



Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program

Program Guidelines

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GUIDELINES

Purpose of this guideline

This guideline outlines Ipswich City Council's (council) Landholder Conservation Partnership Program (LCPP) and the standards and expectations of landholders participating in the program. This guideline is regularly updated, and is correct at the time of printing.

Contact your Conservation Partnerships Officer at partnerships@ipswich.qld.gov.au to receive the latest version of the guideline document.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The LCPP aims to encourage and assist Ipswich landholders to manage, enhance and protect ecosystems in order to conserve flora and fauna on their properties. The LCPP is funded by council's Enviroplan Levy and offers non-statutory and statutory partnerships. Non-statutory partnerships fall into three sub-categories; Land for Wildlife (LfW), Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCA) and the Habitat Gardens Partnerships. Statutory partnerships has one sub-category; Voluntary Conservation Covenant (VCC).

The LCPP provides ongoing support for private landholders who can demonstrate a commitment to either restoring fragmented landscapes or protecting and maintaining intact areas of vegetation located in priority areas in Ipswich.

Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program objectives

- Foster stewardship and environmental advocacy
- Facilitate on ground conservation outcomes and provide a reliable platform for conservation on private land
- Support and up-skilling private landholders through education, provision of resources and knowledge sharing
- Actively engage with landholders in strategic priorities as defined by the Natural Environment Strategy and the Waterway Health Strategy
- Engage with internal and external stakeholders to achieve broad environmental outcomes.

Timeframe

Expressions of interest are open all year round.

Available Partnerships



Sitting pretty by G Bryant
Ipswich Enviroplan Photo Comp


Eligibility Criteria

Non-Statutory Partnerships	
Partnership Type	Criteria
<p>Land for Wildlife Full Registration</p> <p>Commitment to protecting intact vegetation with support from Land for Wildlife South East Queensland.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement area: >1ha ▪ Planning Scheme Zone: any ▪ Natural Environment Strategy: any ▪ Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values • condition ▪ Landowner commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prior management commitment • future management intent.
<p>Land for Wildlife Working Towards</p> <p>Commitment to restoring fragmented landscapes with support from Land for Wildlife South East Queensland.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement area: >1ha ▪ Planning Scheme Zone: any ▪ Natural Environment Strategy: any ▪ Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values • condition ▪ Landowner commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prior management commitment • future management intent.
<p>Biodiversity Conservation Agreement</p> <p>Commitment to a high level protection mechanism through the Ipswich Planning Scheme zones for intact vegetation.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement area: >1ha ▪ Planning Scheme Zone: Rural E (Special Land Management) Rural D (Conservation) ▪ Natural Environment Strategy: regional corridor areas, high ecological significance wetlands, locally significant priority species habitat, core habitat, and mapped waterways and riparian corridors. ▪ Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values • condition ▪ Landowner commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prior management commitment • future management intent.

Non-Statutory Partnerships

Partnership Type	Criteria
<p>Corridor Conservation Agreement</p> <p>Commitment to restoring fragmented landscapes or waterway corridors or maintaining in-tact vegetation that is not conservation zoned through the Ipswich Planning Scheme.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement area: any ▪ Planning Scheme Zone: any ▪ Natural Environment Strategy: regional corridor areas, high ecological significance wetlands, locally significant priority species habitat, core habitat, and mapped waterways and riparian corridors. ▪ Waterway Health Strategy: Waterways named within the strategy. ▪ Waterway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values • condition ▪ Landowner commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prior management commitment • future management intent.
<p>Habitat Gardens</p> <p>Commitment to improve environmental and sustainable outcomes in backyards.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Scheme Zone: any ▪ Natural Environment Strategy: any ▪ Ineligible for other partnerships ▪ Agreement size: any ▪ Landowner commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prior commitment • future intent.

Statutory Partnership

Partnership Type	Criteria
<p>Voluntary Conservation Covenant</p> <p>Commitment to permanent protection mechanisms through the Land Titles Act in perpetuity for intact vegetation.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement area: >1ha ▪ Planning Scheme Zone: Rural E (Special Land Management) Rural D (Conservation) ▪ Natural Environment Strategy: regional corridor areas, high ecological significance wetlands, locally significant priority species habitat, core habitat, and mapped waterways and riparian corridors. ▪ Vegetation and/or Waterway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values • condition ▪ Landowner commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prior management commitment • future management intent.

Program Incentives

Council incentives include:

- Nature Conservation Grants
- Land Management Payments and
- anything distributed to landholders after initial registration that helps support, encourage and educate landholders.

Non-Statutory Partnerships	
Partnership Type	Incentive
Land for Wildlife Full Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competitive application process with mandatory acquittal reporting • annual eligibility • up to \$6,000
Land for Wildlife Working Towards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free plants as per Property Management Plan ▪ LfW Newsletter and electronic quarterly update, 3-4 workshops per financial year ▪ Program officer site visit every 1-2 years ▪ Incentives such as nest boxes, subject to annual budget availability.
Biodiversity Conservation Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competitive application process with mandatory acquittal reporting • annual eligibility • up to \$8,000
Corridor Conservation Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free plants as per Property Management Plan ▪ Electronic quarterly update, 3-4 workshops per financial year ▪ Program officer site visit every 1-2 years ▪ Incentives such as nest boxes, subject to annual budget availability.
Habitat Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Electronic quarterly updates ▪ 3-4 workshops per financial year ▪ Request of Conservation Partnerships Officer site visit ▪ Provision of available resources ▪ Access to online networking forums ▪ 20 free plants per year

Statutory Partnership

Partnership Type

Incentive

Voluntary Conservation Covenant

- Grant
 - application process with acquittal report
 - annual eligibility
 - up to \$8,000
- Bursary
 - \$2,000 Annual Bursary
 - must go towards actions stated in Property Management Plan
 - annual eligibility
 - acquittal report
- Free plants as per Property Management Plan
- Electronic quarterly update
- Annual program officer site visit
- Workshops.

Property Management Plans

Property Management Plans (PMPs) are developed for every property registered in the Program. PMPs are a tool aimed at supporting sustainable land management which considers the personal goals of landholders, environmental issues and economic considerations. PMPs are mandatory and have a five year term. Grants, free plant applications and other distributed funding are directly linked to projects documented in PMPs.

Please note:

Property Management Plans are not applicable for Habitat Gardens Partners.



Lazy Sunday by G Passier
Ipswich Enviroplan Photo Comp



Misty Marburg Morning by D Van Cooten
Ipswich Enviroplan Photo Comp

Nature Conservation Grants

The Nature Conservation Grants Program aims to support tangible conservation outcomes on private land. The grants are funded by council's Enviroplan levy and aim to assist eligible landowners in undertaking on-ground activities to rehabilitate degraded landscapes, protect and improve habitat and biodiversity and improve the resilience of Ipswich's natural environment.

Grants will be opened in April each year (subject to change) with successful applicants receiving funds between July-August for the implementation of a project by the end of financial year. Acquittals will be due on 30 June in the same financial year. Only those that have an executed Property Management Plan are eligible to apply for the Nature Conservation Grant.

Objectives

- Build a resilient natural environment
- Improve and maintain biodiversity
- Invest in nature conservation
- Promote community participation and capacity building.

Please note:

Landholders who are registered with:

- a VCA and LfW - can only apply for one (1) grant per financial year
- a VCC and LfW - can only apply for one (1) grant per financial year.

Nature Conservation Grant Guidelines can be found here: ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_ipswich/environment/landholder_partnerships

Land Management Payments

Land Management Payments are an annual incentive for Voluntary Conservation Covenants and Historic Partnership agreements and aim to support conservation outcomes that achieve the overall LCPP objectives and actions defined in the associated Property Management Plan.

Objectives

- Build a resilient natural environment
- Improve and maintain biodiversity
- Invest in nature conservation
- Promote community participation and capacity building.

Distribution of Excess Plant Stock

At times, additional plants become available to partnering landholders due to stock availability. Partnering landholders are given priority for excess plant stock distribution as an incentive, in addition to that allocated as per their Property Management Plan. In the event of excess plant stock at council's nursery, expressions of interest and application forms will be sent out to eligible landholders. This ensures a transparent assessment and distribution process.

Distribution of Nest/Habitat Boxes

In the event that donated nest or habitat boxes become available, they can be distributed to LCPP landholders. This distribution will be through an expression of interest and transparent assessment process. Installation and monitoring of nest/habitat boxes will be the responsibility of the landholder receiving the nest or habitat box, and will be guided by their Property Management Plan

Funding and Incentive Acquittal

To ensure appropriate accountability by grant recipients, all funding provided by council will require a report and financial acquittal, outlining the use of the funds (including proof of expenditure) and the achieved outcomes of the project/activity.

Landowners who have not satisfactorily acquitted council funds or incentives within the appropriate timeframe and terms agreed by council will be deemed ineligible for future council funding until the issue is resolved.

All participating funding and incentive landholders must:

- answer all application questions on the online SmartyGrants acquittal form
- clearly demonstrate how the project or incentive outcomes address the selection criteria in the associated guidelines and specific Property Management Plan.
- clearly demonstrate that the project approved in the Nature Conservation Grant has been achieved.

Landholder Obligations

Non-Statutory Partnerships	
Partnership Type	Obligation
Land for Wildlife Full Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Property Management Plan (PMP) with Program Officer, reviewed every five years ▪ Submission of annual reporting for landholders with a property management plan ▪ The agreement can be terminated by council with 30 days' notice if the above terms are not adhered to.
Land for Wildlife Working Towards	
Biodiversity Conservation Agreement	
Corridor Conservation Agreement	
Habitat Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intent to remove all environmental weeds and replace with native species ▪ Participation in networking opportunities ▪ Intent to improve sustainability practices ▪ Partnership agreement term of five years ▪ A report must be submitted at the end of the agreement term ▪ The agreement can be terminated by council with 30 days' notice if the above terms are not adhered to.

Statutory Partnership	
Partnership Type	Obligation
Voluntary Conservation Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Property Management Plan with Program Officer reviewed every five years ▪ Submission of annual reporting for all landholders ▪ Legally binding to property title in perpetuity ▪ Covenant terms align with Ipswich Planning Scheme Zones ▪ The agreement can be terminated by council with 30 days' notice if the above terms are not adhered to.

Annual Reporting

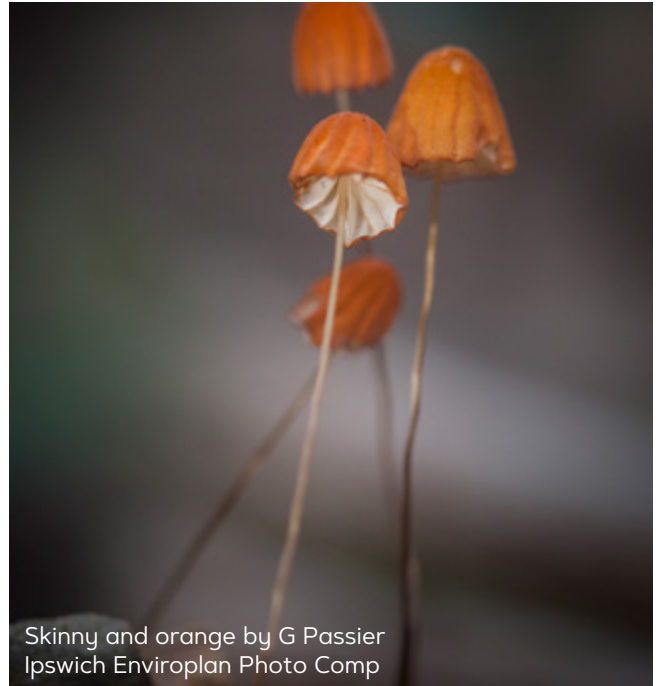
Annual reporting is required for landholders that have a fully executed Property Management Plan, and those that have received council incentives.

Council incentives include:

- Nature Conservation Grants
- Land Management Payments and
- anything distributed to landholders after initial registration that support, encourage and educate landholders.

Habitat Gardens partners are required to submit a report at the end of their five year agreement term.

Information provided in annual reports is used to measure the success of distributed funding, incentives and the overall Program. Data is de-identified and used in the Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program Annual Report to council management.



Skinny and orange by G Passier
Ipswich Enviroplan Photo Comp

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

Ipswich City Council applies the following principles when providing support through the Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program:

- encouraging best practice management for conserving natural resources on private land
- improving and maintaining the condition and status of national, state and local matters of environmental significance
- recognising nature conservation as a major feature of good governance for the city
- providing continuous communication and engagement with the Ipswich community in regards to nature conservation and environmental values in Ipswich
- valuing local collaborations and partnerships
- valuing the social, economic and environmental sustainability of our city.

In addition, council is committed to the efficient and effective delivery of the Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program and transparency and accountability in decision making.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Council's Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program supports private landholders who intend to:

Native vegetation

- protect, maintain or enhance native vegetation cover
- protect, maintain or enhance iconic species habitat
- reduce threats to biodiversity

Ipswich Habitat Network – Connectivity

- improve and enhance ecological connectivity within identified corridors

Waterway Health Improvement

- protect, maintain or enhance riparian buffer
- reduce the risks of sediment loss and improve waterway stability
- reduce threats to waterways

Landholder Engagement

- participate and are willing to engage in the Program.

AGREEMENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Properties are assessed against the following criteria. **Note:** if your property does not have a waterway/wetland, the waterway criteria will not apply to your property.

Criteria	Consideration
Conservation Planning Scheme Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural D (Conservation) ▪ Rural E (Special Land Use Management)
Biodiversity Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matters of Local Environmental Significance ▪ Matters of State Environmental Significance ▪ Matters of National Environmental Significance or ▪ Other significant values not reflected in the above.
Vegetation (within agreement area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remnant Vegetation (no evidence of clearing) Mapped Regional Ecosystem ▪ Non Remnant Vegetation (evidence of clearing) No Mapped Regional Ecosystem.
Vegetation Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % weed cover ▪ Intent to manage weed cover.
Vegetation connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Size of patch >1HA is a mandatory criterion for VCA1 and VCC eligibility ▪ Within a corridor identified by the Natural Environment Strategy ▪ Adjacent to a corridor identified by the Natural Environment Strategy or other Voluntary Conservation Agreements or Land for Wildlife properties ▪ Identified Corridors is a mandatory criterion for VCA1 and VCC eligibility.
Ground Cover and Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erosion risk ▪ Considerations: ground cover (leaf litter, grasses, forbs, herbs) on hills, slopes.
Waterway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stream/gully/creek/river/wetland identified in the Waterway Health Strategy on property or within the riparian buffer zone of the waterway.
Waterway Vegetation Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remnant Vegetation (no evidence of clearing) Mapped Regional Ecosystem ▪ Non Remnant Vegetation (evidence of clearing) No Mapped Regional Ecosystem.

Criteria	Consideration
Waterway Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Riparian buffer intact as identified in the Waterway Health Strategy ▪ Riparian buffer not intact ▪ Intent to restore riparian buffer ▪ Erosion risk.
Riparian Vegetation Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % weed cover ▪ Intent to manage weed cover.
Wildlife Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nesting sites, tree hollows, ground logs, feeding sites, diverse mature flora, scats, tracks and other traces, sightings, pest animals ▪ Example: numerous tree hollows or limited tree hollows with the intent to establish nest boxes.
Landowner Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Willingness to engage ▪ Prior management commitment ▪ Future management intent ▪ Attendance and participation ▪ Development of Property Management Plan.



ETHICS FRAMEWORK

Ipswich City Council will not support any activities, entities, or individuals associated with entities, that are considered to:

- discriminate, or encourage discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, religion, sex and/or sexual orientation
- contribute to, or advocate for, the infringement of human rights
- demonstrate behaviour that does not align to council's strategic intent for the city and community of Ipswich
- pollute land, air or water, or otherwise damage the natural environment
- market, promote or advertise products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner
- produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community
- entice people into financial over-commitment
- exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions
- represent a reputational risk for Ipswich City Council to partner with or support, or be seen to partner with or support.

AGREEMENT APPROVAL PROCESS

- Final decisions and approval of successful expressions of interest are made by council
- Properties are assessed using a score-based assessment form that will be based on a series of weighted criteria.

Successful landholders will be offered to sign a Partnership Agreement with council subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Adhere to all terms of the signed Partnership Agreement including:
 - development of a five year Property Management Plan
 - complete an acquittal for any funding or incentive distributed through the program
 - submit an annual report of any project work undertaking within the Agreement area
- Council may make funding conditional on other specific conditions being met.

Agreement Termination

Properties registered with Agreements in the Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program can be terminated if:

- actions agreed to in the Property Management Plan are not met or defy the Program's objectives
- compulsory reporting is not undertaken
- misuse of council funding or incentives
 - funding/incentive used outside the Agreement area
 - funding/incentive not aligned with the agreed actions in the Property Management Plan.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS

Expressions of interest can be submitted via the Partnerships email partnerships@ipswich.qld.gov.au or via phone call (07) 3810 6666.

Once submitted you will receive a response from the Program Officers (Natural Environment).

Please contact council on (07) 3810 6666 if you have any questions regarding the Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program.





Frogmouths by D Metters
Ipswich Enviroplan Photo Comp





City of
Ipswich

Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich QLD 4305, Australia

Phone (07) 3810 6666
council@ipswich.qld.gov.au
ipswich.qld.gov.au

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