is recommended that the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) be advised as the point of contact for this project.

BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS:

Ipswich has a rich and diverse geological history. Redbank Plains Fossil Site is one of several sites across the city which provide clues in the history of our planet. Supporting the continued understanding and discovery of new scientific information should be a focus of Council, particularly in areas that have been set aside for the purpose of conservation. This research will produce both scientific and popular accounts of the flora and fauna of this site, adding further to its recognised significance. This information can be used in engaging and informing the community of Ipswich’s rich geological history.


CONSULTATION:

Consultation with the Division 2 and Division 9 Councillor on the matter has occurred.

CONCLUSION:

By Council partnering with the Queensland Museum, Council will gain a better understanding of its rich and diverse geological history. This provides Council and the community with further recognition of the regions significant fossil history.

ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Letter from the Queensland Museum requesting permission to access Council land	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That Council grant permission for the Queensland Museum to access Jones Road Reserve for the purposes of conducting an audit of the Redbank Plains Fossil Collection, as detailed in a letter from the Queensland Museum dated 10 October 2017.
- B. That Council advise the Queensland Museum that the Planning Officer (Biodiversity) will be the point of contact for the Museum for the duration of their study.

Tim Shields
PLANNING OFFICER (BIODIVERSITY)

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)



QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK

PO Box 3300, South Brisbane
Queensland 4101, Australia
t. +61 7 3840 7555 | f. +61 7 3846 1918
discovery@qm.qld.gov.au
qm.qld.gov.au

10 October 2017

Councillor Andrew Antonioli
Mayor
Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich 4305

IMU RECEIVED	
16 OCT 2017	
App No:	
Responsible Officer:	

Dear Cr Antonioli,

Re: Redbank Plains Fossil Site

The Redbank Plains fossil site on Brittain's Road at Augustine Heights has attracted the attention of palaeontologists and geologists since the 1930s and is an important scientific location that has been listed on both State and Federal Heritage registers. The site is now preserved as Lot 171 on RP904872 (zoned as "conservation" by the City), and the fossil area extends to the neighbouring farm property on Brittain's Road (Lot 3 on RP210082, also partially zoned as "conservation").

The fossils found at the site record both the fauna and flora of this area about 50 million years ago and include turtles, freshwater fish and lungfish, insects and also a rainforest flora. Many fossil sites in the Brisbane and Ipswich areas have been lost over the years due to development and changing land practices, so I am delighted that the Ipswich Council had the vision some years ago to ensure that this part of the Redbank Plains Fossil Site was reserved and will remain protected as a conservation estate.

The Museum holds the key fossil collections that have been described from the Redbank Plains site, and has also acquired additional material from the site over many years. This includes fossil material that came to the Museum from the University of Queensland and the Geological Survey of Queensland.

In line with our goal to fully curate the Queensland Museum collections, and because of the significance of the fauna and flora of this site, we are commencing a long-term project to complete an audit of the Redbank Plains collection. The multiple aims of the project are to re-examine the entire collection, update collection records and also ensure that geo-reference data is accurate and identifications are correct. The reason for this is that information on some of the early collected material is often poor and we hope to better understand from where these specimens were collected. The flora of this site remains largely unstudied and some elements of the fauna, such as the insects, remain poorly known.

Emeritus Professor Alan Rix, University of Queensland, who has had a long term interest in and involvement with this site, will play a key role in overseeing the research on this project.

While we do not intend to do any major field work or excavations at this time, we do plan to visit the area and do some minor collecting in order to better study the site and adjoining properties.

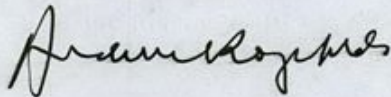
So my reason for writing was to seek permission from Council to access the site to undertake these studies over the coming few years. We would also be keen to have a contact person within the Council who we can advise on our progress and also seek guidance from time to time, and I would be grateful if you could nominate an appropriate officer for this purpose.

We envisage that this project will take several years to complete and we expect to produce a series of reports from the project and also update the QM database records as well in the process. We also hope to produce both scientific and popular accounts of the fauna and flora that will help to further document and explain the significance of this important scientific site.

I would also be grateful if you could advise Cr Paul Tully and Cr Sheila Ireland of this letter, as I am aware that the fossil site and its environs sit within both Division 2 and Division 9.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Rozefelds
Head of Geosciences

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

VH:VH

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9 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING SPORT, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

RE: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Partnerships Officer dated 9 October 2017 concerning the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program will provide funding assistance for community led projects that contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment within the Ipswich City Council area. A report was presented to the City Works, Parks, Sport and Environment Committee No. 2016 (06) of 19 June 2017 and Council Ordinary Meeting of 27 June 2017 which approved the commencement of the grant program in the 2017 – 2018 financial year. This report can be seen in Attachment A.

The operational requirements to commence the program have been completed and the grants will be available for public application in early 2018. Promotion of the grant program to the community will commence prior to the grants opening. This will include a dedicated Council web page, media releases, social media and direct email to relevant local groups.

The grants will be open from 1 February to 30 April 2018 with applications to be made through the Smarty Grants system. Being the first round of this program, this will be done as a trial to gauge interest in the grants. The number of applications and amount of funding will be monitored to guide future grant rounds.

Community groups, schools and child care centres will be able to apply for grant funding up to \$3,000 per annum. Individual wildlife carers will be able to apply for grant funding up to \$1,500 per annum.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CUSTOMERS:

The grant program will assist community groups, schools/child care centres or individual wildlife carers to achieve their environmental and sustainability initiatives. Examples of initiatives that may be applied for under the program include:

- Conservation projects/programs/events
- Improvements to native habitat, waterways, parks
- Native fauna and flora protection and conservation
- Native tree planting activities
- Wildlife protection programs
- Sustainability projects
- Purchase of equipment/materials for environmental initiatives
 - Materials may include local native plants, tree guards, materials that assist plant growth, weed control materials, tools, equipment to care for wildlife
- Community environmental events
- Incorporation or establishment costs of environmental groups
- Conservation initiatives by environmental groups

Examples of initiatives that won't be successful under the program include:

- Organisation or individual general operational expenses
- Initiatives that don't have an environmental or sustainability outcome
- Initiatives undertaken outside of the Ipswich City Council local government area

Applications will be assessed based on set criteria, including location, improvement in environmental values, size of project, ability to complete the project and the level of maintenance required on completion of the project.

CONCLUSION:

Customers will be able to submit applications to receive a grant under the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program for initiatives that contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment from early 2018. The program will be promoted to the wider Ipswich community to encourage applications for the 2017-2018 financial year.

ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
City Works, Parks, Sport and Environment Committee No. 2016 (06) of 19 June 2017 and Council Ordinary Meeting of 27 June 2017 Report.	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program be open for applications from 1 February 2018 to 30 April 2018.
- B. That a report be provided to a future meeting of the Conservation and Environment Committee outlining the successful applications under the first round of the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program, with recommendations for the on-going roll-out of the grant program.

Vada Hoger

PARTNERSHIPS 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)

City Works, Parks Sport and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 19.06.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Craig Maudsley	

MB: MB

H:\committee\committee reports\0417 MB community group partnership program CR.doc

26 May 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPORT RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: COORDINATOR (PARTNERSHIPS)

RE: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Coordinator (Partnerships) dated 26 May 2017 concerning the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

A review of the private landholder conservation partnership and incentives program was undertaken in late 2015 and presented to the Environment and Conservation Committee No. 2016(01) of 20 January 2016 and Council Ordinary Meeting of 28 January 2016 (Attachment A). Recommendation E was that an allocation of \$20,000 be funded through Ipswich Enviroplan for the Community Group Partnership Program.

This program has now been developed to commence in the 2017-2018 financial year. The funding in 2016-2017 was used for the design and wrapping of the new Koala Hospital Vehicle.

The Community Group Partnership Program, now badged the *Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program*, will provide funding assistance for community-led projects that contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment within the Ipswich City Council area.

Financial assistance through a grant application will be provided for a wide range of innovative projects, with each project assessed against a list of standard assessment criteria. Grant applications will be open through SmartyGrants.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY:

All applications will be assessed and approved by Council before any work or purchase can commence. It is proposed that the maximum grant amount is pre-set based on the type of project or group that is applying, as shown in the table below:

Community Groups	Maximum Grant
Not-for-profit community groups (ie, Landcare Groups, Wildlife Centres, Girl Guides, Scout groups).	\$3,000 per annum
Schools or Child Care Centres	\$3,000 per annum
Wildlife Carers (individuals)	\$1,500 per annum

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following criteria are proposed to assist Council in the process of assessing each application.

1. **Location of project**
Name of street, park or other
2. **Total hectares of project**
Hectare of land where the project will be undertaken
3. **How will the project improve the biodiversity values of the area?**
Describe how your project will contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of Ipswich’s environmental values
4. **Timeframe**
Will the project exceed twelve months, if so will the funds be expended in the first twelve months or will additional funds be sought?
5. **Level of commitment to manage the project**
Who will be the main contact, and ensure the project will meet agreed timeframes, and is there a plan developed to ensure maintenance will be undertaken after the completion of the project? Will you / the group obtain other funding for this project?
6. **Level of maintenance required after the completion of project**
What maintenance will be required after the completion of the project? Provide an indication of your / the group’s in-kind contribution.

BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY:


Local community groups currently contact Council for assistance with environmental programs they may be undertaking. This assistance is either for financial funding or materials to assist them in undertaking a specific program.

The Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program will provide Council and the community (environment groups and individuals) with an effective and equitable opportunity to apply for grant funds.

CONCLUSION:

The Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program will assist groups with community-led projects that contribute to the protection, enhancement and sustainability of the Ipswich environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Environment and Conservation Committee No. 2016(01) of 20 January 2016 and Council Ordinary Meeting of 28 January 2016 Report	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Environment and Sustainability Community Grant Program as outlined in the report by the Coordinator (Partnerships) dated 26 May 2017, be approved.

Mark Bell
COORDINATOR (PARTNERSHIPS)

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)**

Environment and Conservation Committee	
Mtg Date: 20.01.16	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Craig Maudsley	

MB: MB

H:\departmental\committee reports\1512 MB natural resources partnerships review 2015 CR

ITEM 8

21 December 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: SPORT, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

FROM: COORDINATOR (PARTNERSHIPS)

RE: NATURAL RESOURCES PARTNERSHIPS AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM REVIEW

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Coordinator (Partnerships) dated 21 December 2015 concerning a review of the Natural Resources Partnerships and Incentives programs.

BACKGROUND:

Through the Ipswich Enviroplan levy, Ipswich City Council delivers a number of partnership and incentive programs to support private landholders, volunteers and community groups to protect, manage and enhance the natural resources and values across the City. These programs and incentives are delivered through a variety of avenues, including targeted landholder partnerships, engagement with volunteers and community groups, and technical and financial support to all landholders.

Council currently has three dedicated Partnership Programs delivered under the Enviroplan banner, being: the Private Landholder Partnership Program, the Volunteer Partnership Program and the Environmental Weed Control Rebate Program. The review proposes a fourth program to be added for a Community Group Partnership Program (Attachment A).

The current landholder partnership programs have been running for a period of 6 years and a review was undertaken to realign these with the recently adopted Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy 2015 (NCS) and Integrated Water Strategy 2015 (IWS).

PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS:

This review looks at how the Partnership Programs align with the vision, goals and objectives of the Corporate Plan and key strategies. Information was gathered to assess the benefits and opportunities for improvement for each partnership and incentive program. Historical information was compiled and a survey of relevant council staff was undertaken to gauge the success of each program.

Benchmarking against other similar local government programs was done to compare delivery mechanisms and incentives offered to landholders.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRENT PROGRAMS:

Waterway Conservation Agreement

The Waterway Conservation Agreement recognises that the majority of riparian areas across the City are held in private ownership and that future improvements to water quality will only be achieved by working in partnership with landholders. This agreement provides support to landholders for ongoing management of riparian areas and waterway health improvements on private property.

To date, the Waterways Conservation Agreement has proved very popular and delivered good results.

Proposed changes to this program are to include the provision for the delivery of stormwater quality offset funding to target strategically identified waterways and sub catchments in order to provide efficiency and the best returns for the catchment.

Koala Conservation Agreement

The Koala Conservation Agreement is proposed as a new agreement to replace the Nature Corridors Agreement which has only had 1 landholder sign-up in six years.

The Koala is identified as one of three iconic fauna species in the Nature Conservation Strategy 2015, and is the focus of the Koala Conservation Plan currently under development. Through the review process, the Koala Conservation Agreement was highlighted as a key management tool to assist private landholders with habitat enhancement and protection of koalas on private land.

Habitat Gardens

New partners in the Habitat Gardens program have the option to receive a nest box upon sign-up. Currently this relies on the landholder ticking a box and then collecting the nest box from the volunteers at the Education Centre. Due to the unprecedented success of this program, sometimes partners have gone to collect their nest box and it hasn't been available. Through the review it was found that a more streamline and customer-focused approach would be to offer the nest boxes on a dedicated collection day each year, ensuring there would be adequate supply available. This would be done as part of the **annual incentive day** which is held for all conservations partners and provides them with an

opportunity to receive additional incentives to support their conservation actions, such as: further allocation of free plants, habitat nest boxes, resources and education materials.

Volunteer Program

The Natural Resources Volunteer Program involves the recruitment and working with volunteers at the Queens Park Environmental Education Centre, Queens Park Nature Centre and for community events such as Trees for Mum and Father's Day Fishing Fest. The Community Partnership Officer (CPO) currently works with all volunteers individually. The review highlighted an opportunity to appoint a volunteer as the 'volunteer coordinator' to allow for more streamlined and efficient communication between the CPO and volunteers.

Community Group Partnership Program

Currently Council works with natural resource community groups on an ad-hoc basis without any financial support to groups undertaking projects that align with Council's strategic goals. This review has identified an opportunity to develop a dedicated Community Group Partnership Program that takes into account current initiatives such as financial support for the Ipswich Koala Hospital's ambulance registration, and the Ipswich Creek Catchment Group's community planting days. It is proposed that an annual budget of \$20,000 be used to support community groups delivering environmental projects on Council land or undertaking activities that align with Council's strategic goals. The \$20,000 can be funded through the existing Enviroplan budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REVIEW:

1. Investigate opportunities to enhance the Waterway Conservation Agreement to target landholders in strategically identified areas for the delivery of stormwater quality offsets.
2. Rebadge the Nature Corridors Agreement to the Koala Conservation Agreement and provide incentives such as the allocation of 200 koala habitat trees upon sign-up to new partnering landholders.
3. Offer nest boxes for the Habitat Gardens Program through the annual partnership incentive day.
4. Recruit a volunteer as the 'volunteer' coordinator.
5. Allocate an annual budget of \$20,000 for the Community Group Partnership Program.

PROMOTION AND LAUNCH OF THE KOALA CONSERVATION AGREEMENT:

A number of landholders have already demonstrated an interest in becoming a Koala Conservation Partner. It is proposed that Council promotes the 'first' landholder to sign up to a Koala Conservation Agreement and uses this to launch the program and Council's commitment to restoring and enhancing koala habitat in Ipswich.


BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMERS:

The Natural Resources Partnerships and Incentives programs provide a suite of material, technical and financial support for Ipswich residents wishing to undertake conservation initiatives on private property. The programs also support volunteers and community groups committed to the delivery of Council’s community environmental engagement activities and events.

CONCLUSION:

Through the Ipswich Enviroplan levy, Ipswich City Council delivers a number of partnership and incentive programs to support private landholders, volunteers and community groups to protect, manage and enhance the natural resources and values across the City. A recent review of the programs highlighted a number of opportunities and proposed a suite of recommendations for improving the programs and to ensure greater outcomes for Council and Ipswich residents.

ATTACHMENT:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Natural Resources Partnership and Incentives programs structure	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That the Waterway Conservation Agreement be enhanced to target landholders in strategically identified areas for the delivery of stormwater quality offsets.
- B. That the Nature Corridors Agreement be rebadged to the Koala Conservation Agreement and provide incentives to support landholders to restore the koala habitat on private property.
- C. That habitat nest boxes be made available to new Habitat Gardens partners through the annual partnership incentive day.
- D. That the Community Partnership Officer investigate recruitment of a volunteer as the ‘volunteer’ coordinator.
- E. That an allocation of an annual budget of \$20,000.00 be funded through Ipswich Enviroplan for the Community Group Partnership Program.
- F. That the Mayor and the Chairperson of the Environment and Conservation Committee promote the Koala Conservation Agreement in partnership with the first landholder to sign-up to the program.

Mark Bell
COORDINATOR (PARTNERSHIPS)

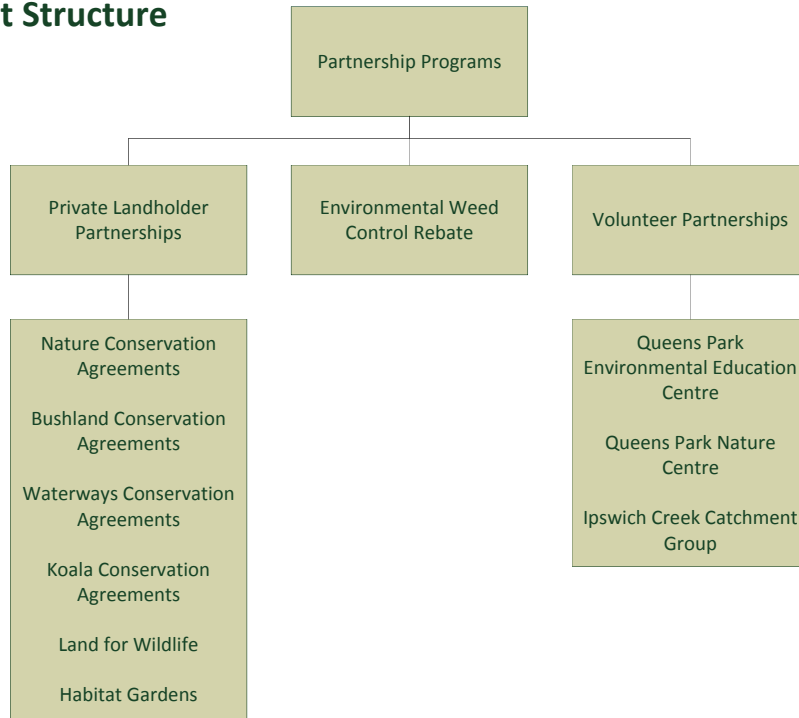
I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

Bryce Hines
SPORT, RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

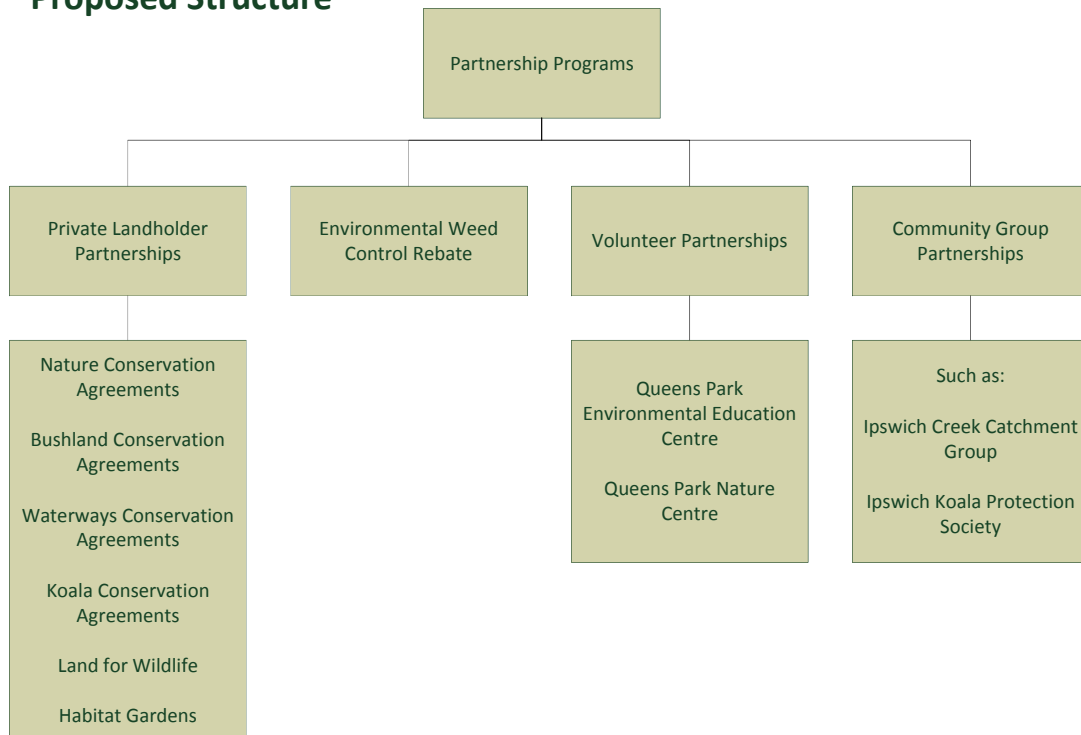
I concur with the recommendation/s contained in this report.

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

Current Structure



Proposed Structure



Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.2017	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Kylie Goodwin	

GD:GD
A4432841

20 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (HEALTH, SECURITY AND REGULATORY SERVICES)
FROM: EXECUTIVE SUPPORT AND RESEARCH OFFICER
RE: SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Executive Support and Research Officer dated 20 October 2017 attaching the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Group meeting held on 6 October 2017.

BACKGROUND:

Setting a sustainability vision and targets will require a whole of council response that is both bold and clear to address the challenges of growth and climate change. It was proposed that to progress the development of Council's Sustainability Strategy a cross-functional Advisory Group be established comprising Councillors and Senior Staff representatives, with participation by external stakeholders and subject matter experts as required. The role of the Advisory Group will be to ensure the framework, sustainability pathways, vision and targets of the Sustainability Strategy are adhered to.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Name of Attachment	Attachment
Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Group meeting held on 6 October 2017	Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Gemma Dunne
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT AND RESEARCH OFFICER

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

Kylie Goodwin
ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (HEALTH, SECURITY AND REGULATORY SERVICES)



Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Sustainability Advisory Group Date: 6 October 2017
 Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm Location: Claremont Room

Invitees (A = Attended, D = Delegated, P = Apologies, N = Not present)

Invitee	Name	Invitee	Name
P	Mayor Andrew Antoniolli	A	Sean Madigan
A	Councillor Silver	N	Nick Vass-Bowen
A	Councillor Stoneman	A	IS
P	Councillor David Morrison	A	David Waller
A	Councillor Sheila Ireland	A	Graham Schultz
P	Councillor Wayne Wendt	A	Kaye Cavanagh
A	Gemma Dunne	A	Nicole Grant

Item #	Agenda	Outcomes and Action	Action By	Required By	Date Completed
1	Meeting Open	Meeting opened at 1.00pm			
2	Agenda Structure	3 monthly updated report on initiatives. Group to endorse reports and for the report to be submitted to relevant committee.	SM	Nov	
3	Minutes	Minutes to be presented to future City Management	GD	Nov	
4	Youth Summit	Discussion regarding Youth Sustainability Summit, ensure all printed booklets are stated as being recyclable.	NG	Nov	
5	School Engagement	Letters to schools – Best time for an event in 2018. Nicole conducting survey after summit, will add question to survey.	NG	Nov	
6	Future Report	Possibility of a report to be generated regarding the council use of recycled products.	KC	Jan	
7	Bio Economy Summit	Update on Bio Economy Summit regarding scope at next meeting, also a Cr. Presentation, probity, process and outcome for industries, Infrastructure and location.	DW	Nov	
8	Innovation Program	Report to ET – City Management.	SM	Nov	
9	Renewable Energy	Renewable energy policy presented to Nov meeting	GS	Nov	
5	Sustainable Building Innovation	Kaye – verbal at city management and will send email to everyone. Sustainable Building	KC	Oct	

Commented [SM1]: We will coordinate this via our department. I did speak with Bryce Hines re this some time ago.



Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Sustainability Advisory Group Date: 6 October 2017
Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm Location: Claremont Room

Item #	Agenda	Outcomes and Action	Action By	Required By	Date Completed
		Innovation Laboratory through RMIT and UNSW			
7	Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tuesday 14th November 1.00pm – 2.00pm Claremont Room			
10	Meeting Closed	1.58pm			

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 08.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Bryce Hines	

sas: sas
H:\Departmental\Committee Reports\1710sas native title claim.docx

26 October 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION)
FROM: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
RE: STATUS OF NEW NATIVE TITLE CLAIM - IPSWICH CITY AREA

INTRODUCTION:

This is a report by the Executive Assistant dated 26 October 2017 concerning the status of the new Native Title Claim on the Ipswich City area.

BACKGROUND:

Council entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People in 2008.

The agreement contained five parts:

- **Part 1 - Preliminary:** this part comprises primarily technical information about how the agreement works.
- **Part 2 - Resolving the Native Title Claim:** this part sets out how local government can assist in resolving the native title claim and how the native title of the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people and the interests of local government co-exist if native title is recognised by the Federal Court of Australia.
- **Part 3 - Native Title Compliance:** some activities by local government may affect native title - this part sets out how those activities can be validly carried out.
- **Part 4 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Compliance:** this part contains some practical measures to help protect Aboriginal cultural heritage. It enables activities by local government which may affect Aboriginal cultural heritage to be lawfully carried out.
- **Part 5 - Other Outcomes:** local government and the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people agree on a range of other things to help them meet mutual aspirations,


benefit the local community and ensure ongoing communication between the parties
- details are recorded in this part.

A new Native Title Claim was registered on the 4 August 2017 by the Yuggera Ugarapul People for the Ipswich City area. The registration of this new Claim has impacts on Council in relation to activities previously managed under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

The current legal advice on the new Native Title Claim is provided in Attachment A.

CONCLUSION:

Council entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People in 2008. A new Native Title Claim was registered on the 4 August 2017 by the Yuggera Ugarapul People for the Ipswich City area. The registration of this new Claim has impacts on Council in relation to activities previously managed under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

Confidential Background Papers	
Legal advice	 Attachment A

RECOMMENDATION:

That in accordance with Clause 16.4 of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (“The Agreement”) Council provide written notice to the parties of their intention to terminate the Agreement.

Sharon Smith
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

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

Conservation and Environment Committee	
Mtg Date: 9.11.17	OAR: YES
Authorisation: Sean Madigan	

GK:GK

1 November 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (HEALTH, SECURITY AND REGULATORY SERVICES)

FROM: COMPLIANCE MANAGER

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES – NOVEMBER 2017

INTRODUCTION

This is a report by the Compliance Manager dated 1 November 2017 providing an update in relation to environmental compliance issues that the Health, Security and Regulatory Services Department is dealing with.

BACKGROUND

The Health, Security and Regulatory Services Department has a diverse range of responsibilities in relation to environmental issues. The legal basis for these responsibilities is provided by both State legislation and Council's Local Laws.

The growth of the City, and the changing nature of environmental issues that Council faces, provides an ongoing challenge needing to be addressed. The responsibility of Council in relation to environmental issues is one regularly raised by customers.

Many of these environmental issues have received specific recognition in Council's 2017-2018 Health and Amenity Plan. In particular "Priority 4: Environmental Protection, Public Health and Amenity Matters" addresses these issues.

This report is provided to ensure that current and significant environmental issues are identified. It further serves to provide a context to which Council undertakes its responsibility in dealing with these issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PRIORITIES

Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC)

Ipswich is shaping to be Queensland's fastest-growing city over the next 25 years. The amount of development has skyrocketed with vast amounts of land currently being re-worked due to large scale construction in preparation for residential living. At present, there are at least 100 large scale construction sites (>10,000 m²) across the Ipswich region that are currently undertaking earthworks. An even greater number of individual building sites are under operation which present their own difficulties with both sediment and litter.

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) complaints and issues are currently dealt with by the HSRS Environment Team, due to the high risk of negative impact on the City's and wider community's waterways and lifestyles. With an increasing development within the City, a focus on a proactive approach towards the development industry is required to prevent rather than react to environmental harm caused by contaminants entering waters.

Over the period July to October 2017 an increased focus has occurred in undertaking proactive inspections of large scale development sites. A program is currently being drafted in relation to a proactive approach to development sites under the Health and Amenity Plan (HAP) Project. Pollutants, not including sediment, entering or potentially entering waters is also addressed within the Environment Team and has a potential for high impact on the surrounding environment and community health.

Swanbank Area Odour Issues

Another environmental nuisance that has attracted a lot of attention from both the public and the media, is the ongoing odour issues from the Swanbank area. Since 2013, a large number of complaints have been recorded by both local and State Governments in regards to odours allegedly generated from multiple landfill and composting facilities from this area. The responsibility for the enforcement and management of these complaints primarily rests with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, however Council is committed to working with the department to respond to community concerns.

At present, Ipswich City Council (ICC) liaises with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP), when supporting and responding to odour complaints made by local residents primarily from Ripley, South Ripley and Redbank Plains areas.

Compliance operations carried out include multiple odour monitoring surveys both during the day and at night, regular site inspections in response to odour nuisance and reactive/proactive engagement with the local community to identify the impact of the odour.

Council will continue to respond to community needs by advocating on their behalf to ensure that intergovernmental outcomes are achieved by appropriately responding to their concerns.

Noise

Noise related complaints are received in relation to a variety of issues including construction noise and entertainment events. Approximately a third of noise complaints are received after-hours and require Officer attendance.

Events throughout the City require a significant amount of resource time for Officers throughout the lifecycle of an event. Officers are involved in the permitting process, liaising with event organisers, other Government bodies such as QPS and QFES, and addressing any concerns raised by the public.

Construction noise is a concern to residents as it is a nuisance which can directly impact them on an often ongoing basis. Construction noise complaints account for the majority of noise complaints received from the public and relate to both work and after hours noise.

As an initiative to assist in addressing these issues, Council has recently created an additional four new Ranger positions. These rangers work outside the regular business hours to respond to urgent community requests.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is a highly emotive topic with environmental impacts which unfortunately occurs throughout the City. Illegal dumping complaints need to be dealt with in a timely manner and require a large time input to complete in most instances. When Council receives a complaint of illegal dumping the matter is fully investigated and enforcement action is commenced when an offender is identified.

Under Council's Health and Amenity Plan, Council has prioritized illegal dumping and littering as an area of focus. We are partnering with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to deliver a range of education and awareness campaigns to reduce littering and provide pathways to legal disposal of waste. This includes signage at hotspots on some highways and roads around Ipswich, easier pathways for people to report offences, and campaigns that highlight the impacts rubbish has on our community.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has a Littering and Illegal Dumping Online Reporting System (LIDORS), available at <https://report-littering-dumping.ehp.qld.gov.au/>, which allows members of the public who have witnessed a littering or illegal dumping incident, the opportunity to report it. The State Government may issue a penalty infringement notice (fine) to the registered owner of a vehicle based on the report or in some instances refer the matter to Council for investigation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Graeme Kane
COMPLIANCE MANAGER

I concur with the recommendation contained in this report.

Sean Madigan
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
(HEALTH, SECURITY AND REGULATORY SERVICES)