

Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust

**STRATEGIC PLAN
2024-2028**

IPSWICH RIVERS IMPROVEMENT TRUST

STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction.....	2
Our Vision.....	2
Our Mission	2
Our Values	2
Function and Role	2
Ipswich River Trust Area.....	3
Working with Others - Stakeholders.....	3
Strategies.....	4
1. Stakeholder Engagement	4
2. Riparian Zone Management.....	4
3. Physical Integrity of Waterways	4
5. Flooding	5
Bibliography	8

Introduction

This Strategic Plan provides information about the Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust and its focus over the next 5 years to improve the ecological and hydraulic functioning of waterways within its Local Government Area (LGA). The plan aligns with the priority areas identified in the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan 2018-2021 (Resilient Rivers Initiative, 2018)¹.

Our Vision

To be an active partner in waterway management, improving waterway resilience and protection.

Our Mission

To restore natural flooding resilience to rivers, waterways, and their catchments in the Ipswich Local Government Area.

Our Values

- The Trust will actively seek the views of stakeholders and seeks to establish partnerships for coordinated planning and action.
- The Trust will seek to improve its decision-making performance by reference to the desired outcomes of relevant acts, institutional policies, regional and local natural resource management plans.
- The Trust will engage in projects that relate to flooding.
- The Trust will actively support or implement projects that improve the geomorphic stability of waterways, including nature-based solutions and engineering works.
- The Trust will actively support or implement projects that improve the biodiversity in the riparian zone.

Function and Role

The Trust is a statutory body and functions in accordance with its responsibilities as detailed in the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940*. The Act details the roles and powers of the Trust to operate and conduct its works.

Membership of the Trust, as detailed in the Act, consists of:

- 2 councillors appointed by Ipswich City Council, and
- up to 3 members appointed by the Minister for Local Government, Water & Volunteers.

¹

Resilient Rivers Initiative. (2018). *Bremer River Catchment Action Plan 2018-2021*. Ipswich: Council of Mayors, South East Queensland. [Bremer-River-Catchment-Action-Plan.pdf](#)

The Trust operates under the provisions of the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* which provides for the responsible management of river catchment areas through:

- a. the planning for and implementing of measures that improve the protection, health and resilience of rivers and their catchments,
- b. repairing, and preventing damage to, rivers and their catchments,
- c. restoring natural resilience to flooding and cyclones in rivers and their catchments,
- d. the protection of waterway security, and
- e. improving water quality and river system function in rivers and their catchments.

See <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-1940-005> for more information.

Ipswich River Trust Area

The Trust area includes all waterways within the boundaries of the Ipswich City LGA. This area includes significant areas of the Bremer River catchment, which discharges to the Brisbane River. The LGA also includes sections of the Brisbane River catchment with the river itself forming part of its north-eastern boundary.

Major tributaries of the Bremer River in the Trusts' LGA include Western Creek, Franklin Vale Creek, Warrill Creek, Purga Creek, Deebling Creek, Bundamba Creek, and Sandy Creek.

Major tributaries of the Brisbane River in the Trust' LGA include Black Snake Creek in the west and, Six Mile Creek, Goodna Creek, and Woogaroo Creek in the east.

Appendix 1. Map 1 outlines the geographic area of Trusts' LGA.

Working with Others - Stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement is part of the Trusts' planning and implementation process to support successful project implementation.

The Trust maintains strong networks and memberships with key state, regional, and local organisations. This ensures that programmes and activities are well targeted, consistent and coordinated to achieve the best outcomes.

This engagement includes, but is not limited to:

- State Council of River Trusts
- Ipswich City Council
- Healthy Land and Water
- Bremer River Network.

Strategies

1. Stakeholder Engagement

- Develop a structured landholder engagement process for the Annual Works Program, including a pathway for projects where this is significant landholder resistance.
- Partner with other organisations and community groups on selected projects to provide both improved delivery, and longer-term outcomes.
- The Trust will actively engage in partnerships to support projects that align with the Trusts' objectives.

2. Riparian Zone Management

- Woody weeds are a priority issue for the Trust due to their ecological and flooding impacts.
- The Trust recognises the need for sound riparian zone management to be practiced to:
 - prevent stream bank degradation,
 - improve the ecological functioning of waterways, such as the water quality benefits of shading,
 - reduce sediment and nutrient runoff with filter /buffer strips, and
 - provide vegetation corridor linkages that supports biodiversity.

Goals

1. Develop an annual works program to implement and support coordinated actions in identified locations for:
 - a) riparian weed removal, and
 - b) riparian rehabilitation planting.
2. Conduct a review on the methodology and effectiveness of the weed eradication program.
3. Initiate a condition assessment report to identify priority sites.
4. Investigate support measures for landowners to encourage practices such as: -
 - a) managed grazing of the riparian area (to control exotic weed regrowth),
 - b) woody weed removal,
 - c) stream bank revegetation with endemic species that considers to flooding.

3. Physical Integrity of Waterways

- Streambank protection and gully erosion are high priorities for the Trust.
- The Trust will target problem sites identified as part of its ongoing annual works program through:

- The use of hard engineering solutions, such as rock armouring, to mitigate streambank or channel erosion where infrastructure is at risk, or where other solutions will be ineffective.
- Soft engineering, and nature-based solutions, such as bank reprofiling and revegetation be considered for other situations.
- To maintain a balance between outcomes for reducing erosion, ensuring geomorphic diversity, and improving the ecological function of waterways.

Goals

1. Conduct a condition assessment of waterways in the Trust area. This was completed in 2021 ²
2. Promote the value of well-structured riparian vegetation.
3. Undertake streambank and channel management projects where relevant, justified and in partnership with other stakeholders.

4. Ecological Health and Water Quality

- The Trust will work to improve the ecological health outcomes of waterways.
- The Trust will work in partnership with stakeholders to implement water quality improvement programs.

Goals

1. Participate in forums that seek targeted scientific based action.
2. To undertake relevant actions in conjunction with other partners.
3. Identify ecological improvements for its projects that can be monitored over time.

5. Flooding

- The Trust will rely upon responsible agencies for flood planning and risk management.
- The Trust may initiate the need for action, with responsible agencies, and be involved in the delivery of actions, when required.
- The Trust will work to improve the resilience of waterways to flooding.

² Riparian Condition Assessment of Waterways of Ipswich, 2021: GB Faulkner

The Ipswich River Improvement Trust Strategic Plan 2024 -2028

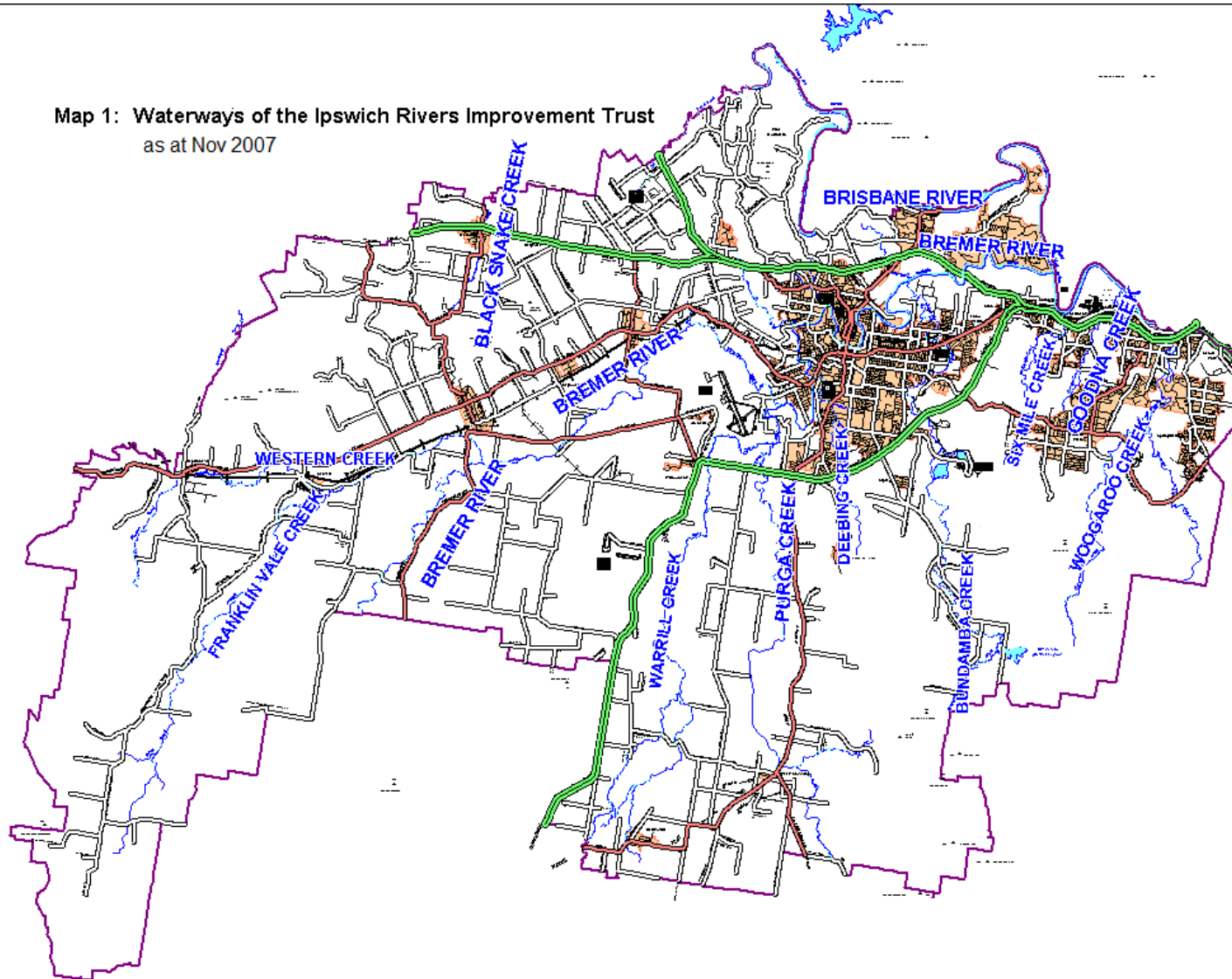
Vision – To be an active partner in waterway management, improving waterway resilience and protection.

Mission – To restore natural flooding resilience to rivers, waterways, and their catchments in the Ipswich Local Government Area.

Government’s objectives for the community: conserving our pristine environment that draws visitors from across the world and improving water security.

Goals (Objects - Rivers Improvement Trust Act)	Objectives	Outcomes	Performance Indicators
Planning for and implementing measures that Conserve our Pristine Environment. We will also improve the protection, health and resilience of rivers and their catchments	Improve partnerships with government, community and non-profit organisations with shared goals	Coordinated catchment plans, supported community partners, promoted research and collaborative projects	Implementation of Community Engagement Strategy Trust is an active part of planning and research activities in the LGA Trust is an active member of coordinating groups such as the Bremer River Network
Repairing, and preventing damage to, rivers and their catchments	Actively work with waterway partners to identify erosion and flood damage to waterways and contribute to repair and prevention	Collaborative assessment and prioritisation of erosion and damage. Repair using best practice management tools that include both geomorphic and ecological rehabilitation principles	Actively contributing to river recovery in flood-affected areas through annual works program
Restoring natural resilience to flooding and cyclones in rivers and their catchments	Improving riparian health and floodplain management	Improved weed management in LGA. Promote the use of Water Sensitive Urban (WSU) design principles and river restoration guidelines.	Actively contributing to improved riparian health and floodplain management through annual works program using nature based solutions to flood resilience
Protection of water security	Support research and policy that promotes water security	Understand challenges and threats to water security.	No decline in water security
Improving water quality and river system function in rivers and their catchments	Improved ecological function through improved water quality and ecosystem function.	Understand water quality ecosystem function threats and challenges to prioritise improvement actions	Long term water quality improvements through sediment reduction Improved geomorphic condition in repaired reaches
Stakeholders - Ipswich City Council, Council Mayors – Resilient Rivers Initiative - Catchment Officers, Bremer River Network, Catchment Groups – West Moreton Landcare, Bremer Catchment Association, Community Bush Care groups; Education – Schools and catchment groups; Research – Griffith University, Australian Rivers Institute, University of Queensland			

Map 1: Waterways of the Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust
as at Nov 2007



Bibliography

Resilient Rivers Initiative. (2018). *Bremer River Catchment Action Plan 2018-2021*. Ipswich: Council of Mayors, South East Queensland.