



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

# **Brisbane City Council Voluntary Local Review 2023**

Delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Monitoring Framework

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### Acknowledgement of Country

Brisbane City Council acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow. May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.

'Caring for Country – Land, Water and Sky'  
by Riki Salam (Mualgal, Kaurareg, Kuku, Yalanji),  
We are 27 Creative.



# Brisbane's journey to becoming a sustainable city



As Australia's most biodiverse capital city, Brisbane has always prioritised the health and preservation of our environment.

Brisbane was the first Australian city to receive a Silver Certification in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Sustainable Development Goals Cities Global Initiative in 2022. Since then, we have continued to deliver on creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable city to benefit our community today and future generations to come.

To highlight these tangible changes and strengthen our commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we are excited to present Brisbane's Voluntary Local Review.

Our Council is proud to be the largest carbon-neutral government organisation in Australia. From buying environmentally important bushland and implementing waste recycling schemes, to delivering grants for clubs and community groups to reduce their emissions, we deliver practical solutions to improve the quality of life for everyone.

Brisbane is Australia's fastest growing capital city and we must factor in the environmental impact of the infrastructure and transport solutions needed for our city to continue to thrive.

The Brisbane Metro will deliver an accessible, zero-tailpipe emissions service that will improve travel options for our city's diverse and ever-changing needs. Council's Green Bridges program is connecting footpaths and bikeways between the city and the suburbs, making it even easier for residents and visitors to get around.

This document outlines Council's commitment to creating a more sustainable future for our residents as we work towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

I am proud to share this overview as a celebration of our city's achievements and a roadmap for Brisbane to become a globally recognised sustainable city.

Adrian Schinner  
Lord Mayor

# Executive summary

Brisbane City Council is committed to becoming a global leader in sustainable development. The vibrant lifestyle, active and thriving city with a rich and diverse culture, makes Brisbane a welcoming place to live, work and relax. The natural environment is at the core of Brisbane's identity, with the Brisbane River winding through the city and leading to the natural beauty of Moreton Bay and its islands. Brisbane boasts a stunning subtropical climate and attractive urban landscape.

Brisbane is Australia's fastest growing capital city. In the coming years, the city will be faced with numerous opportunities and challenges. These include a growing population, climate change, economic disruption and an emerging global identity.

This action-oriented Voluntary Local Review (VLR), prepared in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), acts as a baseline for Brisbane's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With over 60% of the world's population residing in urban areas, cities are at the forefront of progressing the SDGs.

Council's commitment to the 17 SDGs is focused on improving the lives of Brisbane residents through addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, to create an open, thriving, cleaner, greener, safer future for Brisbane residents.

As the [largest carbon neutral government organisation](#) in Australia, Council was proud that Brisbane was announced as the first Australian city to receive Silver Certification in UN-Habitat's SDG Cities Global Initiative, demonstrating the city's progress towards a cleaner, greener future.

## The four themes of this VLR:

### Resilience

Exploring how Council can continue to create significant opportunities for growth and economic resilience and diversity, including climate resilience.

### Active, Healthy and Green

Exploring how Council can continue to support the drive towards a healthier and more active Brisbane, with a focus on greening the city through preservation of the natural environment.

### Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable

Exploring how the people of Brisbane interact and access basic services, open space for culture and cultural participation, and representative and inclusive institutions.

### Liveable and Connected

Exploring how Council is creating a city that is more liveable, supporting our residents in finding affordable and appropriate housing choices, and providing better connections through public transport.



Council is committed to protecting Brisbane's unique lifestyle, managing the growing population and helping create a clean, green, more sustainable future for our residents. Our aim is to do our part for our community, by creating a better future for all and join with the aim of the UN-Habitat in *Leave No One and No Place Behind*.

# Brisbane's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Many UN countries, and their cities, have committed resources to fulfilling the initiatives set out under the [United Nations 2030 Agenda](#). The combination of the UN SDGs and Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) initiative is instrumental in driving sustainable development.

Brisbane was proud to be announced as the first Australian city to receive Silver Certification in the UN-Habitat SDG Cities Global Initiative in November 2022. This certification demonstrates the city's progress towards a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future.

This action-oriented Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a baseline of Brisbane's progress towards the 2030 Agenda. It describes how [Brisbane Vision 2031](#) and its connected strategies align with the UN SDGs and UMF, and how the city promotes and monitors sustainable development. Analysis of city-wide data provides the required evidence and context for these priorities and ensures that Council is continuing to work towards achieving its commitments.

Through this action-oriented VLR, Council has identified opportunities to further demonstrate its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and to highlight how Brisbane is leading the way for other global cities.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the need for inclusive participation and effective stakeholder engagement for the successful implementation of the SDGs.

Council is committed to effective community and stakeholder engagement built on trust, respect and goodwill as reflected in Council's [Community Engagement Policy](#).

Council engaged with identified stakeholders at key stages in the lifecycle of the project to help visualise, analyse, discuss and validate this VLR.

Stakeholders from within Council included Council administration, executive decision and policy makers and subject matter experts.

External advisors included subject matter experts and expert advisory bodies across social, economic and environmental sectors who provided strategic advice, identified opportunities and discussed innovative solutions relating to the project.

Additionally, Council routinely engages with the Brisbane community and key stakeholders on programs and strategies that have helped to inform this VLR.

## Our engagement

- 63 authors
- 70+ secondary school students and university professors
- 5 business groups and industry experts
- 13 engagement sessions and events
- 2 online surveys

## Methodology

Council has conducted this VLR following a methodology set by the UN-Habitat SDG Cities Global Initiative. The project has included the following stages:



*The defining principle and shared promise by all UN countries is to **leave no one behind** by committing to working together to secure the rights and wellbeing of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet.*

**UN-Habitat**


# Welcome to Brisbane



## Brisbane in profile

Australia's First Nations people have lived on mainland Australia at least 65,000 years. Brisbane's history can be traced back to when Traditional Custodians of the land lived in the area now called Moreton Bay.





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have walked and cared for this land that is now our shared home for thousands of years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritual connection and relationship with their cultural homelands, cultures and protocols continues today.

From 1824 to 1842, Moreton Bay operated as a penal colony for British convicts sent from Sydney. Its suitability for fishing, farming, timber and other industries saw Brisbane become a free settlement from 1842, and a municipality in 1859. Brisbane was named as a City after Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane who was the 6th Governor of New South Wales.

Today, Brisbane is a safe, vibrant, green and prosperous city, valued for its friendly and optimistic people and enviable lifestyle. The city benefits from rich biodiversity and is home to more than 800 species of native wildlife, 2,500 species of native plants and many thriving areas of bushland, parks and waterways.

Often referred to as the River City, Brisbane is built around the winding Brisbane River and is characterised by a warm subtropical climate, outdoor lifestyle, hilly suburban pockets, and Queenslander style housing.

Brisbane is home to vibrant retail and dining precincts from the city to the suburbs, with extensive parkland spaces for sport and leisure, festivals, arts and entertainment.

Brisbane has a multicultural and linguistically diverse population, with more than one third of residents born overseas and 28% speaking a language other than English at home. Brisbane is a global hub in scientific innovation, mining and resources, technology, higher education, and cultural attractions.

**Brisbane is dedicated to being a world leader in sustainable development. The city's vibrant lifestyle and its status as an active and thriving city with a rich and diverse culture makes it a welcoming place to live, work and relax.**

The natural environment is at the core of Brisbane's identity, with the Brisbane River winding through the city and leading to the natural splendour of Moreton Bay and its islands. Brisbane boasts a stunning subtropical climate and attractive urban landscape.

Brisbane City Council is committed to working with our community to achieve sustainable long-term outcomes that will benefit all of Brisbane and our residents for generations to come. Council has a long-term vision for Brisbane to be recognised as a world-leading clean, green and sustainable city.

# Brisbane is a great place to live, work and relax

**1,342.7 km<sup>2</sup>**

Municipal administrative area size

**800+**

Species of native wildlife

**2,500**

native plants in Brisbane

Council is the **largest** carbon neutral government organisation in Australia

**1.4%**

Average annual growth rate over 10 years

**759,661**

Labour force

**989,647**

People employed in Brisbane

**1,283,002**

Brisbane population

## Projected population

2031

**1.41M**

increase of 9.7%

2046

**1.60M**

increase of 25%

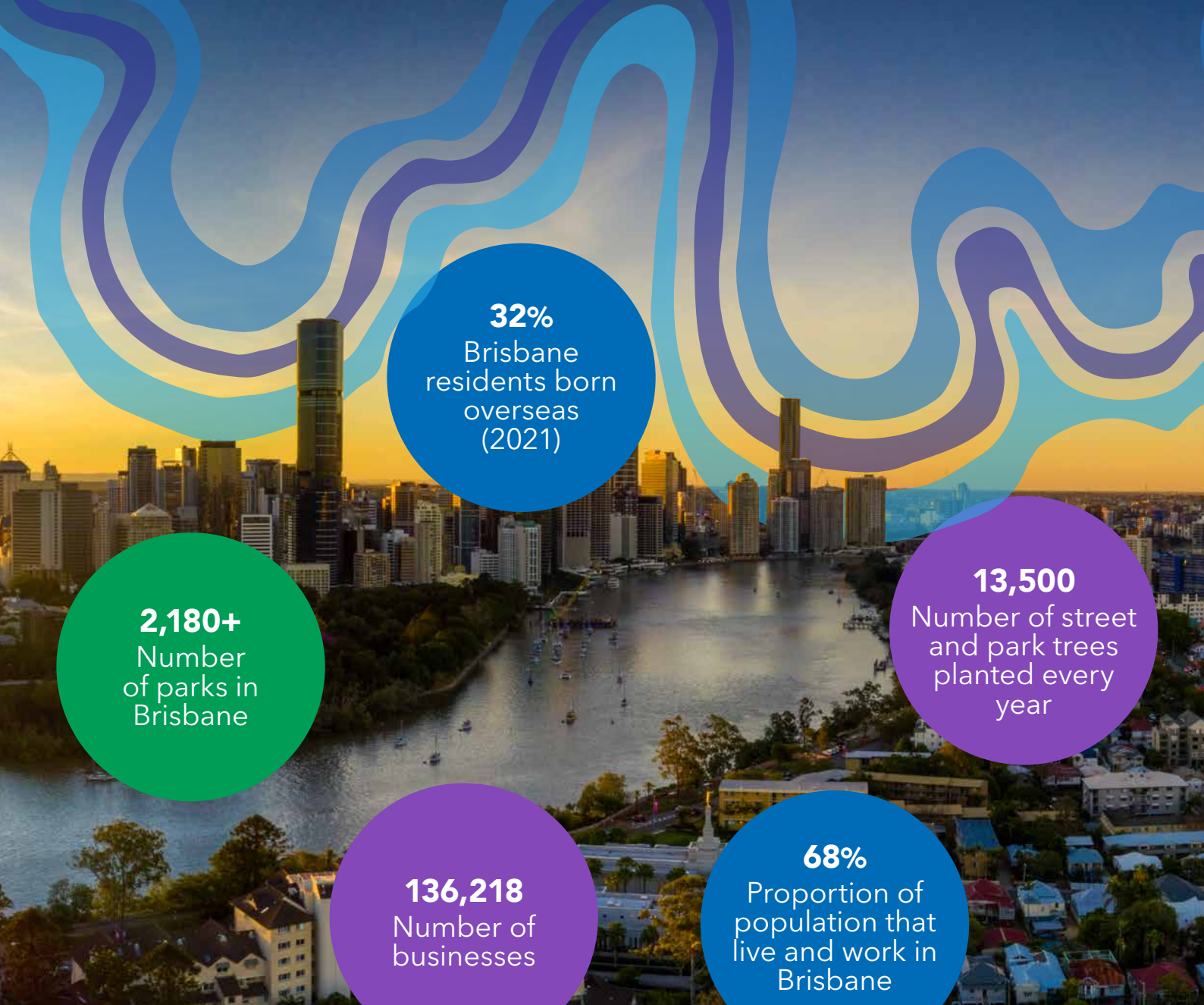
**3.2%**

Unemployment rate (June 2023)

**38.1%**

Bachelor degree level and above (compared to national average of 26.3%)

Highest level of education (aged 15 and over)



**32%**  
Brisbane residents born overseas (2021)

**2,180+**  
Number of parks in Brisbane

**13,500**  
Number of street and park trees planted every year

**136,218**  
Number of businesses

**68%**  
Proportion of population that live and work in Brisbane

<b>Household median weekly income</b>	Brisbane	Australia
	<b>\$2,068</b>	<b>\$1,746</b>

The top industry divisions of employment for Brisbane

**15.7%**  
Healthcare and social assistance

**11.5%**  
Professional, scientific and technical services

**9.8%**  
Education and training

Gross Regional Product, Greater Brisbane  
\$AUD Billions

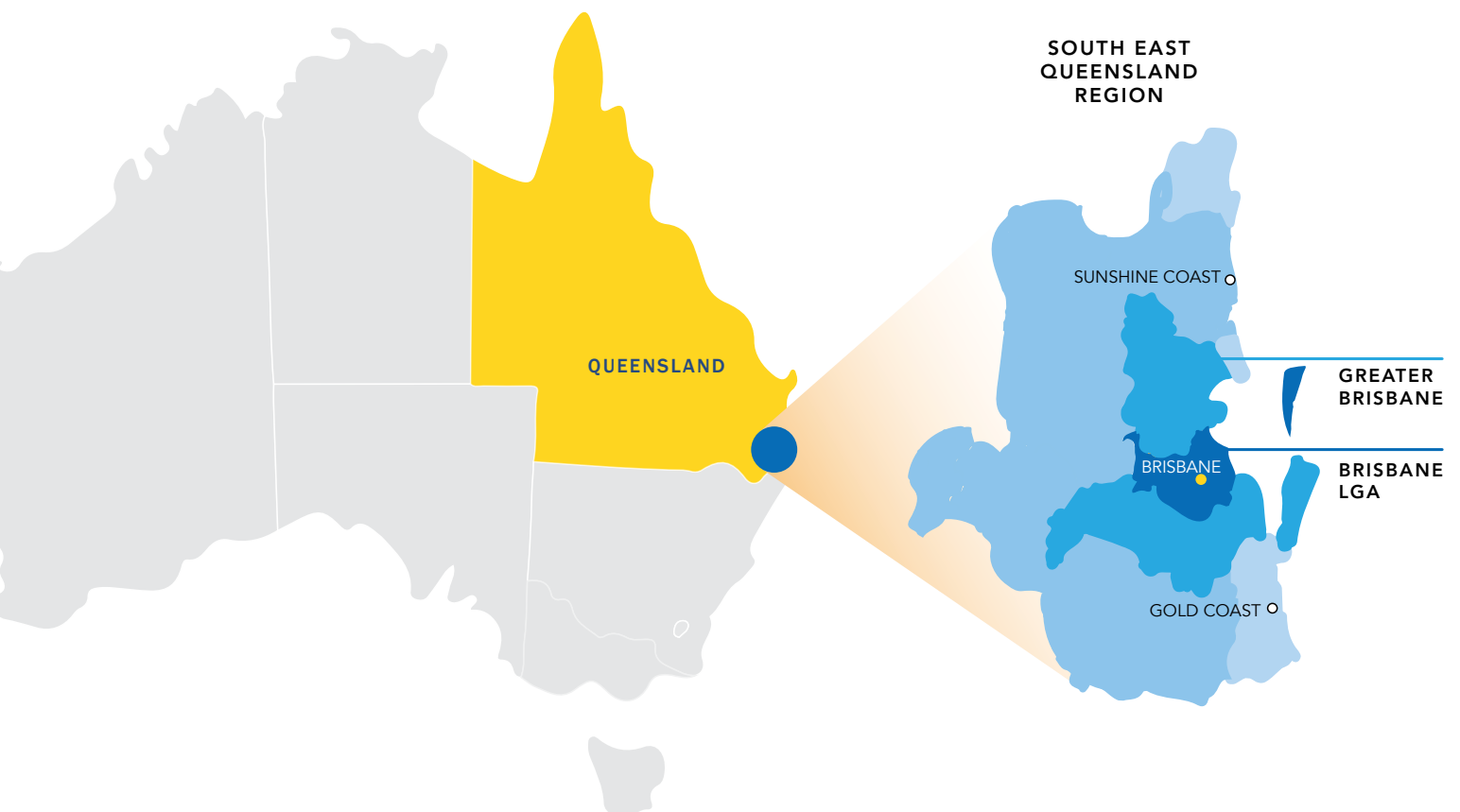
<b>2016</b>	<b>\$146B</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$180B</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$181B</b>

# Brisbane's key opportunities and challenges

Brisbane is a growing and changing city, alive with opportunity whilst facing several challenges in the coming years. Council has a fundamental role to ensure the city and its people are well positioned to benefit from these opportunities, can face challenges well and will thrive into the future.

Four key opportunities and challenges for Brisbane:

- a growing population
- a changing climate
- a dynamic economy
- a new global identity.



## A growing population

Brisbane is Australia's fastest-growing capital city, and its population is expected to surge from approximately 1.28 million people in 2022 to 1.6 million by 2046. This dynamic growth reflects the city's appeal as a vibrant, green, prosperous and safe city. Brisbane has a large immigrant population, with 32% of residents born overseas (2021). The median age of residents is 36 years and this age has marginally increased in recent years. The average number of people per household is 2.5 persons, a slight reduction since 2011 (2.6 persons).

Growth presents challenges relating to housing affordability, housing mix and the overall cost of living. Council's city planning program facilitates the right development in the right locations. At times, this can be challenging as the urban fabric of the city changes. Council plays a critical role in ensuring the city's development is sustainable with the highest standards in urban design, architecture, planning, natural environment, and human relationship considerations. Brisbane City Council ultimately wants our city to feel alive, friendly, supporting all communities, and celebrating diversity and inclusion.

## A changing climate

Brisbane has an enviable outdoor lifestyle with more than 280 days of sunshine each year. Cities worldwide are preparing for global climate change challenges and adapting to become more resilient. Brisbane is no exception, with expectations of rising temperatures, more frequent very hot days, harsher fire weather conditions, rising sea levels and intensifying heavy rainfall events.

Council is committed to ensuring Brisbane is a climate-resilient city. This involves:

- understanding our risk to future climatic events
- establishing strong governance
- coordinating implementation across government and the community
- continually reviewing and adjusting Council performance to improve.

## A dynamic economy

The Greater Brisbane region, worth \$181 billion, with the Brisbane workforce of more than 900,000 people, is embracing a transformative era. Council is focused on ensuring changes to the local economy are aligned with principles of inclusive, green and sustainable economic growth. Council is leading by example, being proactive in transitioning the city to a greener economy. Council does this through:

- being a certified carbon neutral organisation since 2017
- having an extensive network of renewable energy production across Council assets
- implementing sustainable procurement strategies
- investing significantly in sustainable transport infrastructure
- implementing sustainable development practices across the city.

Brisbane has unstoppable momentum, defined by a pipeline of \$19 billion in planned infrastructure and asset development, cutting-edge global research, innovation hubs such as MedTech and BioTech, and a vibrant melting pot of next generation talent.

As a city with a thriving economy, Brisbane has the potential for unlimited growth across the entire business ecosystem, from local small business through to multinational enterprises. All these factors, coupled with Council's agility and tenacity to get things done - plus Brisbane's unique lifestyle - gives the city a distinctive appeal for those looking to do business.

## Creating a new global identity

Brisbane's identity is rapidly transforming, spurred by its role as the Host City of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Games is an opportunity to accelerate long-term plans and align global events with the UN SDGs. In doing so, Brisbane is a city aware of its future opportunities and challenges, and proactively addressing them.

Brisbane is future-focused and committed to sustainable growth. The city is coordinating extensive planning, promoting investment, and supporting the local business community to ensure hosting the Games is positive for residents and businesses.

The city's ambition extends beyond the Games, aiming to establish a lasting Olympic and Paralympic legacy for the people of Brisbane. Initiatives such as the turn-up-and-go Brisbane Metro, connecting the city with the Green Bridges Program, and transforming Victoria Park / Barrambin into an iconic parkland, reflect this commitment. These city-shaping projects ensure Brisbane's readiness for the event while enhancing the city's connectivity and liveability for residents now and into the future.



## Brisbane’s strategic policies aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Council partners with the community to guide the city’s future growth and development. The *Brisbane Vision 2031*, long-term plans and other strategies are put in place to plan for the future. These policies and strategies are the foundation of Council’s projects, programs and the activities we deliver.

As illustrated below, Council has a strong integrated policy suite aligning with all UN SDGs, so that Brisbane’s contribution to the 2030 Agenda positions us as a world leader in sustainability.

	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Brisbane Vision 2031	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Corporate Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Brisbane City Plan 2014			●			●	●	●		●	●		●		●		
Brisbane. Clean, Green Sustainable 2017-2031					●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●			●
Design-led City: A design strategy for Brisbane			●						●	●	●		●				
Smart, Connected Brisbane Framework									●	●	●						●
Brisbane’s Economic Development Plan 2012-2031	●				●			●	●	●	●	●					●
Brisbane Long Term Infrastructure & Local Govt. Infrastructure Plan				●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	
Creative Brisbane Creative Economy			●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●					●
Long-Term Asset Management Plan 2022-2042						●	●		●	●	●	●	●				
Transport Plan for Brisbane Strategic Directions			●					●	●	●	●		●				●
A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019-2029	●	●	●		●			●		●	●				●	●	●

# Brisbane City Council

As Queensland's capital and Australia's fastest-growing capital city, Brisbane plays a critical role in the region's identity and prosperity. As Brisbane's prominence on the national and world stage continues to grow, Council remains dedicated to building the Brisbane of tomorrow with support from the community, industry representatives, non-government organisations and other levels of government.



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*





# Our governance

Brisbane City Council is the largest provider of local government services in Australia and is governed under the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (the Act). The Act provides the day-to-day framework for how Council operates. It outlines Council's rules, regulations and responsibilities for operation and dictates the legislative powers made available to Council.

As a local authority, Council is responsible for driving a strong, healthy, sustainable, and vibrant city. Council does this through implementing the Act to ensure:

- it is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable
- it is transparent and has effective processes
- sustainable development, asset management and effective service delivery
- it has democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement
- good governance and ethical behaviours of Councillors and Council employees.

Australia operates a Commonwealth (federal) Government under the Westminster system as the top tier of government led by the Prime Minister. States and territories across Australia are then the second tier of government, with the State of Queensland as the state in which Brisbane is located. Local governments, like Brisbane City Council, are the third tier of government in Australia, and are the closest with the community.

Council strategies and initiatives are developed and implemented to enhance the community's experience, value of living and doing business in Brisbane. This document highlights Council's actions and initiatives to make Brisbane a better place today and into the future.

Council is driven by strong [corporate values](#) that guide our thinking, actions and decisions.

# Resilience

For Brisbane, the concept of resilience is considered relative to economic health, community response and recovery from major disruptions.

Economic flexibility and health along with community bounce-back from adversity is how Brisbane can adapt and mitigate risks associated with natural events such as floods, heat stress, bushfires, drought, public health shocks and changes to our climate.





# Economic prosperity

Greater Brisbane's economy is worth \$181 billion and the current Brisbane workforce is more than 900,000 people. Brisbane has a low unemployment rate with statistics (June 2023) showing 3.2% of the labour force are unemployed<sup>1</sup>. This percentage has shifted over the years due to different economic climatic factors however, the percentage has decreased consistently in the years between 2016 and 2021.

Brisbane's low unemployment rates over time reflect a broader context around migration into Brisbane, supply chain disruptions, availability of staff and hybrid working conditions. Brisbane has a high level of advertised job vacancies, with businesses still struggling to find staff to fill roles.

A key success factor for any global city is in setting a transparent and tangible economic plan. In 2012, Council set a clear economic agenda for the city with [Brisbane's Economic Development Plan](#) to 2031. Reviewed regularly, the plan promotes growth through job creation, diversifying industries and facilitating access to new markets.

It supports competitiveness in its offering for new ventures to locate to Brisbane and gain access to the fastest growing market in the world - Asia Pacific.

Council established the Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA), formally Brisbane Marketing Pty Ltd, in 2000 to advise and deliver programs and campaigns to support existing and attract new economic opportunities to the city. Recovering from the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing. Brisbane has shown resilience throughout this challenging period and now, in 2023, has delivered strong economic growth. Brisbane's economic resilience is maintained through the city's ability to move and adjust to market demands and changing economic spheres such as high-tech industries, advanced manufacturing and evolving tourism sectors.

Brisbane's projected growth and opportunity needs are supported by Council's focus on long-term infrastructure priorities<sup>2</sup> and our plan for growing the digital economy<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [Brisbane Community Profiles](#) | Brisbane City Council

<sup>2</sup> [Brisbane Long Term Infrastructure Plan 2012-2031](#) | Brisbane City Council

<sup>3</sup> [Brisbane's Economic Development Plan](#) | Brisbane City Council



## Brisbane Economic Development Agency

Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Brisbane City Council and is the city's official economic development board. BEDA drives the sustainable economic growth of the city, working closely with government and private sector organisations to enhance and promote the city's reputation globally, drive visitation, attract investment and talent and support local business to scale and grow.

BEDA works closely with government and private sector organisations to enhance and promote the city's reputation globally, drive visitation, attract investment and talent, and grow local business.

From developing the Brisbane Brief - a document that outlines the city's key selling points and campaigns that raise the city's profile as a global destination for business and visitation, to running industry accelerators and grants for local businesses, BEDA is a critical organisation in achieving a better quality of life future for Brisbane residents.



BEDA complements Council's full scope of economic development for the city, which includes:

- a dedicated International Relations and Multicultural Affairs team, focused on advancing Brisbane in the Asia Pacific region and supporting Brisbane's international business programs through Sister City networks and international delegations
- an award-winning City Planning and Economic Development team combining planning and economic strategy
- a significant pipeline of \$19 billion planned infrastructure projects.



CASE STUDY

## Moving on from the coronavirus pandemic

Globally, people are moving on from the immediate effects of the coronavirus pandemic and focusing on recovery including planning for a resilient future. Council's rapid response to the global pandemic should be acknowledged.

Brisbane's [Lord Mayor's Covid-19 Direct Assistance Program](#) supported not-for-profit lessees during pandemic-induced closures by covering operational expenses and maintenance works.

Brisbane's Economic Recovery Taskforce that was established at the time, focused on rebuilding Brisbane's economy through identifying and implementing initiatives for our city's recovery. Key measures included investing in city-shaping infrastructure projects and promoting Brisbane as an attractive destination for private investment. These efforts have laid a firm foundation for economic regeneration and job creation, with the city now reaping these benefits.

Brisbane's open, vibrant, inviting places, economic precincts and innovation hubs create a city environment that encourages entrepreneurial thinking. This fosters the brightest of ideas, attracts global talent and investment, and drives prosperity and sustainability across a range of industries.

As well as supporting business through Council's Growing Precincts Together program and [Better Suburbs Initiative](#), our paid internship opportunities partner Brisbane businesses with talented domestic and international students, further promoting economic growth.

Brisbane is thriving with strong growth across its industry markets and endless opportunities for new businesses to locate to the city. The city is edging onto the global stage with diverse employment options and a broad range of industries. The total number of businesses in Brisbane is increasing with 128,000 recorded in 2018 and 136,000 in 2022; a 6% increase with 8,000 new businesses established.

Market diversity is a key factor to economic resilience and for a city of Brisbane's scale, this comes through Council supporting small enterprises to develop their business models and move into new, innovative and advanced business areas.



Council develops plans, policies and strategies to support the local economy and encourage jobs, growth and financial incentives.

## Council is investing in city-shaping infrastructure projects, such as the Brisbane Metro, the Green Bridges Program, Victoria Park/ Barrambin, and infrastructure to support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games—all providing jobs and financial injections to Brisbane’s local economy.

These major infrastructure investment projects will move the city into a new growth phase, which has also been accelerated by being named the Host City of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

When Brisbane local businesses and community groups faced hardship through disruptions such as the global financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic, Council responded by developing and delivering economic relief packages<sup>4</sup>.

These packages helped businesses pay fees, rents and charges during times when they were most impacted. Council offered such packages of support for residents during the 2011 and 2022 flood events.

Council will continue to identify opportunities to provide financial relief programs, such as the small business recovery taskforce, to its community in response to major economic disruptions and events.

<sup>4</sup> Council’s Latest Economic Relief Package | Brisbane Business Hub

### CASE STUDY

## Medical technology

Medical technology (MedTech) is a growing industry. Brisbane has emerged as a globally recognised leader in healthcare technology. The city has a history in medical innovation, which includes the development of the cervical cancer vaccine, Gardasil.

BEDA first launched the successful MedTech Global Accelerator Program in August 2022, designed to fast track global investment opportunities for new and innovative ventures in Brisbane, and open international market pathways. BEDA has recently selected 11 innovative businesses to join the program in its 2023 cohort of MedTech businesses.





## Resilience to natural hazards

Brisbane is situated along a major river system and floodplain, on the south-east Queensland coastline, which means destructive weather systems have and will continue to impact the city and its residents. Brisbane is prone to experience various natural disasters including bushfire, flood, storm, drought and heat waves due to its subtropical climate. These severe weather occurrences often bring varying degrees of disruption to the city, causing damage and service interruptions such as power loss, property loss, health risks, road closures and public transport issues.

Having weathered several major events, Council understands and prepares for the impacts these hazards have on our communities across the region. Council maintains a [Local Disaster Management Plan](#), which it implements in partnership with various other government agencies and the community.





The iconic Brisbane Riverwalk was washed away in the 2011 floods. Built back better in a new resilient design in 2014, it was able to withstand the 2022 floods and reopen to the public not long after the flood event.

One of Council's major areas of investment is the city's infrastructure and asset management programs. Brisbane has experienced major weather events of different scales over the past two decades, and this has changed how Council delivers infrastructure to ensure community resilience is a key consideration. Council has recently updated its *Long-Term Asset Management Plan* to reflect the need for Council to build infrastructure to be resilient to climatic conditions.

For example, stormwater infrastructure networks have been improved, CityCat terminals and Brisbane's Riverwalk have been redesigned and built to withstand major flooding events, and Council has invested in critical infrastructure and signage to warn community of risks.

## CASE STUDY

## Learning from Brisbane's flood events

In recent history, Brisbane has experienced two significant natural disasters - the 2011 and 2022 flood events. The costs to Council of each were significant, totalling \$100 million in direct financial costs in 2011, and \$330 million in 2022. The financial and economic impacts to the city were even greater. Approximately 145,000 properties were impacted by the 2011 floods and approximately 300,000 properties in the 2022 floods. These two events should be assessed separately and not compared due to the differences in the nature of rainfall and weather events at the time. Despite the differing nature of these two events, the lessons drawn from the 2011 flood bolstered Council's capacity to handle emergencies and enhanced disaster resilience in 2022, and beyond.

The 2022 flood severely affected thousands of Council assets including buildings, quarries, ferries, natural areas, community facilities and roads. Council undertook an extensive clean-up across Brisbane and its surrounds to support the community rebuild and recovery. Council cleared 3,357 streets and collected more than 75,000 tonnes of waste in the city's clean-up.

The 2022 flood impacted approximately 285km of road, with more than 70 roads identified for further investigation and reconstruction works. Council had repaired more than 17,000 potholes across 176 suburbs within just a month of the event. Council provided extra support to the community for waste removal, resumed the regular bin collections the day after the event, distributed additional food waste bins to specific sites and offered residents free disposal of flood-affected waste at Council transfer stations.



Council provides early warning alerts for residents to better monitor, act and respond to flooding, with the number of subscribers to this alert service increasing from approximately 142,000 people in 2017 to 173,000 people in 2022.

In response to the February 2022 event, Council undertook operational reviews and established a [Flood Resilience Action Plan](#) within five months, outlining strategies and actions to be implemented to support the community's recovery. Within a year, most of those actions had commenced, with many already completed.





Council is working to ensure Brisbane households and communities are prepared for future natural disasters and, alongside the Queensland and Australian governments, actively contributes to raising awareness, giving early and accurate notice of an event, providing advice on safe evacuation, and supporting the community returning home after an event. Resilient actions take many forms throughout Brisbane, all with a purpose of collectively serving to reduce detrimental impacts on community wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

Brisbane is subject to hot days and variable rainfall periods across all seasons. When it comes to protecting the community, Council is one of the lead agencies involved. Council works in partnership with various emergency management agencies to better understand and prepare for the natural hazards risk to the community.

Flood and drought are the two natural hazards Brisbane has encountered in recent times; the impact of heat and bushfire is of growing concern and interest.

Council continues to expand the tools and data analysis to better inform the community of the level of risk each of these natural hazards pose to their properties and communities. Such tools and analysis can be seen in Council's [Flood Information Online](#).

Being prepared for climate risks and the impacts of major natural events goes beyond good urban planning and well designed infrastructure. It is also about the preparation and planning before, and during an event and how Council supports the community. Council delivers an annual 'Be Prepared' campaign to increase the community's awareness and preparedness for potential natural events such as severe storms, floods and bushfires. Council is focused on awareness campaigns and targeted community engagement activities to raise the level of education on the impacts of major events, what to do to prepare for an event, how and where the community can retreat to a safe place and when it is safe to return.

**Council invests in programs such as bushfire mitigation on our Council assets and infrastructure, and will continue to identify opportunities to balance the equation of investment in resilience and preparedness to response and recovery.**



**CASE STUDY**

## Brisbane Sustainability Agency supporting resilience

Brisbane’s Sustainability Agency is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Council and is tasked to deliver Council’s long-term plan for a clean, green and sustainable Brisbane, with an emphasis on sustainability and liveability outcomes. Programs led by this agency include:

### Resilient Clubs Support Program

This program is targeted at select sporting clubs to assist in identifying and implementing improvements to their water and energy management. This includes reducing maintenance and running costs through renewable energy (solar panel) installation, lighting and appliance upgrades to improve energy efficiency and water efficiency upgrades. These are part funded by Council and through connecting the clubs with grant funding.

## Flood Resilient Suburbs – Business Resilience Program

This program is designed to help businesses and business property owners adapt and be better prepared for future flooding events. The free service is available in two parts:

1. A flood resilience assessment including onsite assessments and a business report identifying the risks related to design, engineering and construction. The report will advise on future improvements that can be made to ensure a greater level of resilience.
2. A tailored plan to advise on how the business can prepare, respond and recover from a future flood.

## Rebuild and Recover Resilient Communities Program

This program assists local community leased clubs adapt and be better prepared for flooding events. Council offers a free service to help the club better understand their future flood level and risk, through advice and recommendations to ‘build back better’, therefore reducing the impact of the next natural disaster event.

# Climate adaptation and mitigation

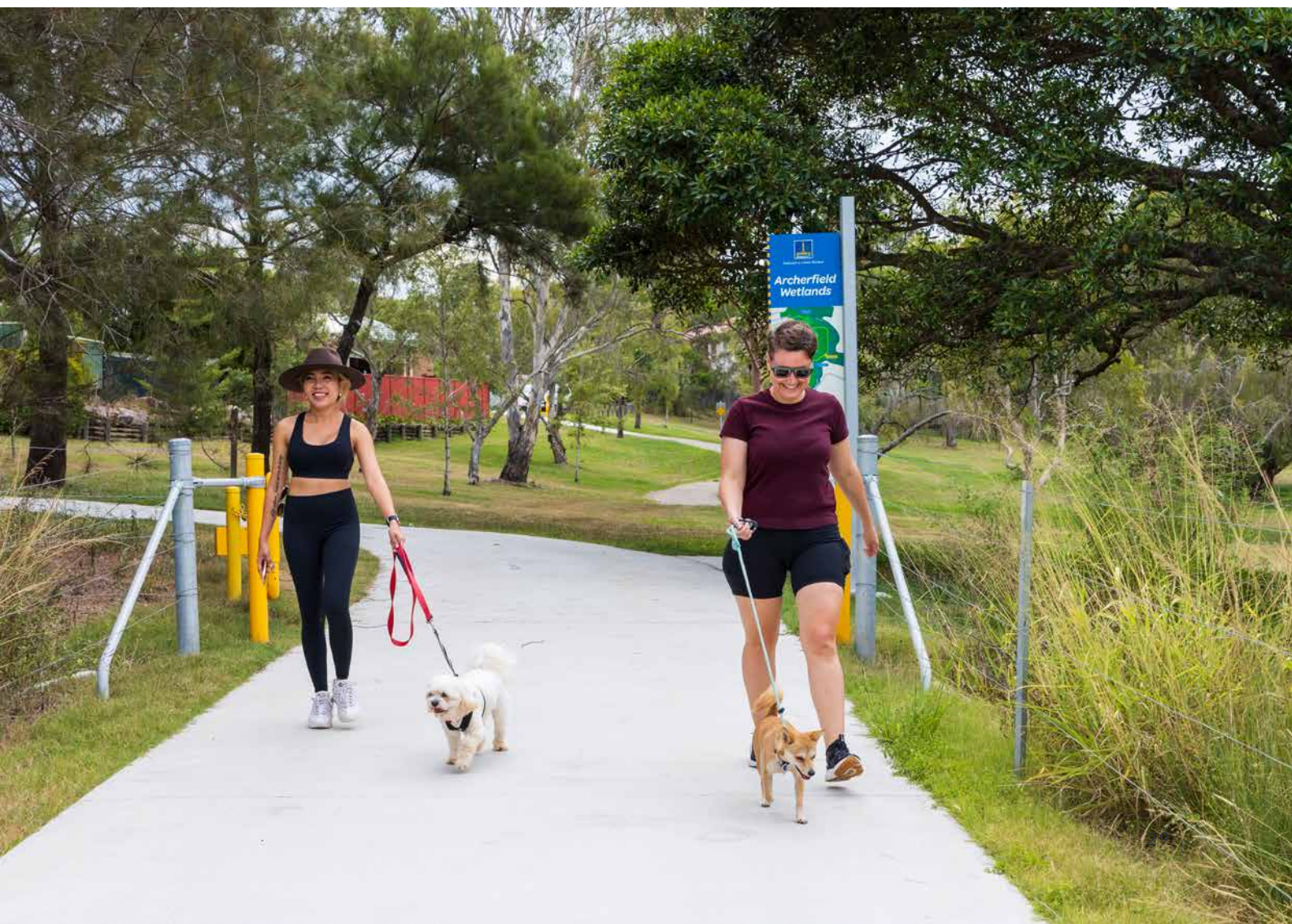
Council is committed to achieve climate resilience and prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* strategy helps achieve climate resilience and prepares for and adapts to the impacts of climate change.

The strategy includes a range of actions to reduce the city's vulnerability to climate change and enhance its resilience, including actions to protect our natural and built environment, minimise any risk to human life,

support the community and economy, and enhance our capacity to respond and recover from climate change impacts.

Research shows tree cover enhances shade and cooling in urban environments and supports a walkable city. Council is focused on recovering and increasing the city's tree cover. Council incentivises development to increase deep planting and preserve parklands and green spaces across the city while investing funds collected through environmental offsets to restore and enhance Brisbane's biodiversity.



City planning is key as Council adapts Brisbane to address the challenges posed by current and future climate change and realise the opportunities from proactive planning. Brisbane's urban fabric must change to become one that works with the heat, the water and ongoing variability of conditions.

Council will consider city planning adaptations throughout its planning and policies and implement better climate resilient urban design and ground plane open space activation.

Eco-friendly developments receive significant financial incentives through the [Brisbane Green Buildings Incentive Policy](#). This provides significant advantages for our community, including enhancing our local economy, safeguarding our environment, and improving our community's health and wellbeing. Council is also enhancing green developments through policy positions and tools such as the [Green Factor](#) tool and [Rooftop Garden Policy](#).

Council is focused on climate adaptation through provisions in the planning scheme, design guidelines and neighbourhood planning programs. For example, inner city precinct planning has seen a shift in the requirements developments need to consider, through design, how buildings interact with the river and how the development needs to become part of the adaptation of the area and respond to flooding.

Council is leading this through innovative design and policy solutions, hazard overlays, building codes, flood resilient homes programs, and bushfire strategies that are all actively implemented as 'business as usual' across Brisbane as needed.

Council is demonstrating leadership in resilience by delivering sustainable green infrastructure initiatives and incorporating sustainable principles into planning and development to increase resilience in urban environments. Council's critical infrastructure planning includes resilience plans to respond to emergencies for the city's wellbeing and safety. Council has increased the planting and green space requirements to create a city with natural shade and cooling to reduce urban heat island impacts and improve air quality.

**Brisbane's community is placing more and more value on the natural environment - considered one of Brisbane's greatest assets. The natural environment in a city can create real solutions to climate risks while also benefitting community health and wellbeing.**



Bur'uda means **Oak Tree Forest**, and the area around Norman Creek was historically a source of food and culture for the Aboriginal people.



#### CASE STUDY

## Hanlon Park / Bur'uda

Hanlon Park / Bur'uda is an award winning, best practice example of how Brisbane can deliver blue and green infrastructure in its urban environment.

The project at Hanlon Park / Bur'uda was to replace old concrete drainage systems into a 5.2 hectare parkland and re-introduce a naturalised waterway.

The project, which is now complete, provides community wellbeing benefits by creating a place for people to visit nature in their neighbourhood. It also acts as a flood resilience measure in major flooding events through the sponge effect of its permeable surface and natural water system that directs water flow into the city's stormwater systems, decreasing the risk of community infrastructure damage.

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**Council consults with Traditional Owner groups to peer review initial research on the cultural significance of parks and open spaces and provide the Aboriginal name, meaning and language group for various parks across Brisbane. As a result, in 2007, one park for each of Brisbane's 26 wards was signed with an Aboriginal dual name.**

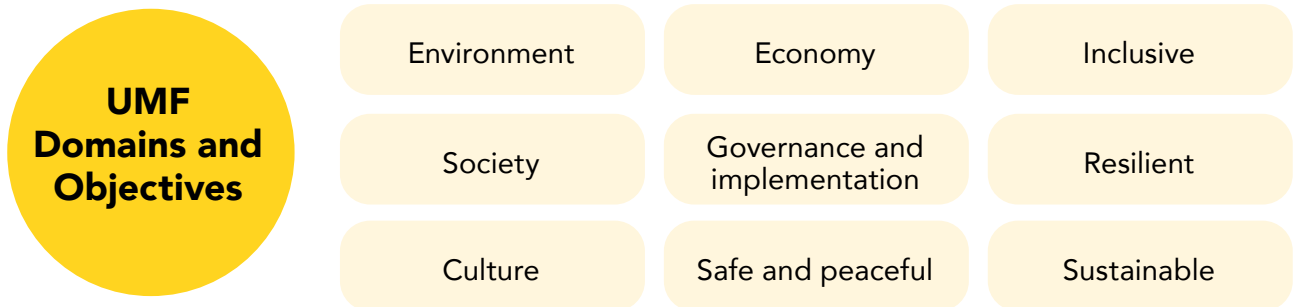
COUNCIL'S

# Commitments and opportunities



## to support the 2030 Agenda

The following SDGs and UMF domains and objectives relate to resilience for Brisbane.



### ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- Action and invest in economic development initiatives detailed through [Brisbane's Economic Development Plan](#).
- Continue Brisbane Economic Development Agency's (BEDA) role, to advise and deliver programs and campaigns to support existing and attract new economic opportunities into the city.
- Drive and celebrate local innovation in sustainability and circular economy through the [Lord Mayor's Business Awards](#) program.
- Invest in city-shaping infrastructure projects, such as the Brisbane Metro, the Green Bridges Program, Victoria Park / Barrambin and infrastructure to support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Provide financial relief programs to the community in response to major economic disruptions and events, such as the Economic Recovery Taskforce, established during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic.



## RESILIENCE TO NATURAL HAZARDS

- Review and update Brisbane's *Local Disaster Management Plan*.
- Invest in and build infrastructure that is resilient to climatic events through the *Long-Term Asset Management Plan*.
- Maintain and improve the stormwater infrastructure networks throughout the city.
- Continue investment in upgrading and maintaining CityCat terminals.
- Actively contribute to programs that raise awareness, give early and accurate notice of an event, provide advice on safe evacuation and critically support the community returning home after an event.
- Find and continue partnership arrangements with various emergency management agencies to better understand the natural hazards risks to the community.
- Continue working with Seqwater to participate in South East Queensland's Drought Response Plan.

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

- Expand the tools and data analysis, such as Flood Information Online, so that the community is better informed of the level of risk each of these natural hazards pose to their properties and communities.
- Continue the 'Be Prepared' annual campaign to increase the community's preparedness for potential natural events such as severe storms, floods and bushfires.
- Identify opportunities to balance the equation of investment in resilience and preparedness to response and recovery.
- Deliver the outcomes of the *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* strategy to help achieve climate resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Incentivise development to increase deep planting and preserve parklands and green spaces across the city, whilst investing funds collected through environmental offsets to restore and enhance Brisbane's biodiversity.
- Support eco-friendly developments receiving significant financial incentives through the *Brisbane Green Buildings Incentive Policy*.
- Assess climate risks and implement locally appropriate adaptation measures to build the city's resilience.
- Work towards the target of 40% of Brisbane's mainland area as declared natural habitat and protected from development.
- Deliver master planning and strategies across catchments, including greening creekbanks, harvesting stormwater, providing lush and shaded movement corridors, and maximising the usefulness of public open spaces.

# Active, Healthy and Green

Brisbane is known for its enviable lifestyle and Council is renowned for its dedication to a clean and green future. Brisbane's subtropical climate and its residents' healthy lifestyles provide an opportunity for Brisbane to be one of the world's most active cities.

Building a healthier, more active city for everyone creates an accessible social, physical and cultural environment that facilitates the pursuit of health and wellbeing.





**Brisbane is Australia's most biodiverse capital city with the highest diversity of native plants and wildlife. Council plays an important role in safeguarding our natural spaces to conserve biodiversity, recognising the vital role plants and wildlife have in sustaining life, economic stability and livelihoods.**

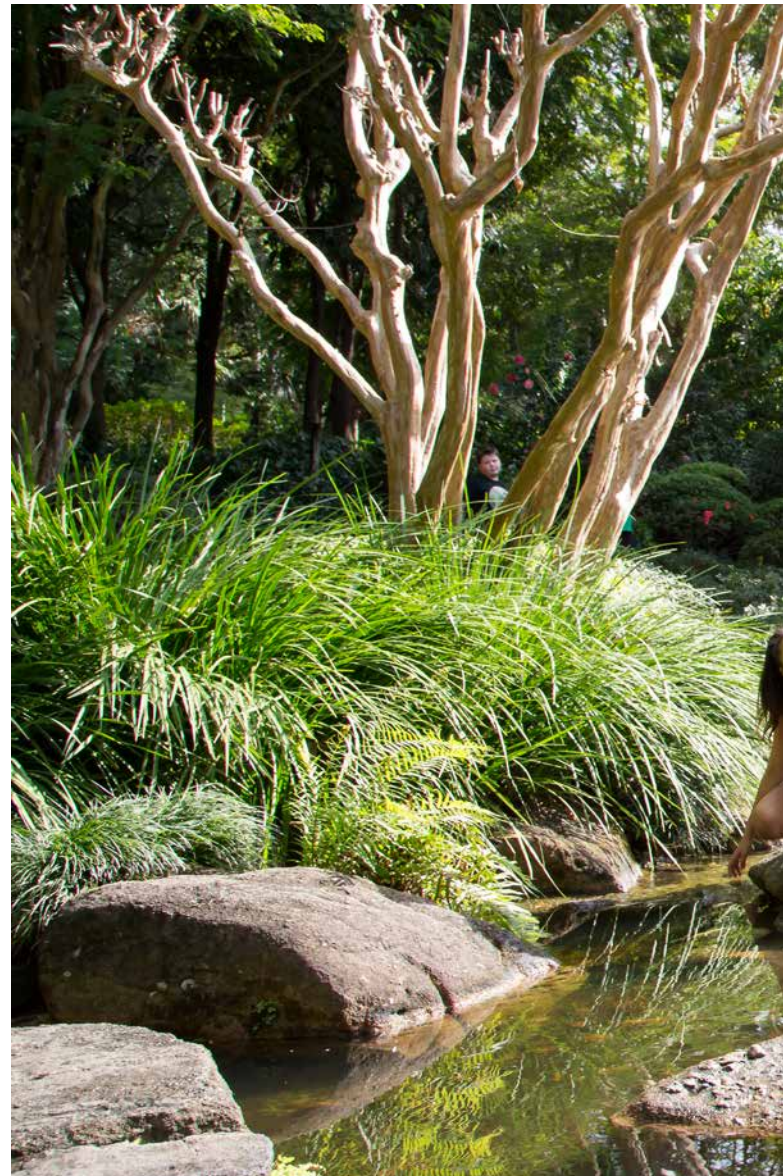
# Green and blue spaces

Brisbane's parks and green spaces provide a variety of recreation, heritage, cultural, social and environmental benefits to the city and its residents.

Brisbane's natural environment is defined by its subtropical climate, river and waterways. Connecting wildlife corridors, preserving parklands, and investing in biodiversity measures (planting, park management, reserve areas) in our park networks can help to capitalise on the city's climate and create a greener Brisbane.

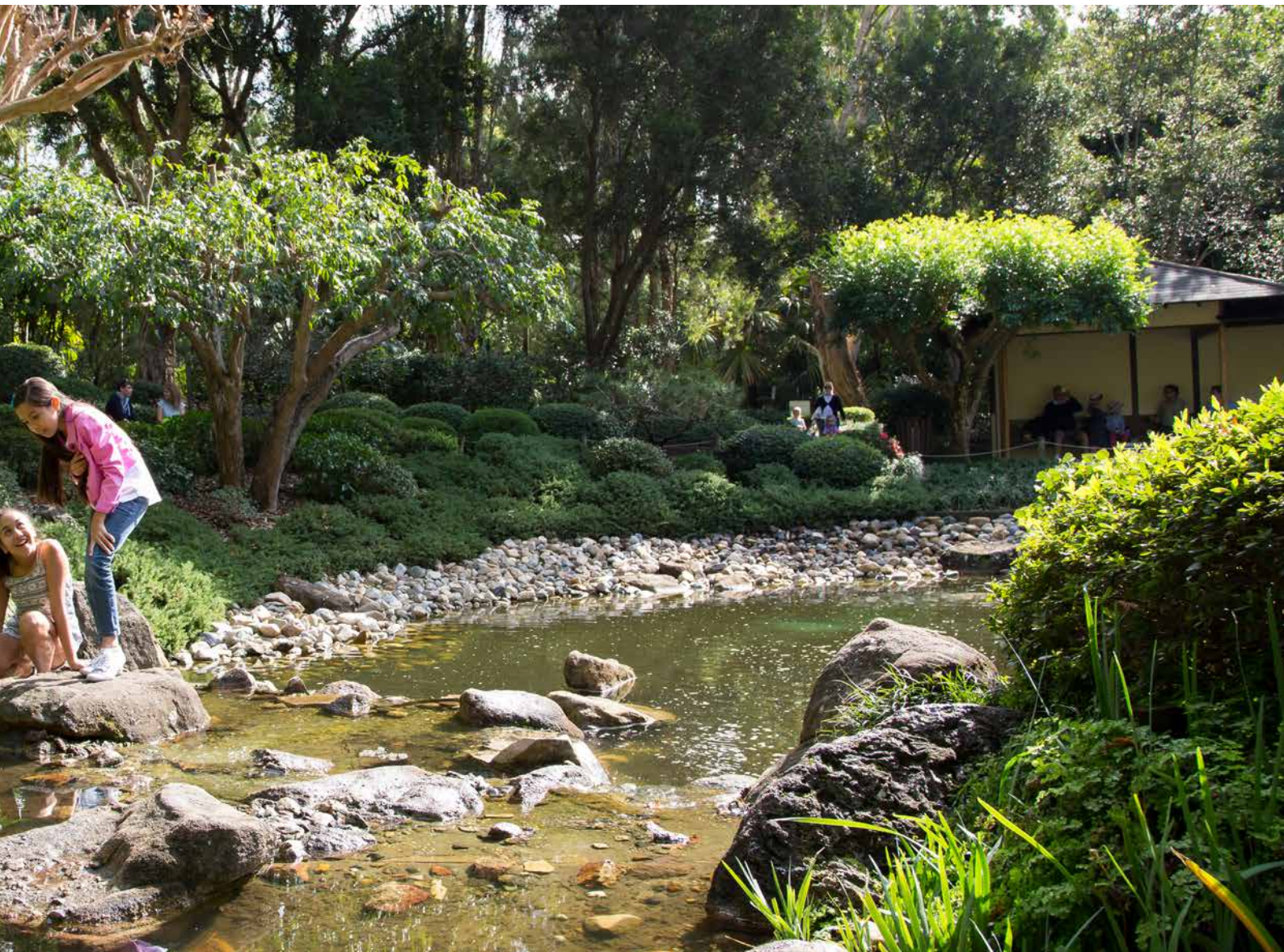
*Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* highlights the city's key sustainability achievements and outlines future targets and commitments to drive a cleaner, greener and more sustainable city. Through initiatives such as the Bushland Preservation Levy, Council has purchased more than 4,300 hectares of habitat since 1990. Brisbane is well on track to achieving its target of 40% natural habitat cover on mainland Brisbane by 2031, having reached 38.9% in 2022.

Creating a network of natural areas has enhanced the city's biodiversity and provided more opportunities for the community to explore our natural environment. Council actively encourages and supports residents to protect biodiversity on their own private property, through initiatives such as the [Land for Wildlife Program](#).



**As a river city, Brisbane has 38 major waterways and more than 4,000 lineal kilometres of waterways.**

Council is progressing the rehabilitation of several waterways in the city including the Oxley Creek Transformation, Downfall Creek Restoration and Hanlon Park / Bur'uda restoration with plans to restore other waterways across the city.



Brisbane's waterways are an important recreational space for residents and active transport corridor for cyclists and pedestrians.

Council has established policies, laws, plans and strategies such as the *Total Water Cycle Management Plan* and the *WaterSmart Strategy* to help enable environmental health and to safeguard the environment. These strategies outline Council's approach to managing its water resources in a sustainable and integrated manner, including strategies for water supply, wastewater, stormwater and flood management, as well as waterway health.

Managing and protecting the Brisbane River is a shared responsibility and Council collaborates with the Queensland Government, Seqwater, and Urban Utilities to manage the city's water resources. The cleaning and protection of the river and its resources is an ongoing challenge, and Council is committed to advancing its role and supporting future partnerships to enhance river management.



### Recent new and upgraded parks

Minnippi Golf Course	Delivery of the first new 18 hole pay-and-play public golf course in more than 70 years
Bradbury Park playscape	\$10m upgrade includes playground of towers, bridges and obstacles, as well as a magic forest. New picnic facilities, a scooter track, basketball half court and new dog off-leash area also included.
Colmslie Beach Reserve	Two stage upgrade to the reserve. Stage two works completed in August 2023 and includes upgrading the existing playground, installing new artwork play sculptures, revegetation planting and new pathways.
Fernwood Place, Kitchener Park & Castamore Way Park	Upgraded embellishments including new playgrounds and picnic shelters.
Hanlon Park / Bur'uda	Naturalised waterway and upgraded playground.
Nudgee Waterhole Reserve	Upgraded picnic shelter, nature play space and Aboriginal seating circle.
Thrush Street Park	New playground installed.
Heathwood Park	New amenities and sports change room building.
Wally Tate Park	New and upgraded cricket fields, new club house building, public toilets, new cricket practice nets with lighting, new carpark, shared bicycle, pedestrian footpath, club maintenance storage sheds and irrigation tanks.
Guyatt Park, Doulton Street Park, Teralba Park, Everton Park, Whites Hill Reserve	Upgrades include new ninja obstacle course installed.
George Clayton Park	Playground upgrade.
Paul Conti Park	Upgrade includes new playground, picnic shelter and scooter track.
Fischer Family Park	New park facilities in a previously unused open space. Upgrades included a walking and scooter track, playground and shade sails, picnic shelter and tables, and new park signage.
Kookaburra Park West, Wittonga Park & Kathleen Street Park	Upgrade includes installation of a new scooter track.

Brisbane's natural environment is an important cultural asset for the city, with Mount Coot-tha being a significant place for the Traditional Owners. Council acknowledges the importance of this site and is committed to closing and rehabilitating the Mount Coot-tha Quarry.

Preservation and restoration of natural habitats across our city is important for the natural environment as well as recognising First Nations peoples' continuing connection to the land, waters and sky.

The latest data captured in 2021 shows an increase in park area across Brisbane of more than 1,300 hectares over a six-year period. Council research has found 85% of Brisbane residents live within 400m of public open space.

The distribution of access differs across the city, with some suburbs having greater levels of access than others. This is in part due to Brisbane's history, as many suburbs include larger residential lots providing a higher proportion of private green space.

Between 2012 and 2021, the average residential lot size in Brisbane<sup>5</sup> has decreased from 571m<sup>2</sup> to 459m<sup>2</sup>. As Brisbane continues to consolidate residential development, it is important to provide high-quality parks. Council manages and maintains more than 2,180 parks across Brisbane and is continuing to provide new parks and upgrades.



5 [www.planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/plan-making/regional-planning/south-east-queensland-regional-plan](http://www.planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/plan-making/regional-planning/south-east-queensland-regional-plan)



In September 2023, Council opened the Minnippi Golf Course, a brand new 18-hole, public golf course, the first public golf course opened in more than 70 years. Built on a former landfill site, more than 100 hectares of land has been enhanced, revegetated or landscaped to provide more green space for Brisbane residents.

Water is one of Brisbane's most precious natural resources and central to the city's identity. Waterway corridors are critical to the natural environment of Brisbane and Council continues to maintain and improve the network of rivers and creeks that spread through the city and suburbs.

Despite extensive regional investment in Brisbane River's catchment management, the water quality in the lower Brisbane River remains heavily influenced by climatic conditions such as La Niña and sediment runoff from the upper catchment.

The [Healthy Land and Water Report Card](#) shows Lower Brisbane catchment has poor performance across South East Queensland. Water quality is influenced by the upper catchments and Council continues partnering in regional waterway health and catchment management. Council will continue to actively support the Resilient Rivers Initiative and the subcommittee of Council of Mayors South East Queensland, working collaboratively with other organisations to improve the water quality in our city and region.

Council's [Inner City Strategy](#) sets future directions to re-wild the inner-city waterway networks. Council's master planning approach to the city's key catchment areas applies a range of strategies, including greening creek banks, harvesting stormwater, providing lush and shaded movement corridors, and maximising the usefulness of public open spaces.



**Restoration projects such as the Oxley Creek Transformation and Hanlon Park / Bur'uda at Stones Corner, show the importance of linking Brisbane with its natural assets and delivery of the rewilding directions set by Council.**

High-quality open space and a healthy urban forest can contribute to a cleaner Brisbane. Improving air quality will help to create a healthier Brisbane, with reduced rates of chronic health conditions for our residents.

Air pollution levels are currently within the recommended Australian guidelines for PM2.5 and PM10, except during natural events such as bushfires. Brisbane's air quality is impacted by the temperature inversion the city experiences due to the city's topography, which can make it challenging to improve ambient air quality. Brisbane's air quality has seen improvements since 2015; a significant factor in improving air quality in the future will be Brisbane's commitment to being a low-carbon city.



#### CASE STUDY

## Oxley Creek Transformation

Brisbane's Oxley Creek Transformation project forms part of a wider objective to improve the natural environment's health along the Oxley Creek corridor and create a place for residents to enjoy. The project aims to transform Oxley Creek into a world-class, green lifestyle and leisure destination.

Council established the project in 2017 and has since committed \$100 million over 20 years for the transformation, which is being delivered by the Brisbane Sustainability Agency, a wholly-owned Council subsidiary.

The project's vision is to create a natural corridor that reduces the impacts of surrounding development, embeds flood resilience into the corridor, grows a rich network of green spaces and attracts further investment, unlocking economic potential. Achieving Council's vision for the Oxley Creek corridor will take the combined efforts of government, the private sector, and the community.



# A commitment to carbon neutrality

Council is demonstrating leadership on sustainability throughout its operations. Council takes real and practical action to deliver a low-carbon and climate-resilient city for current and future Brisbane residents. Council plays a critical role in educating and encouraging Brisbane residents to contribute to this cause, identifying ways household consumption can be reduced to help fight the impacts of climate change.

Council is the largest certified carbon neutral government organisation in Australia and has a long-term commitment to reducing our carbon footprint while maintaining a certified carbon neutral status.

Renewable energy will be critical to reducing emissions and creating a cleaner, greener Brisbane. Similar to other capital cities, Brisbane is a strong adopter of rooftop solar.

It is however constrained by its urban environment - with less access to wind, hydro and geothermal energy - and will continue to primarily be an importer of grid electricity rather than a producer. Therefore, the focus for Brisbane will be on its actions and consumption choices.

The UN advocates for cities to increase the proportion of total solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities. In addition to its role in the management and collection of waste, Council is committed to creating a path to zero waste for the city. Reducing waste can create better outcomes for Brisbane, reducing impacts on landfill management and household collection services, while also reducing constraints on national and global supply chains.

In July 2023, Council reduced the annual cost of green waste recycling services for residents by more than 50% and continues to encourage residents to make more sustainable choices.

## CASE STUDY

### Council's carbon neutral accreditation



Council has taken significant action to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions for its operations and has been Australia's largest carbon neutral government organisation since 2017.

Since achieving carbon neutral certification, Council has made significant progress in delivering energy efficiency and emissions reduction projects.

Energy-efficient lighting has been fitted across the city's streets and other public places as well as Council buildings and facilities. Council's emissions reduction projects span all facilities and services including integrating electric vehicles into its fleet, diverting waste from landfill, increasing the recycled content of asphalt and purchasing renewable electricity.

These efforts are reflected more widely across Brisbane, with both average household emissions and organisational emissions in Brisbane declining and showing signs of being on track to meet their respective long-term targets.

## EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Council continues to implement emissions reduction measures such as:

- installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems across 88 sites.
- as of June 2022, more than 3.2 megawatts of solar panels had been installed at Council sites, producing more than 5,000 megawatt-hours of electricity annually, enough energy to power more than 900 Brisbane homes for a year.

## HOME SOLAR

Home, on roof, solar in Brisbane is increasing with 21.6% of residents with solar in 2022, a 6% increase from 2016.

## SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION

Encouraging Brisbane's residents to install solar panels on their homes is a key part of the journey to a cleaner future, and Brisbane is proud our city is responding to the call to action.

## GAS METHANE INITIATIVE

Rochedale landfill gas methane initiative which in 2022-23 generated 63,641 MWh, enough to power approximately 11,500 homes. The capacity of this facility has increased by almost 40% in four years.

# 50%

reduction of annual cost of green waste recycling services



## CASE STUDY

# Brisbane Metro depot

Council is delivering the turn-up-and-go Brisbane Metro, a new era of connected transport linking the city to the suburbs and making it easier for residents and visitors to get around.

As part of Brisbane Metro, Council is aiming to improve public spaces and active travel connections. Transforming Victoria Bridge into a green bridge and removing general traffic provides a unique opportunity to prioritise public and active travel along a core transport corridor in the inner city.

Council is constructing a new depot at Rochedale to house the new fleet of electric Metro vehicles. This 10-hectare end-of-route facility will house a one megawatt solar photovoltaic system, making it one of the largest and most technologically advanced facilities of its kind in Australia.



**Other Council  
waste reduction  
initiatives include:**



○ diverting organic waste from landfill through a dedicated green waste collection service

**66,787**

tonnes recycled via Brisbane residents' kerbside collections in 2022. 23,948 tonnes of e-waste was collected at Council's resource recovery centres

○ Treasure Trove stores, where residents donated

**450 tonnes**

of reusable goods in 2022-23

○ an annual [Love Food Hate Waste](#) campaign to prevent food waste across the city

**\$70**

compost rebate program to encourage residents to compost at home

○ **3**

Give a Sheet events in 2023 to help residents recycle household linen

○ **26**

Community Composting Hubs across the city.

**These initiatives are having a positive impact with 77% more Brisbane residents using green waste bins since 2017.**

Hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games presents an opportunity for the city to leverage legacy initiatives such as the commitment by the Games Delivery Partners to a climate positive Games. This opportunity can be realised through Council continuing to bring climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning to reduce and mitigate emissions.

As noted in Council's [Corporate Sustainability Policy](#), Council is committed to applying the principles of sustainability to all decision-making and activities. It will lead by example and become an inspiration to the Brisbane community and the region.



**36,600**

tonnes of green waste  
has been diverted from  
landfill in 2023 to date

an increase of

**68%** SINCE  
2017

# Supporting active transport

Planning for, and encouraging, more active transport is an important part of creating a cleaner future.



Supporting safe, well-designed, accessible, inclusive, and connected networks for people of all ages and abilities will allow residents and visitors to travel around our city and suburbs.

Effective precinct planning is a key contributor to improving walkability and the quality of Brisbane's pedestrian areas. During the planning process, Council has an opportunity to consider links to services and 'green spines' within the city, linking urban movement with urban resilience.

Council has invested more than \$320 million in Brisbane's cycle network since 2008 with this investment and the resulting infrastructure encouraging residents to live active lifestyles and use cycling as a viable alternate mode of transport. Council is committed to delivering new and innovative transport options across the city, encouraging more people to travel sustainably through initiatives such as [Cycling Brisbane](#) and [Active School Travel](#).

Our commitment to sustainable travel is reflected in our e-mobility strategy which promotes greater use of e-bikes, e-scooters and other emerging, sustainable e-mobility travel options.

Council's draft [Walkable Brisbane Strategy](#) outlines the aspirations and priorities to achieving Brisbane's vision to be one of the most walkable cities in the world. Making the city's active transport network more comfortable and accessible is an important step in encouraging residents to walk more, given Brisbane's subtropical climate.

Street trees and shade can contribute significantly to making Brisbane's streets more walkable - Council plants more than 13,500 new street and park trees each year. Council has identified an opportunity to target future tree planting in inner urban and industrial suburbs with a lower percentage of tree cover. This will contribute to making the city's walking and cycling infrastructure more inclusive, fit-for-purpose, safe, comfortable and connected, ultimately creating a more active population.



## CASE STUDY

# Green Bridges Program

Council's [Green Bridges Program](#) is a city-shaping sustainable active transport project, with the aim to transform Brisbane by providing key links along the river.

The new green bridges are a vital part of Council's plan to make it even easier for residents and visitors to get around the city on foot, by bike or scooter, or by connecting with public transport and alleviate the demand on other city infrastructure.

Council will continue to progress this program, making it a significant investment in active transport infrastructure for the city. This is part of Council's commitment to providing more transport options through investing in Brisbane's bridges, footpaths, bike paths and e-mobility network, creating world-class public and active transport infrastructure.



# Active and healthy communities

Physical activity and access to green spaces are key factors in maintaining health and preventing diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. The prevalence of chronic conditions is increasing across Australia, with 46.6% of people having one or more chronic health conditions in 2021. Almost a quarter of Brisbane's residents has at least one health condition, with that figure increasing to over one third for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Council provides free and affordable events and activities across Brisbane that promote physical activity, healthy eating, wellbeing and connection. This program is open to all Brisbane residents - all ages, fitness levels and abilities.



In 2022-23  
Council delivered

**5,402**

free or low-cost health and fitness activity sessions to more than 61,000 participants of all ages through its Active Parks program.



Activity examples include aqua aerobics, the Growing Older and Living Dangerously (GOLD) program targeted at residents aged over 50, and Goori Gulwadin Indigenous games trail in Holland Park. Council frequently engages with communities to provide suitable and accessible activities.

In 2015, the UN SDGs included indicators related to mental health for the first time, acknowledging the widespread increase and need of awareness around mental health conditions. Mental health is the most prevalent health condition in Brisbane, with 9% of the population reported as having a mental health condition, including depression and anxiety. This is reflected nationally, with mental and behavioural conditions being the most prevalent across Australia<sup>6</sup>. The prevalence of mental health conditions is also impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. According to the World Health Organisation, global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25% in the first year of the pandemic<sup>7</sup>.

6 [www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/health-conditions-prevalence/latest-release](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/health-conditions-prevalence/latest-release)

7 [www.who.int/news/item/02-03-2022-covid-19-pandemic-triggers-25-increase-in-prevalence-of-anxiety-and-depression-worldwide](http://www.who.int/news/item/02-03-2022-covid-19-pandemic-triggers-25-increase-in-prevalence-of-anxiety-and-depression-worldwide)





Physical activity can have positive impacts on a wide variety of health and wellbeing issues; a recent study on mental health and wellbeing found physical activity to be more effective than leading medications or counselling<sup>8</sup>.

Council makes Brisbane better and supports our residents, by creating a healthier and more active city through programs such as Brisbane's *Outdoor Recreation Strategy*. This strategy guides Brisbane to meet the community's demands by planning and investing in maintenance and upgrades to natural areas throughout the city to allow increased access.

8 [www.unisa.edu.au/media-centre/Releases/2023/exercise-more-effective-than-medicines-to-manage-mental-health/](http://www.unisa.edu.au/media-centre/Releases/2023/exercise-more-effective-than-medicines-to-manage-mental-health/)



#### CASE STUDY

## Brisbane named Australia's top sports city in 2023 global ranking

Brisbane has long been recognised as a leading global sports city and being placed 15 in the top 100 list of leading sports cities around the world, solidifies the city's sporting credibility.

As the Host City of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this ranking continues to brighten the global spotlight on Brisbane. The investment underway to provide the world with an amazing 2032 Games experience will continue to see the city's sporting facilities enhanced and new facilities delivered. Brisbane is already becoming a place where athletes, major sporting teams and companies base themselves for year-round training and competing. Brisbane has endless business opportunities and the growth trajectory is exciting.

The inner-city world-class stadiums and vibrant precincts all connected by great public transport are some of the ingredients that make Brisbane an ideal destination for major sporting events. The 2023 Women's FIFA World Cup is a strong example of Brisbane delivering social cohesion through sporting events, with fans from across the world visiting the city.



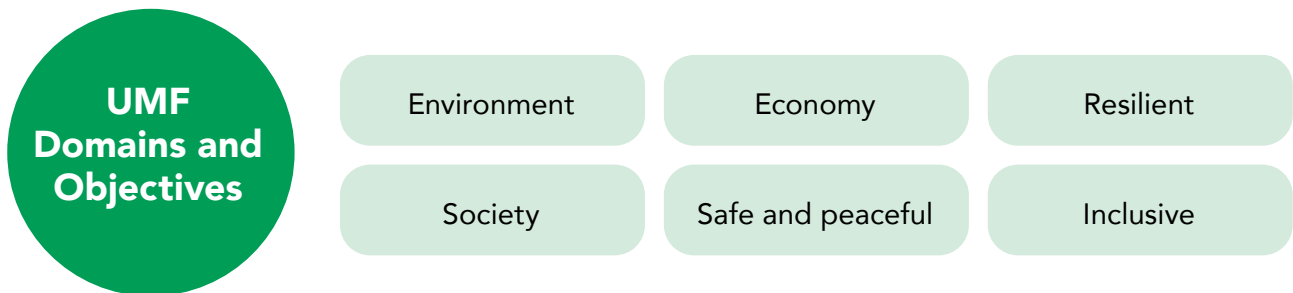
COUNCIL'S

# Commitments and opportunities

to support the 2030 Agenda



The following SDGs and UMF domains and objectives relate to Brisbane's active, healthy and green programs



## GREEN AND BLUE SPACES

- Review and update *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031*, renewing the vision and setting new targets to continue the city's pursuit of a cleaner, greener future for Brisbane.
- Free and affordable recreational activities for Brisbane residents and visitors to encourage a healthier and more active city.
- Giving all residents equal access to open space by collecting additional data to understand areas of low performance and opportunity.
- Fund the purchase of habitat land through initiatives and programs such as the Bushland Preservation Levy, to achieve the city's target of 40% natural habitat cover across mainland Brisbane.
- Support and encourage residents to protect Brisbane's natural environment on their own private property, through initiatives such as the Land for Wildlife program.

## SUPPORTING ACTIVE TRANSPORT

- Encourage sustainable and active travel through initiatives such as [Cycling Brisbane](#) and [Active School Travel](#).
- Invest in the city's cycle infrastructure, having committed more than \$320 million in Brisbane's cycle network since 2008.
- Investigating the needs and gaps in pedestrian and cycle movement by analysing behavioural data, and investigating options for improved data collection, use and management.
- Planning and implementing well-designed active transport initiatives at a local level through planning for our city's precincts.

## HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

- Restore and rehabilitate the city's natural assets, building on current projects, such as Oxley Creek, Hanlon Park / Bur'uda, and Mount Coot-tha Quarry, to create assets the city can be proud of.
- Deliver new parks and upgrades to improve the city's park and green space quality.
- Re-wilding the inner-city waterway networks.
- Developing and implementing actions in the [Walkable Brisbane Strategy](#), to make Brisbane one of the most walkable cities in the world.
- Plant new street trees and park trees each year, targeting suburbs and areas with low levels of street tree cover, to provide suitable shade and contribute to making our streets more walkable.
- Rehabilitate city waterways including the Oxley Creek Transformation, Downfall Creek Restoration and Norman Creek restoration, with plans to restore other waterways across the city.
- Review and enhance the established policies, laws, plans, and strategies such as the [Total Water Cycle Management Plan](#) and the [WaterSmart Strategy](#) to help enable environmental health and safeguard the environment.

## A COMMITMENT TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

- Implement waste reduction initiatives, encouraging Brisbane businesses and residents to dispose of waste in more sustainable methods.
- Apply sustainability principles to all decision-making and activities.
- Support residents, making Brisbane better by creating a healthier and more active city through programs such as Brisbane's [Outdoor Recreation Strategy](#).

# Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable

Inclusion, diversity and equity are key factors to a successful, harmonised Brisbane community, and a place people feel proud to call home. Council ensures all people can freely participate in the city's life and culture, and enjoy world-class amenities and arts.

Brisbane has a distinct culture and a high-quality lifestyle including access to nature, with vibrant, inclusive spaces across the city. It is critically important all people feel a sense of belonging in Brisbane and can identify themselves with the city, its places and spaces.





CAUTION:  
SLIPPERY  
SURFACES  
AT ALL  
TIMES



# Vibrant and supported communities

Brisbane is a multicultural and diverse city that prides itself on being a vibrant place, inclusive to all people from all walks of life. More than 32% of Brisbane residents were born outside of Australia and have decided to call Brisbane home. The city is growing at a fast pace, with more than 1.28 million residents today<sup>20</sup> spread across 1,342.7 km<sup>2</sup>.

Council is planning to accommodate this population expansion into the future and is committed to ensuring all Brisbane residents feel safe in their neighbourhoods, particularly women, children and elderly people, with access to community facilities and programs, and open and green space.

Brisbane residents recognise Council's initiatives with 80% agreeing that Brisbane has a rich and vibrant culture and 82% agreeing that it is a place with festivals and events to bring people together (*Better Brisbane Index 2022-23*).

Council is actively seeking opportunities to promote cultural participation across the city by encouraging people to visit entertainment precincts, such as the Brisbane Powerhouse, that regularly host cultural events.

Research shows Brisbane's community participation in cultural events declined between 2020 and 2022, which is linked to the coronavirus pandemic. This decline was temporary, and the city is seeing this participation increase again in 2023.

Council aims to strengthen Brisbane's liveability as a vibrant creative hub through strategies such as *Creative Brisbane Creative Economy Strategy*. This strategy guides Brisbane to be a premier location for workers in the creative industries to live, work, play, raise families and develop careers and economic potential.

Public art programs contribute to the city's sense of inclusion and equity. Council is focused on promoting multicultural festivals and events, and ensuring they are accessible to all. Council's ongoing commitment and investment in public infrastructure, such as public spaces, transport and community facilities is key to achieving this.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/governance-and-strategy/business-in-brisbane/business-opportunities/brisbane-community-profiles>



## In **2022-23** COUNCIL:

received more than  
**22,500**  
individual bookings for  
27 hireable community  
halls across the city

provided support for  
Brisbane Powerhouse,  
Museum of Brisbane and  
The Sunnybank Performing  
Arts and Cultural Centre  
to deliver cultural  
experiences, attracting  
**706,368**  
attendees to these facilities

hosted more than  
**3.97 million**  
visitors across  
Council's 22 pools

hosted more than  
**87,000**  
patrons attending  
shows in the Cosmic  
Skydome at Sir Thomas  
Brisbane Planetarium

hosted more than  
**180,000**  
people attending  
events at Riverstage.



### CASE STUDY

## Special Entertainment Precinct

Brisbane's Special Entertainment Precinct in Fortitude Valley, locally coined 'the Valley', was created in 2006 to support the entertainment industry's long-term future. A first of its kind in Australia, the Special Entertainment Precinct designates areas within the Valley where entertainment venues are exempt from the amplified music noise requirements of the liquor licensing laws. This precinct has grown to be known as one of the cultural hearts of the city, and people come from all over the country and world to visit the Valley and experience the entertainment on offer.

The precinct is also home to Council supported event's Valley Fiesta, and BIGSOUND.



Council actively promotes, supports and provides a variety of creative, arts and cultural experiences.

## Providing inclusive and safe environments encourages our community to express creativity and diversity in culture and drive a spirit of equality throughout Brisbane's neighbourhoods.

Council supports hundreds of creative experiences each year including:

- [Brisbane Festival](#), utilising Brisbane's landmarks as the stage on which to deliver world class theatre, music and arts performances to celebrate the city.
- [Gathering](#), unique to Brisbane, is the only indigenous performance in Australia that is featured weekly in the heart of a major capital city.
- [Indigenous Art Program](#), transforming Brisbane's streets and laneways into an exhibition of the most celebrated and widely recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and their stories.
- [Botanica: Contemporary Art Outside](#), brings Brisbane's City Botanic Gardens to life with state-of-the-art projects, unexpected installations and attractive artworks to captivate children and adults.
- Suburban Community and Multicultural Funding program, helping the people of Brisbane to celebrate and share their local communities, illustrating the uniqueness of Brisbane's communities that is famous across the world.



In a rapidly growing city with a constantly changing urban fabric, pressure on cultural spaces continues to increase. The city must be able to respond to the continual pressures of economic development and population increases. Council acknowledges this and has started to build data to measure the disparity in accessing cultural spaces.

In 2023, research showed that collectively over 99% of residents have access to educational institutions within 15 minutes of their home, 83% have access to a local library, and 48% to a cinema.





CASE STUDY

## Council library services

Council manages 33 libraries and one mobile library across the city which provide a large range of accessible services and materials for all. Currently 79% of libraries are accessible. Libraries provide basic services to communities beyond education through books - they provide services for everyone in the community to promote literacy and community wellbeing through programs such as rhyme time for mums and bubs, reading programs like Gold Star and Little Star for young kids, makerspace for adults, senior education programs, and a wide variety of education classes.

Attendance at libraries is increasing after a decrease in visitation due to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2022-23 over 5 million visitations occurred in Brisbane, up from 3.7 million in 2021-22.

Council is working to increase the use of this service through diversifying library offerings including introduction of e-book services, home delivery for seniors, library lockers for 24/7 access, and increasing the classes and programs offered. Council has 13,000 different library programs and outreach activities in libraries, online and in the community.

Council will continue to invest in libraries and ensure their facilities and services meet the needs of the community now and into the future.



### In 2022-23:

**6,433**  
INFANTS

For babies and young children, Council delivered an extensive immunisation program to reduce incidence of disease by vaccinating 6,433 infants through 482 community immunisation clinics.

**19,000**  
ATTENDEES

For young children, Council hosted more than 19,000 attendees at the First 5 Forever children's storytime sessions through Council's Pop Up Library.

**3,768**  
YOUNG PEOPLE

For young people, Council provided 579 school holiday activity sessions to 3,768 young people, through its Chillout program.

**52,000**  
PARTICIPANTS

For older residents, Council delivered the Growing Older and Living Dangerously (GOLD) and GOLD'n'Kids programs to more than 52,000 participants.



There are other important factors that impact cultural participation in a city. Maintaining community access to spaces within 15 minutes of a resident's home so that residents can participate in cultural activities is challenging. Australia's current national housing crisis and rising costs of living are placing pressure on people to locate further from the city. Living in and around high amenity areas and centres where cultural events and activities are mainly occurring is at a premium. Council is continually looking at and rethinking the provision of open spaces and facilities to ensure the values of culture within the city and suburbs is not lost.

Nationally there has been research to show the important and valuable contribution the creative industries provide to Australia's current and future economy<sup>21</sup>. Council works closely with its residents and cultural organisations to increase partnership and sponsorship opportunities and support more events locally and ensure these events are accessible and equitable to all. This means grant funding events, providing community infrastructure, and ensuring affordable housing choice in all locations across the city.

10 Creative Skills for the Future Economy  
(Bureau of Communications and Arts Research, 2019)

CASE STUDY

# BrisAsia Festival

Brisbane’s annual BrisAsia Festival celebrates our city’s diversity, showcasing contemporary and traditional Asian culture over a jam-packed three-week program. The festival is Brisbane’s largest Asian cultural celebration providing locals and visitors with an opportunity to enjoy Asian art and culture, including theatre, dance, music and food. From the city to the suburbs, live performances, immersive experiences, and culinary fare take over the city for the festival, providing something for everyone.





## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Brisbane's rich and diverse local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, made up of Traditional Custodians, Native Title Claimants, Historical and Contemporary Custodians, Elders and young people, bring a depth of history, cultural practice and teaching to the city. Aboriginal cultures are the world's oldest continuing cultures and Aboriginal people are the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters known today as Brisbane.



Council is committed, alongside the Queensland and Australian governments, to working collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve their health and life expectancy. For Brisbane, this means a greater focus on reconciliation, education, and breaking the barriers to cultural inclusion.

Council is actively working towards seeking ways to work more closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and develop guidelines that support meaningful engagement across communities.

Council adopted its first Indigenous Aspirations Strategy in 2004, and is now implementing a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#), providing an opportunity for Council and communities to continue to build relationships and develop meaningful reconciliation outcomes.

Council has a dedicated team to deliver key programs developed in partnership with Brisbane's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. These programs include:

- an annual, citywide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art program
- 'Gathering', the only Indigenous performance in Australia that is featured weekly in the heart of a major capital city
- the Black Diamonds Community Partnership Assistance Scheme which partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations to deliver events and programs.

During the candidature for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Council committed to work together to embrace and showcase the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to the city and the nation.

Council continues to track the delivery and impact of the actions listed within [A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019-2029](#), assessing opportunities for further improvements, ensuring Brisbane remains an inclusive and diverse city through initiatives such as Council's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).



## CASE STUDY

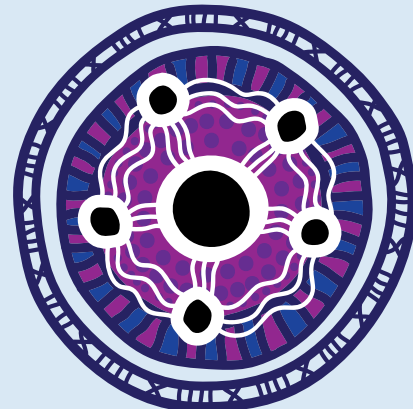
# Reconciliation Action Plan

Council's *Reconciliation Action Plan* (RAP) sets a vision for reconciliation in our city, spanning two years from 2022 to 2024. Council has established a RAP Steering Group to oversee and implement the committed actions in the RAP to sustain reconciliation outcomes. By implementing the RAP, Council aspires to build on previous successes and continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the city.

### RELATIONSHIPS



### RESPECT



### OPPORTUNITIES





## CASE STUDY

# Lord Mayor's advisory groups and programs

The Lord Mayor recognises the importance of promoting Brisbane's diverse population and the benefits that this can bring to our communities.

## The Lord Mayor's Multicultural Round Table

Acts as an independent advisory body, providing opportunities for business leaders, decision-makers, and key stakeholders from across our many communities to discuss critical issues facing our city.

## The Lord Mayor's Multicultural Business Scholarship Program

Provides aspiring business leaders with the tools and knowledge to improve their business leadership capabilities. The program has delivered nearly 600 scholarships since its inception in 2008.

## The Lord Mayor's Multicultural Awards for Business

Celebrates the creativity, innovation, and resilience of Brisbane's businesses, recognising the role the recipients play in fostering a more inclusive city. Categories for the awards include Multicultural Young Business Person of the Year, Multicultural Business Person of the Year, and Multicultural Entrepreneur of the Year.

## Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

Is made up of representatives from Brisbane's high schools, providing a voice to many communities across our city. Delegates can raise issues that affect young people and are encouraged to work with peers to generate ideas to make Brisbane better.



Brisbane residents, in a global comparison, do not generally experience challenges with access to basic services such as health and education facilities. Residents have access to some of the nation's highest quality health and education facilities. With Brisbane emerging as a global city, these facilities are connected regionally throughout Queensland, nationally across Australia, and globally into other countries.

Brisbane is committed to becoming a city where everyone feels they belong. Council has a long history of planning for inclusion and accessibility throughout the city. In 2012, Council released an Access and Inclusion Plan with the aim to make Brisbane a more liveable city to all people and cultures. Importantly, it also focused on accessibility for people with a disability. Council deeply recognises the limitations people with a disability have if their basic service standards are not met.



Council has committed to delivering accessible projects and has invested more than \$230 million since 2012 to make the city more inclusive. Projects have included seven accessible aqua play facilities, more than 300,000 Council taxi trips, 21 community halls upgraded for accessibility improvements, 40 accessible and inclusive playgrounds with enhanced accessibility, and all CityCats and buses having wheelchair and pram access.

*A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019 - 2029* is a continuation of the work conducted in 2012, albeit advancing best practice and Council's commitment to delivering the right infrastructure and facilities to enable all people in the community to participate in the lifestyle they desire with no limitations.

As of 2023 Council has commenced or implemented 68% of actions from *A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019 - 2029*. Engaging the community, sharing information, and providing accessible infrastructure all contribute to fostering inclusivity and equity in Brisbane.

Through an open and concerted effort to advance the city's inclusion, equity and celebration of our important cultures and history, Council continues to seek new opportunities and add significant value to the city's fabric, and people within it.

Brisbane aims for responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making and has set a target: by 2030, all people, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, will have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, appropriate new technology and financial services.

Currently, women make up 34% of Council's workforce and, of these, 41% hold leadership positions and 23% are in executive service roles. Of the 27 Councillors who govern the city, 15 of these are women. This demonstrates progress towards the intention of women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

## Leading by example

In global terms, Brisbane is a prosperous city with a community that deeply values inclusivity and equality. Council is leading by example by enacting responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making bodies at all levels of Council and all Council organisations and subsidiaries. This is about fostering inclusivity through institutions that reflect the diversity of the city.

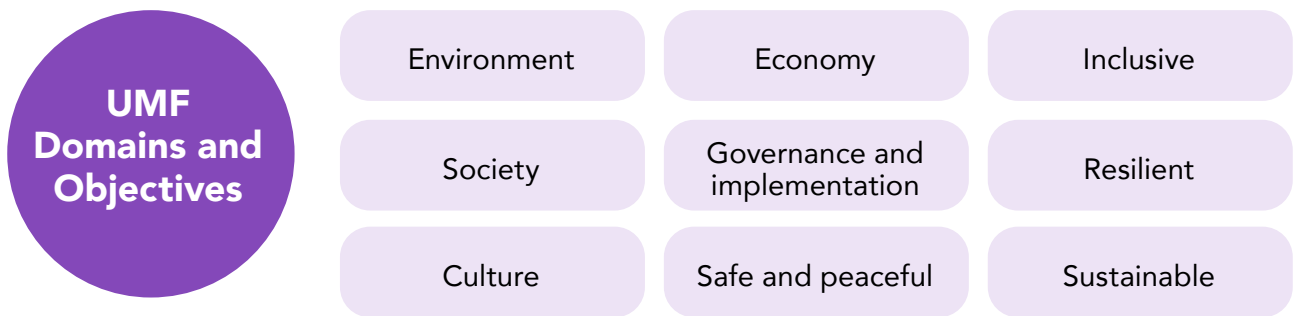
COUNCIL'S

# Commitments and opportunities

## to support the 2030 Agenda



The following SDGs and UMF domains and objectives relate to inclusivity, diversity and equity for Brisbane.



### VIBRANT AND SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES

- Invest in public infrastructure, such as public spaces, transport and community facilities.
- Actively promoting and providing free public art programs, such as the Brisbane public art walking trails, Indigenous art program, and music and movies in the park.
- Collating data to measure the disparity in accessing cultural spaces, to inform future planning and investment.
- Work closely with residents to increase partnership opportunities and support more local events and ensure they are accessible and equitable to all.
- Support events throughout the city through grant funding and providing community infrastructure.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

- Look for opportunities to work more closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and develop guidelines that support meaningful engagement across communities.
- Having a dedicated team to deliver key programs developed in partnership with Brisbane's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Continuing the Lord Mayor's commitment to two meetings per year with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to establish and maintain relationships.
- Seek opportunities to build relationships and develop meaningful reconciliation outcomes within Brisbane through the *Reconciliation Action Plan*.
- Committing to advancing opportunities for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in sport, economic participation, arts, culture, tourism, and life, through the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- Deliver on the actions in *A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019 - 2029* by delivering the right infrastructure and facilities.
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making.
- Achieve the target that all residents, in particular the low-income and the vulnerable, will have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, appropriate new technology and financial services by 2030.

# Liveable and Connected

Brisbane is widely known for its outdoor lifestyle and economic opportunities, which make it a desirable place to live and work. The city has seen significant growth over the last decade, which has amplified housing pressures. This requires sustainable growth management to protect the city's liveability.

Access to a home and the ability to travel in and out of the city to participate in lifestyle offerings is what attracts people to live in Brisbane. Council continues to work with its communities to ensure it delivers the right infrastructure in the right locations. Council aspires to providing the highest standard of connectivity across the city, connecting people with the places they love and the activities they love to experience.





# Housing



Ensuring all residents have access to adequate housing plays a major part in ensuring equal outcomes throughout Brisbane's communities. Impacts and stresses related to housing affordability are experienced strongly by people who are socially disadvantaged and vulnerable to economic shifts. Providing a diverse mix of housing types and tenures, and ensuring residents are close to the services they need and the lifestyle and leisure options they want, are all part of creating a liveable city. To accommodate Brisbane's growing population, Council must continue to look for urban consolidation opportunities in the right locations.

**The city is expected to continue to grow, with a need to provide 210,000 additional dwellings by 2046<sup>11</sup>.**

Achieving this necessitates targeted and well-planned growth. Council is committed to ensuring the right housing type and mix is provided in the right locations to meet Brisbane's current and future population needs.

Council's *Sustainable Growth Strategy* ensures Brisbane is responding to the changing needs and requirements for housing into the future. The strategy focuses on accommodating current and future residents by providing suitable and affordable housing. This includes ensuring that residents have a choice of accommodation, housing that is diverse, affordable, sustainable, connected, and suitable for our subtropical lifestyle.

11 Draft ShapingSEQ Regional Plan Update 2023

The strategy will also be supported by Council’s Housing Supply Action Plan which will include targeted actions to address Brisbane’s housing supply needs now and into the future. Council will continue to support residents through a variety of programs, such as those listed below.



**HOMELESS CONNECT**

Our Homeless Connect program has helped more than

**20,000**  
**people**

since commencement in 2006

Providing free services to people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.



The **Community Housing Partnership Project** provides temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. The project utilises properties resumed or held by Council for future infrastructure works and has helped to accommodate more than 1,500 people since 2003.

The **Pathway out of Homelessness Grant Program** provides funding to not-for-profit service providers and social enterprises. The aim of the program is to bolster sector capacity, collaboration, innovation and demonstrated outcomes to achieve sustainable tenancies.

Council’s **Housing Support Program** helps to fund community organisations that are responding to the needs of homeless people, or those living in social housing. The program aims to enhance support services offered to homeless and socially housed people.

**Brisbane Housing Company** is a leading provider of affordable housing in Brisbane, with 1,700 properties across the city.

**Brisbane’s Inner City Strategy sets the development principles that will shape the future of the inner city and includes a program of precinct planning to ensure sustainable outcomes as the city continues to grow.**

Council continues to improve design standards, requiring developments to provide clear community benefit outcomes to safeguard the city’s liveability. Having improved design standards will ensure Brisbane buildings are well-designed and suitable for the community’s evolving needs.

# A changing urban fabric

Urban consolidation is an important part of the city and region’s planning framework that aims to limit urban sprawl by encouraging development in appropriate existing urban locations. The last decade has seen a shift in Brisbane’s housing typologies, with an increase in apartments and semi-detached housing across the city. There are significant benefits to consolidating in the right locations including:

- being closer to employment, social services and amenities
- increased public transport use and reduced car dependency
- an opportunity to increase greenspace and re-think the movement of people throughout the city.

Council continues to work closely with the Queensland Government to meet the dwelling density targets set out in the [Shaping SEQ Update 2023](#), which reinforces stable and secure housing choices for current and future residents. Achieving these outcomes requires growth throughout the city to be planned and managed in a sustainable way.

In the period of

## 2011-21

The number of **single detached housing**

decreased from

**70.9%** to **62.6%**



The number of **apartments**

increased from

**18.8%** to **25.6%**



The number of **semi-detached housing**

increased from

**9.7%** to **11.3%**







**Brisbane's Inner City Strategy aims to provide growth opportunities for residents and businesses by supporting a thriving network of interconnected mixed-use neighbourhoods, based around existing and planned infrastructure.**

This includes enhancing corridors that support the city's relaxed, outdoor lifestyle and its residents. These areas are home to live entertainment, cultural destinations and experiences, riverfront walks, urban parks and spaces, vibrant retail, and dining precincts.

In parallel, suburban renewal initiatives and precinct plans aim to create new opportunities for living, working and recreation throughout the city by guiding the renewal of strategically located suburban areas. These approaches provide diverse housing types and tenures that collectively ensure all people can live in a home and location that is right for them.

Council's commitment to all people having access to a home includes increasing accessible and affordable housing throughout the city. This is demonstrated through policies such as the *Kurilpa Temporary Local Planning Instrument* requiring 20% affordable housing to be provided in a master-planned inner-city precinct, promoting versatile and accessible housing designs, and offering rates discounts to support home ownership and affordability.

# Connecting the city through public and active transport

Accessibility is a part of what makes cities liveable. A connected, flexible, and sustainable transport network is vital for Brisbane's future social and economic prosperity. Focussing Brisbane's future growth in areas with good access to public transport will provide sustainable outcomes and reduce the city's reliance on private transport. Prioritising sustainable modes of travel and reducing congestion are vital for improving Brisbane's liveability and connectivity.

Council continues to invest in public and active transport to provide safer, more affordable, accessible, and sustainable public and active transport options across the city. As Brisbane continues to emerge as a global city, it is important to support the diversification of our city's public transport network.

Providing an efficient, reliable, and diverse public transport network is also critical to deliver a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As the city continues to grow, Council is planning for fewer cars on the road. Smart growth requires a coordinated, citywide network of public transport options to ensure travel throughout the city is safe, efficient, and sustainable.

## **Council's transport plans and strategies, including the Transport Plan for Brisbane, address challenges and harness opportunities to guide further development of the transport network.**

Council is continually upgrading and developing public transport networks to protect and enhance the liveability of the city, while responding to the city's growing population. Council, along with other levels of government, is committed to providing a variety of mobility choices for residents and visitors. The city's aim is to ensure more frequent bus services on dedicated routes, making trips quicker and more comfortable.



## In 2023

OF THE POPULATION:

**52.1%**

are within 1km  
of train stations



**14.4%**

are within 1km  
of busway stops



**10.7%**

are within 1km  
of ferry stops



more than

**74.3%**

are within 500m  
of bus stops



Council aspires to reduce the distance people need to travel to their nearest station or stop. The turn-up-and-go Brisbane Metro will operate from 2024 with a fleet of 60 electric vehicles along dedicated busways, connecting key parts of the city. This vital project for Brisbane will improve the city's connectivity, making it easier to travel between suburbs.

Public transport connections extend beyond Brisbane, with Queensland Rail's City train network providing suburban and interurban passenger services across South East Queensland, connecting Brisbane with the Sunshine Coast in the north, Ipswich in the west, and the Gold Coast in the south.

Council is continuing to invest in active transport through green bridges, footpaths, bike paths and e-mobility network. This investment will help residents and visitors navigate the city easily, making it feasible to ride, walk or scoot to local destinations and the city centre.

Investment in active and public transport across Brisbane can have other benefits, including improving air quality. Council continues to invest in active and public transport, with Brisbane Metro services due to commence in late 2024, with the Green Bridges Program construction underway along with the city's bus network expansion.



**Council supports the Queensland Government's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy which will modernise and expand Queensland's bus fleet. As part of the program, every new bus added to the South East Queensland fleet will be zero-emission from 2025.**

Many public transport modes across Brisbane experienced reduced usage during the coronavirus pandemic, however e-mobility options such as e-scooters and e-bikes have since emerged as an efficient and low-energy mode of travel.

Council aspires to create a connected city, where transport enhances liveability and supports business and investment. This vision is continually driving research and policy development and this will bring positive changes to our city. This coordinated and integrated approach will provide for Brisbane's current and future housing and transportation needs and will leave a legacy as we set our sights on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

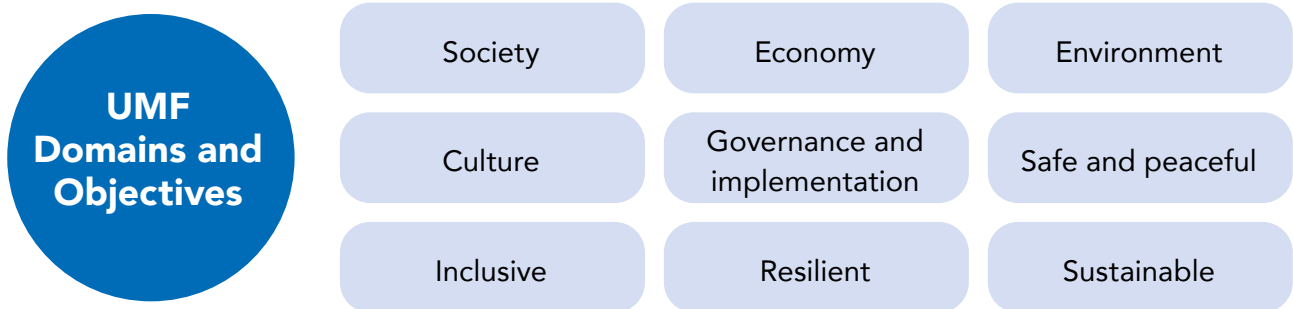
## COUNCIL'S

# Commitments and opportunities

to support the 2030 Agenda



The following SDGs and UMF domains and objectives relate to a liveable and connected Brisbane.



## HOUSING AND A CHANGING URBAN FABRIC

- Implement the principles in the *Inner City Strategy*.
- Continuing the precinct planning program to ensure sustainable outcomes as the city continues to grow.
- Improve design standards to safeguard the city's liveability.
- Implement the Sustainable Growth Strategy.

## CONNECTING THE CITY THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Incorporating UN SDGs in transport strategic planning, including revisions to Council's *Transport Plan for Brisbane - Strategic Directions*.
- Collect data about public transport usage to better understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on public transport use. This will inform Council's new targets for bus and ferry patronage.
- Find opportunities to guide and further develop the Brisbane transport network through delivering the *Transport Plan for Brisbane - Strategic Directions*
- Invest in active and public transport, with Brisbane Metro services due to commence in late 2024, the Green Bridges Program construction underway, and the city's bus network expansion.
- Expand the [Cycling Brisbane](#) and [Active School Travel](#) programs.
- Expand the variety of transport options, looking for opportunities related to Brisbane Metro and existing networks.

FLAGSHIP CASE STUDIES

# Kangaroo Point Green Bridge



Brisbane’s Kangaroo Point Green Bridge will provide a world-class landmark linking the city centre with a popular inner-city peninsula. The bridge will celebrate the river city and Brisbane’s sub-tropical lifestyle and provide a convenient, safe and accessible connection between Kangaroo Point and the CBD.

Creating a direct link to the city will contribute to a reduction in congestion on the ferry, bus and road networks, making commuting faster and more convenient. These enhancements will improve accessibility and efficiency, ultimately contributing to the city’s overall economic vitality.

The bridge will incorporate several sustainable design solutions including solar panels to power the bridge’s lighting, rain gardens to slow stormwater run-off, and an abundance of native plants to foster biodiversity.

Viewing platforms and rest stops will allow people to better engage with the river, providing panoramic views of the CBD skyline, Kangaroo Point Cliffs, City Botanic Gardens and the Story Bridge. These flexible spaces will have seating, shade and opportunities to pause on both sides of the bridge deck, ensuring the bridge can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors.

A riverside cafe and above-water restaurant at the CBD end will help to create an iconic destination for Brisbane residents and visitors.

The Kangaroo Point Green Bridge is part of Council’s Green Bridge Program, which will also deliver a new crossing at Breakfast Creek. Construction started in late 2021, with expected completion in 2024.



*Kangaroo Point Green Bridge artist impression*



The bridge will provide a vital pedestrian and cycling crossing between the south-east corner of the CBD and the Kangaroo Point peninsula, improving connections between the inner city and the eastern and south-eastern suburbs through existing public and active transport networks serving Kangaroo Point.



*Kangaroo Point Green Bridge artist impression*



Brisbane Metro artist impression

FLAGSHIP CASE STUDIES

# Brisbane Metro



Brisbane Metro is a city-shaping sustainable transport project to transform Brisbane by linking the city to the suburbs. Brisbane Metro will improve mobility within and across the city, reduce congestion and enable opportunities for sustainable urban development throughout the city.

Brisbane Metro will provide an all-electric, high-capacity turn-up-and-go public transport system for the city's residents and visitors, connecting 18 stations along 21km of dedicated busways between Eight Mile Plains and Roma Street, Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital and The University of Queensland.

The route will include major infrastructure upgrades and provide transport interchanges at 11 locations, including connecting with Cross River Rail services at Boggo Road Station and Roma Street Station.

Brisbane Metro will provide an affordable, accessible and reliable public transport option. New high-capacity and high-frequency services will make travel easier, especially during the weekends, with services operating 24 hours. Brisbane Metro will provide improved access to key centres, meeting places, employment, cultural precincts, and health and education facilities, supporting enhanced social and economic outcomes for the community.

The project was first announced in 2016 with services expected to commence in late 2024.



Brisbane Metro artist impression

FLAGSHIP CASE STUDIES

# Victoria Park / Barrambin



Victoria Park / Barrambin is Brisbane’s biggest new park in generations, spanning the suburbs of Herston, Kelvin Grove and Spring Hill. Council is transforming the parkland into an iconic destination, showcasing its rich cultural heritage and unique natural features. The Victoria Park / Barrambin Master Plan presents a roadmap for the park’s future, detailing how we will transform the inner-city green space over the coming years and in the lead up to, and beyond, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Victoria Park / Barrambin has played a significant role in Brisbane’s history. The site was an important meeting and gathering place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people travelling to and from other areas across South East Queensland. Council is committed to creating a place that honours and celebrates the connections between Country, culture and history across past, present and future generations.

Victoria Park / Barrambin will provide a variety of community spaces accommodating a range of events from small-scale activations through to major public events. The park will host the equestrian cross country and BMX freestyle events for the 2032 Games as well as temporary hireable spaces for events and functions.

The park will become a natural retreat and urban park for adventure, discovery and reconnection. The park’s transformation includes restoring the natural landscape, revitalising wetlands and waterholes, increasing tree canopy cover from 10% to 60%, and creating unique spaces.



In 2008, Victoria Park was given the dual name of Victoria Park / Barrambin following engagement with the local Turrbal people.

Barrambin translates to 'windy place' and the area around Victoria Park was a source of food and culture for Aboriginal people.



*Artist impression*



# A Better Brisbane

Brisbane City Council is a proud partner with UN-Habitat on the SDG Cities Global Initiative and will respond specifically to the unique challenges faced by the community. This commitment to a long-term relationship with UN-Habitat and its program is based on continued improvement and measurement of Council's progress on sustainable development.



Through implementing the opportunities and commitments in this report, Council will make Brisbane better. Brisbane's aspirations for its future are reflected in the SDGs and as we continue our path towards a cleaner, greener future, it is important to be held accountable. Council will continue to monitor the city's performance, revisiting and updating the recommendations made in this document where appropriate. Council will lead by example and become an inspiration to the Brisbane community, and beyond.

Council will review and update this action-oriented VLR to ensure it's doing its part in delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Delivering on commitments

Brisbane City Council is committed to the intent and objectives of the SDG Cities Global Initiative, addressing the 2030 Agenda through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Monitoring Framework.

As lead government body for guiding the Brisbane community into the future, Council is focused on progressively improving how it delivers for the community and how it conducts the business of local government.

In 2021, Council adopted its *Corporate Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26*, which guides how Council will deliver services and activities for the next 5 years. It sets the medium-term objectives to enable Council to continue to work with the community and retain a thriving and sustainable city for future generations.

This plan identifies 5 strategic directions that lead Council to achieving the *Brisbane Vision 2031*.

- Our prosperous city
- Our sustainable and resilient city
- Our liveable city
- Our inclusive city
- Our well-managed city

The plan also identifies a series of principles to be integrated through the organisation's activities to achieve the community's vision.

- We drive community value
- We harness opportunities from change and business disruption
- We put community needs at the heart of everything we do
- We are future-focused
- We measure our performance on delivery of outcomes
- We value data as an asset and apply technology as an enabler.

Council's mission is to enable a thriving and sustainable city, for current and future residents, businesses and visitors. Council proudly and passionately serves the communities in which they live by listening to them and understanding their needs.

## Principles that will guide the implementation of our commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Council drives community value**

Council continues to drive value and benefits for our community through effectively managing our organisation's performance, people, investment and resources, in the delivery of our commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Council harnesses opportunities from change and business disruption**

Council's commitments to adapt and adjust to disruptions in the short-term and identify and capitalise on opportunities in the long-term. These disruptions may be natural, economic, social, environmental, technological or biological.

### **Council puts community needs at the heart of everything it does**

Council will always put the people of Brisbane at the heart of decision-making and delivery of services and outcomes. Council will continue to talk to the community through research and engagement to understand their priorities, expectations and changing needs.

### **Council is future-focused**

Delivering services and outcomes for the city, Council monitors and reviews its performance towards the 2030 Agenda and proactively responds to new opportunities.

### **Council measures its performance on outcome delivery**

Council will continue to measure the impact it has on the city and its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through the process of preparing this inaugural VLR, Council has already identified opportunities to improve how it measures and analyses key indicators for the city.

### **Council values data as an asset and applies technology as an enabler**

Council will capitalise on opportunities to collect data and use that information to inform decision-making, monitor performance, and develop policy and strategy. Council will continue to explore and implement technological advancements in systems, to be a more data-driven organisation and support delivery of services and outcomes.





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