



REDLAND CITY COUNCIL

# Wildlife Connections **Action Plan**

2018 - 2023



# Acronyms and Definitions

Redland City Council Departments		
Group	Unit	
CPA		City Planning & Assessment Group
	SPU	Strategic Planning Unit
	EngEU	Engineering & Environment Unit
CCS		Community and Cultural Services
	ICCC	Integrated Customer Contact Centre
CI		City Infrastructure Group
	RDMU	Roads, Drainage & Marine Unit
	CIPU	City Infrastructure Planning Unit
	TTPU	Traffic & Transport Planning Unit
CS		City Spaces Group
	PCU	Parks & Conservation Services Unit
ER		Environment & Regulation Group
	EEU	Environment & Education Unit
	DCU	Development Control Unit
	CSU	Compliance Services Unit
ESMP	CP	City Plan Project Manager
DP&O	DP&O	Disaster Plan and Operations
Indicative Costs		
High*	Over \$100,000	
Medium*	\$10,000 - \$100,000	
Low*	Below \$10,000	
BAU	Business as Usual (within existing resources, officer time and budgets)	
*Subject to budget consideration and Portfolio Management Office processes		
Time Frames		
Ongoing	These actions will continually be dealt with throughout the life of the plan	
Immediate	The actions will commence in the next 12 months	
Short	The actions will be undertaken in the next 2 years	
Long	The actions will be undertaken in the next 5 years	



# Wildlife Connections Plan Implementation

This plan documents the priority actions to progress the outcomes outlined in the Wildlife Connections Plan 2018-2028. The Plan and associated Action Plan aim to guide management actions to protect, manage and enhance a network of core wildlife habitat patches and corridors on the mainland, Coochiemudlo, North Stradbroke Island and Southern Moreton Bay Islands. The Wildlife Connections Action Plan 2018-2023 identifies immediate on-ground measures that are achievable by Council.

Each action addresses issues identified through the analysis of the current understanding of corridor ecology and viable mitigating measures to improve connectivity in the Redland City Council area.

This Action Plan lists the work areas within Council with responsibility for each action; implementation methods; implementation partners; performance measures; timeframe; and indication of cost of implementation. Each outcome provides an indicator to assess the successful implementation of each action.

## Head of Power

### Corporate Plan 2015-2020

The Redland Corporate Plan 2015-2020 sets the strategic direction and priorities for the natural environment by delivering on the outcomes of the Redlands 2030 Community Plan for:

*‘a diverse and healthy natural environment, with an abundance of native flora and fauna and rich ecosystems, will thrive through our awareness, commitment and action in caring for the environment’.*

Specifically in relation to the importance of connectivity through these outcomes:

“1. A diverse and healthy natural environment, with an abundance of native flora and fauna and rich ecosystems, will thrive through our awareness, commitment and action in caring for the environment.”

1.1 – Redland’s natural assets including flora, fauna, habitats, biodiversity, ecosystems and waterways are managed, maintained and monitored

1.2 - Threatened species are maintained and protected, including the vulnerable koala species”

### Natural Environment Policy POL-3128

Redland City Council through the Natural Environment Policy in 2015 (POL-3128) states:

*‘our corporate decisions protect, enhance and restore the health and viability of the City’s natural values both on public and private lands and waterways for the benefit, use and lifestyle of current and future generations of our community’.*

The Policy statements:

1. *Protect, enhance, restore the natural values of the City that include:*
  - a. *Koalas and other native animal and plant populations and habitats;*
  - b. *core habitat areas as sanctuaries for wildlife;*
  - c. *safe wildlife movement corridors across the landscape;*
  - d. *maintaining no net loss of native vegetation as defined in the Vegetation Management Act 1999;*
  - e. *biological diversity and ecosystem services;*
  - f. *waterways, foreshores, wetlands, coasts, aquatic ecosystems and Moreton Bay;*
2. *Enhance and restore Council's protected areas and strengthen the connections between core habitats through public open space plantings, pest management and appropriate street tree planting programs in accordance with SEQ Natural Resource Management targets.*
3. *A conservation acquisition program that prioritises acquisition of land for rehabilitation, offsets, corridors and long term protection to achieve cost effective environmental outcomes that contribute to facilitating biodiversity conservation (eg koala survival) and has community benefits.*
4. *Manage protected areas to provide the best possible buffering of the City's natural and cultural heritage values from the impacts of a changing climate."*

## Action Plan Outcomes

The Wildlife Connection Plan 2018-2028 has identified the outcomes for the for the management, protection and enhancement of the priority corridors (i.e. established, regional riparian, coastal foreshore, enhancement and stepping stone) located on the mainland, Coochiemudlo, North Stradbroke and Southern Moreton Bay Islands, which include:

- Improve Corridor Habitat
  - Rehabilitation of gaps and pinch points
- Prevent Wildlife Deaths
  - Safe fauna passage across road or rail barriers
- Reduce Impacts on Corridors
  - Management of urban and/or peri-urban and/or rural area impacts
  - Management of storm tide and sea level rise impacts
- Protect Corridor Habitat
  - Review City Plan to determine any necessary consequential amendments.

Implementation of the Action Plan will be undertaken with the following prioritisation considerations:

1. All areas of Core Habitat are a high priority for protection and rehabilitation. All actions within the Action Plan can be implemented in the identified Core Habitat areas;
2. The Established, Regional Riparian Corridors and Coastal Foreshore are the highest priority for protection and rehabilitation;
3. The Enhancement Corridors are the second highest priority for protection and rehabilitation;
4. The Stepping Stone Corridors are a lower priority for protection and rehabilitation;
5. All corridor rehabilitation and enhancement of buffer areas should follow South East Queensland (SEQ) Ecological Restoration Framework (SEQ Catchments, 2012); and
6. All corridor rehabilitation and enhancement of buffer areas must take into account fire management planning.

The implementation of the actions in the plan will be reviewed annually. The review will assess the success of each action based on the 'Performance Measures' listed in the Wildlife Connections Action Plan. Information from each of the Council areas and external partners will be collated for the annual review.

If available, updated mapping (such as new Regional Ecosystem mapping or planning scheme zones) and other environmental data sets will be used to monitor changes to the values, attributes and threats of the wildlife habitat network and corridors.

The successful implementation of the actions requires support and contribution from many sections within Council, the general community and State Government. Cooperation and assistance will also be required from government agencies, other councils, universities and industry and community groups.

Funding of the priority actions is critical to the success and performance of this plan. Delivery of the action plan will be funded through a combination of business as usual, general revenue, environment separate charge, reserve funds and resources obtained through external funding sources.

## Improve Corridor Habitat

Outcome: Rehabilitation of gaps (greater than 106m) and pinch points (width less than 100m) to allow wildlife movement and dispersal through the landscape.

Priority Outcome	Action	Performance Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
Rehabilitation of corridor gaps and pinch points on <b>Council land</b> through the <b>Parks and Conservation Unit</b> and <b>Bushcare Program</b>	<b>Planning Stage</b> Identify, prioritise and assign areas for planting through contractors, in house, or Bushcare program	Prioritised area program including annual costing	Immediate (Year 1)	Parks & Conservation Services Unit	Environment & Education Unit (Bushcare)	BAU
	<b>Implementation Stage</b> Priority planting of native vegetation (matched to appropriate Regional Ecosystem) in identified corridor gaps and pinch points on Council land	Area (ha) of revegetation within priority corridors. % of corridor rehabilitated	Short and ongoing	City Spaces and Environment & Education Unit		
Rehabilitation of corridor gaps and pinch points on <b>freehold land</b> through <b>Environmental Partnerships Program</b> (voluntary extension)	<b>Planning Stage</b> Identify, prioritise and assign areas for extension program visits	Prioritised area program including annual costing	Immediate (Year 1)	Environment & Education Unit	Environment & Education Unit (Environmental Partnerships)	BAU
	<b>Implementation Stage</b> Priority planting of native vegetation (matched to appropriate Regional Ecosystem) in identified corridor gaps and pinch points on freehold land	Area (ha) of revegetation within priority corridors. % of corridor rehabilitated	Short and ongoing	Environment & Education Unit (Environmental Partnerships)		
Rehabilitation of corridor gaps and pinch points on freehold land by <b>Conservation Land Acquisitions</b>	<b>Planning Stage</b> Review Conservation Land Acquisition list based on adopted Corridor Mapping	Revised Strategic Acquisition List	Immediate (Year 1)	Environment & Education Unit	Strategic Planning & Property Services	BAU
	<b>Implementation Stage</b> Acquisition of land for corridors and long term protection to achieve cost effective environmental outcomes	Area of acquired land within priority corridors	Short and ongoing	Environment & Education Unit	Property Services	

## Prevent Wildlife Deaths

Outcome: Safe fauna passage across road (or rail) barriers.

Priority Outcome	Action	Performance Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
Safe fauna passage across road (or rail) barriers	<b>Planning Stage</b> Assessment of wildlife road strike data using Council and State Government fauna strikes and incident data sets to assess each identified corridor 'barrier' at road and rail crossings	A detailed report prioritising and identifying the location of 'barrier' sites and recommended mitigation methods.	Immediate (Year 1)	Environment & Education Unit	Infrastructure Planning and State Government	BAU (Low)
	<b>Implementation Stage</b> Detail design and estimate of costs of the mitigation options identified in the Planning Stage for inclusion into the Capital Works and PMO programs.  Advise to State Government Agencies where applicable	Revised Action Plan which details locations, costing and timeframes for on-ground works (which may include retrofitting road culverts, fencing, new over or under passes, fish passage retrofit).  PMO's for Capital Works programs where identified.	Short (Year 2)	Infrastructure Planning	State Government where applicable	



## Reduce Impacts on Corridors

Outcome: Management of impacts from urban, peri-urban and rural land areas to improve the function of the corridors.

Priority Outcome	Action	Performance Achieved	Time Frame	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
Enhancement of buffer on <b>Council land</b> to reduce edge effects through the <i>Parks and Conservation Unit</i>	Create buffer of native vegetation to reduce the risk of edge effects along priority corridors	Area of revegetation within priority corridor buffers	Ongoing	Parks & Conservation Services Unit	Environment & Education Unit (Bushcare)	BAU
Enhancement of buffer on <b>freehold land</b> through <i>Environmental Partnerships Program (voluntary extension)</i>	Offer advice and action oriented support to landholders in creating buffer of native vegetation to reduce the risk of edge effects along priority corridors	Area of revegetation within priority corridor buffers	Ongoing	Environment & Education Unit (Environmental Partnerships)		BAU
Education of residents on impact of domestic and feral animals on wildlife	Education programs targeted at residents within close proximity to priority corridors	Number of education tools/campaigns	Ongoing	Environment & Education Unit (Environmental Partnerships)	Animal Management Team	BAU
Enforcement of Local Laws to reduce impact of domestic and feral animals on wildlife	Enforcement programs targeted at residents within close proximity to priority corridors	Number of enforcement actions	Ongoing	Animal Management Team	Environment & Education Unit	BAU
Assessment of noise and light disturbance from dwellings, traffic and road infrastructure	<b>Planning Stage</b> Investigate potential for mitigation measures where light and noise impact identified priority corridors	A detailed report prioritising and identifying the location of impacted sites and recommended mitigation methods.	Immediate (Year 1)	Environment & Education Unit	City Infrastructure Group	BAU (Low)
	<b>Implementation Stage</b> Detail design and estimate of costs of the mitigation options identified in the Planning Stage, for the inclusion into the Capital Works and PMO programs.  Advise to State Government Agencies where applicable.	Revised Action Plan which clearly details specific on-ground works, locations, costing and timeframes.  PMO's for Capital Works programs where identified	Short (Year 2)	City Infrastructure Group	State Government Agencies	



## Reduce Impacts on Corridors

Outcome: Management of impacts from storm tide and sea level rise to protect corridors.

Priority Outcome	Action	Performance Achieved	Time Frame	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
Enhancement of coastal foreshore buffer on Council reserve through the <i>Parks and Conservation Unit</i>	Enhance the coastal foreshore corridor buffers to compensate for rise in sea level along priority corridors	Area of revegetation within priority corridor buffers	Ongoing	Parks & Conservation Services Unit	Environment & Education Unit (Bushcare)	BAU
Enhancement of coastal foreshore buffer freehold land by <i>Conservation Land Acquisitions</i>	Acquisition of land to compensate for rise in sea level and achieve cost effective environmental outcomes along priority corridors	Area of acquired land within priority corridors	Ongoing	Environment & Education Unit	Property Services	BAU

## Protect Corridor Habitat

Outcome: Identify need for consequential changes to regulating development under City Plan

Priority Outcome	Action	Performance Achieved	Time Frame	Responsibility	Partners	Cost
Redland City Plan	Review City Plan to determine any necessary consequential amendments	Recommendations for necessary amendments to City Plan	Immediate	City Planning & Assessment Group	Environment & Education Unit City Plan Project Manager	BAU
Advice to applicants	Provide training and supporting materials for CPA and ICCC staff to assist in providing advice to applicants relating to development in and around identified corridors	Work instructions for advice to applicants	Short	City Planning & Assessment Group	Environment & Education Unit	BAU

