



LOGAN
Waterways
our creek our river our city

Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Plan 2014–2024



MESSAGES

Mayor's Message

The waterways that connect the City of Logan play a pivotal role in supporting our community's liveability and quality of life.

Long term, the health of our waterways and wetlands is central to ensuring a variety of ecosystem services, such as recreational opportunities, rural productivity and our unique ecosystems into the future.

Council recognises the importance of working with the community to improve the health of our waterways and wetlands and the importance of developing a whole-of-catchment approach underpinned by strong community partnerships.

The Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Plan 2014-2024 (the Plan) has been developed in direct consultation with the Logan community. It represents a shared commitment to the recovery of our waterways and a more integrated approach to catchment management.

We would like to personally thank the Logan community for their commitment to the recovery of Logan's waterways."



Acting Mayor Cherie Dalley
City of Logan



CONTENTS

Setting the scene	4
What is river recovery — Our Vision	6
Our creek our river our city	8
Strategic fit	10
Why we need the recovery plan	12
How did we develop the recovery plan?	14
Our values	16
Our strategic outcomes	18
Investing in Logan's river recovery journey	22
Our priorities – key areas of interest	24
Our implementation plan – achieving our vision	26
Reviewing and reporting	31
Acknowledgements	31

SETTING THE SCENE

The waterways* that connect the City of Logan have integral social, economic and environmental values and are an important part of the city's landscape.

Healthy waterways play a pivotal role in supporting a community's livability and are central to developing and sustaining a sense of place and community identity. With historical and current land pressures on our waterways, it is essential we protect and enhance these natural assets.

It is important to acknowledge the significant role of our waterways for traditional custodians - peoples of the Yuggera and Yugambah language groups - and in the establishment and growth of the early river towns and settlements. Logan's waterways were once the lifeblood of the community. Teeming with fish, crabs, prawns, mussels and hundreds of edible plants, the region's waterways served as a rich resource for both the local Aboriginal people and the Europeans who later joined them.

To the local Yugambah, the Logan River was known as Dugulumba.

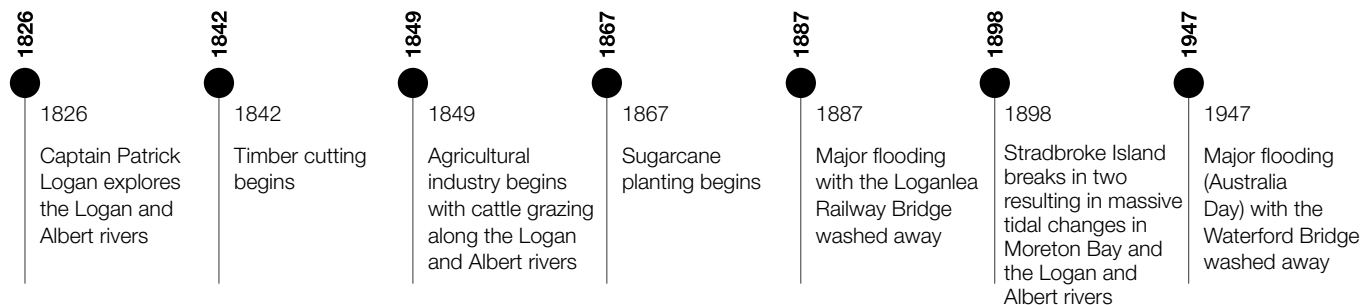
In 1826, Captain Logan explored the Logan River with the early settlement of Logan Village leading to the growth of the river towns that stretched to Moreton Bay. The Logan River served the local timber and agricultural industries and set the foundation for a thriving local economy.

Our waterways continue to play an important role for local businesses, industry, aquaculture, tourism and recreation in the city now and into the future. The Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Plan 2014-2024 (the Recovery Plan), informed and guided by ongoing community consultation sets the direction for the rediscovery and recovery of Logan's rivers and wetlands with collaboration, community stewardship and multiple outcomes at its core.

*The term waterways within the Recovery Plan will encompass wetlands, rivers & creeks.

The Logan and Albert Rivers – A snapshot in time

Logan and Albert river district occupied by Aboriginal people of the Yugambah and Yuggera language groups





The Logan and Albert Rivers – A snapshot in time.



WHAT IS RIVER RECOVERY?

OUR VISION

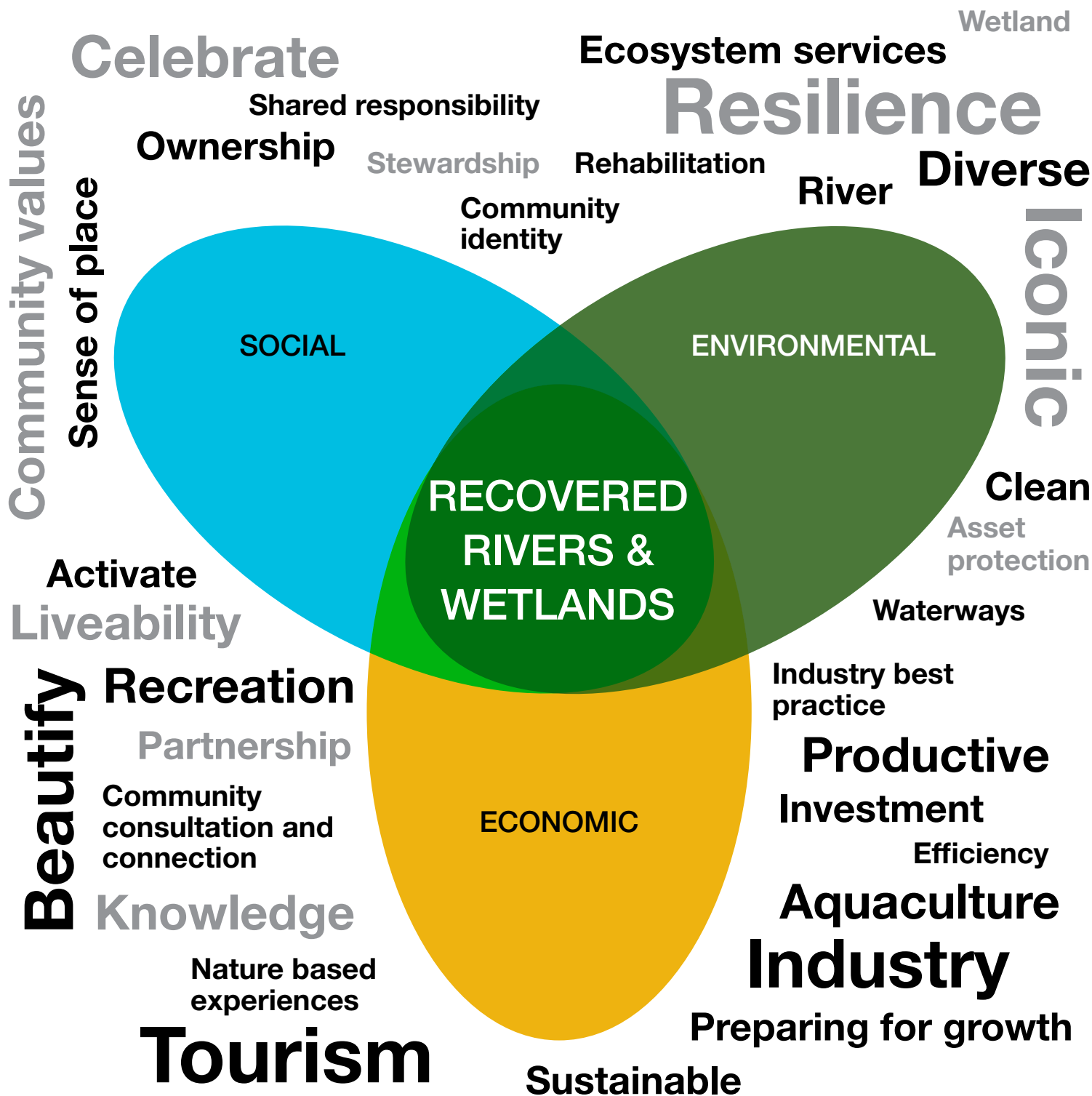
Working together to support healthy rivers and wetlands that sustain Logan's culture, lifestyle and livelihood.

River recovery is about:

- Multiple and shared outcomes
- Catchment collaboration and partnership
- Driving investment
- Delivering on-ground waterway improvement actions
- Outcome evaluation and reporting
- Community consultation, engagement and participation

Strategic outcomes:

- 1** SOCIAL: Our community has increased ownership and capacity to participate in the ongoing stewardship of our local waterways
- 2** ECONOMIC: Logan's catchments are productive and sustainably managed and support diverse enterprise and function
- 3** ENVIRONMENTAL: The health and resilience of our waterway ecosystems has improved



OUR CREEK OUR RIVER OUR CITY

The City of Logan is home to more than 300,000 people and celebrates more than 215 different cultures. Logan is also a very young city with around 50% of residents aged 30 or younger. Covering an area of 957 km², 80% of which is classed as rural, semi-rural or conservation, Logan is a relatively green city that is home to an array of freshwater and estuarine waterway environments.

The Logan and Albert rivers are the two main waterways that traverse the city (Figure 1). The whole catchment covers 3,862 km² and five local government areas, making it one of the most dominant waterways in South East Queensland (SEQ).

The Logan and Albert rivers begin their journeys in the world heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests on the New South Wales/Queensland Border Ranges and flow down through regionally significant floodplains and wetlands. The Albert joins the Logan around

Eagleby and together, they complete their journey in the southern end of the World Heritage-Listed Moreton Bay.

The City of Logan also contains the headwaters of two other important waterway systems. In the north-west of Logan, the regionally significant wildlife corridor of Oxley Creek flows north into the Brisbane River. While Tingalpa Creek in the east of Logan forms part of Redland's drinking water supply catchment.

An important feature of these catchments is the many significant and diverse wetlands. Over 200 of these are located within our parks for the community to visit.

These ecosystems are complex and highly productive habitats and provide key ecological and hydrological functions such as biodiversity conservation, flood mitigation and water quality improvement. Wetlands are also important from a recreation, aesthetic and cultural heritage perspective.



Logan River, Carbrook

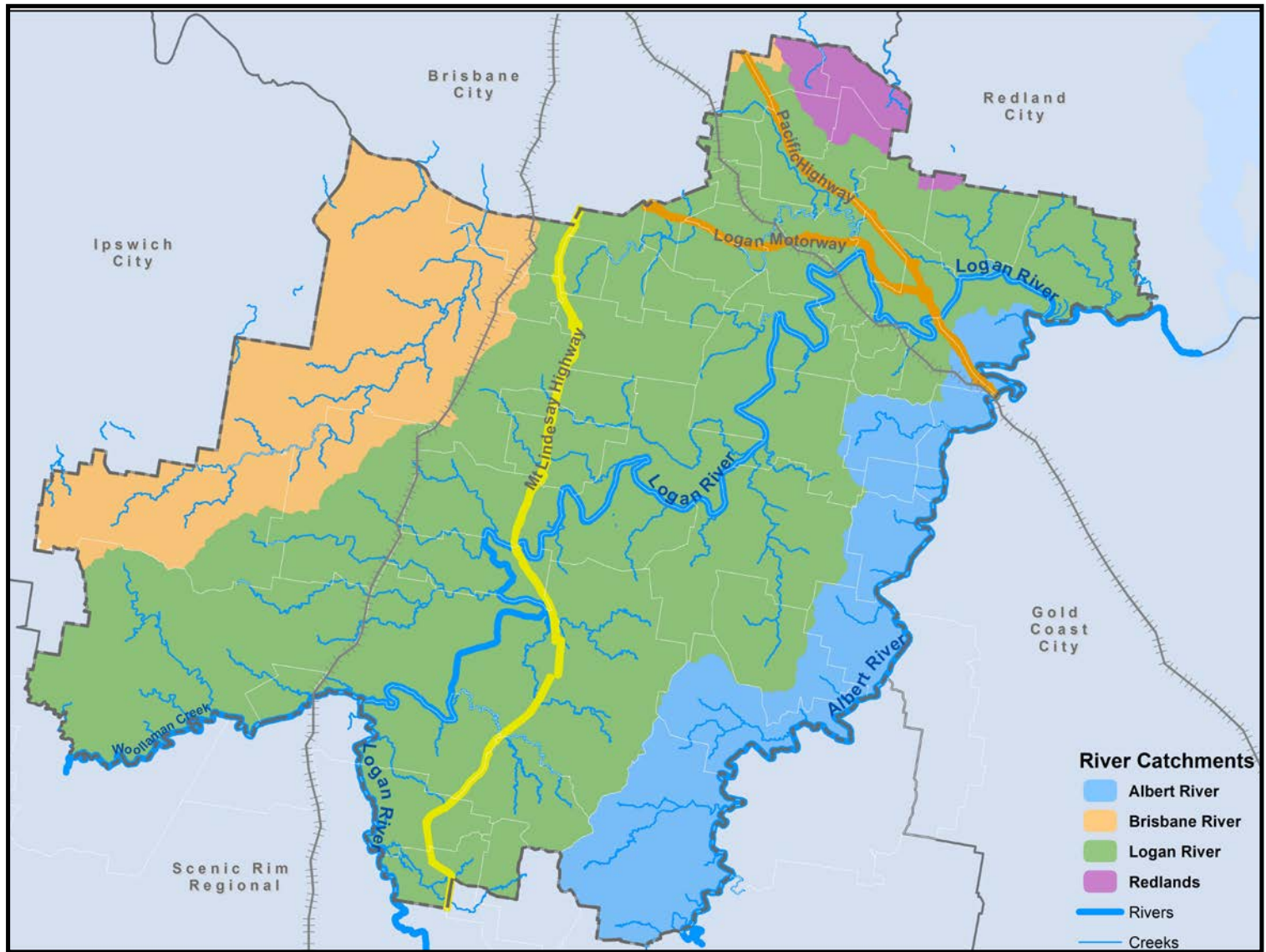


Figure 1 The waterways and catchments of Logan City.

STRATEGIC FIT

Integrating with existing local, regional, State and Federal programs and plans will ensure the Recovery Plan is effective, efficient and able to achieve multiple outcomes. Strategically, the Recovery Plan aligns with Council’s long-term corporate outcomes and strategic visions as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Strategic alignment of the Recovery Plan.

Strategic Document	Strategic Level Link	Strategy
Logan City Corporate Plan 2013–2018	Corporate Plan Priority	Priority: Building our Environment (E) E1 Enhance our rivers and wetlands with our community E2 Build our future wildlife corridors through vegetation, koala and water quality offsets and focussed community partnerships Priority: Building the Wellbeing of our Communities (WC) WC2 Ongoing priority for healthy and active lifestyle initiatives
Logan City Environmental Health Plan 2014–2017	Logan City Council strategic document	Addressing environmental health issues of importance to the community
Logan Tourism Strategy 2012–2016	Logan City Council strategic document	Enhancing tourism opportunities in the city
Logan Recreational Trails Strategy 2010–2020	Logan City Council strategic document	Establishing identified recreational trails through the city
South East Queensland Regional Plan (2009–2031)	Desired regional outcomes and policies	Measurable targets for the condition and extent of environment and natural resources
South East Queensland (SEQ) Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan (2009–2031)	Desired regional outcomes and policies	Targets include restoring ecosystem health and ecological processes to waterways and maintaining and increasing wetland condition
Queensland’s Ecotourism Plan (2013–2020)	Vision and strategic priorities	Strategic priorities include facilitating investment into ecotourism products and embracing a partnership approach
National Wildlife Corridors Plan 2012	Australian Government’s framework to retain, restore and manage ecological connections in the Australian landscape	Vision: Diverse, connected and healthy landscapes that support and sustain biodiversity, communities and wellbeing
Water Q: a 30 year strategy for QLD’s water Sector	Vision and strategic priorities	Strategic Priorities include responsible & productive water management. This includes an action for a catchment management partnership program
Healthy Waterways Strategic Plan 2012-2022	Purpose and strategic priorities	The purpose, is through partnerships, achieve healthy waterways in South East Queensland, where people live, work and play
The Queensland Plan	Vision and strategic priorities	Vision: We will be the greatest state in which to live, work and play, and guardian of a sustainable natural environment that inspires an active lifestyle and supports healthy communities.



WHY WE NEED THE RECOVERY PLAN

Logan’s waterways are highly valued by the community. These waterways have intrinsic cultural, economic, social and environmental value and provide diverse services including:

- Food production
- The supply of drinking water and irrigation
- Habitat and corridor connectivity
- Biodiversity support
- Drainage and nutrient cycling capacity
- Recreation, water-sports, amenity and transportation
- Aquaculture and commercial/recreation fishing
- Cultural heritage and learning.

Historic and ongoing development of Logan’s waterway catchments for agriculture, housing, industry and transport, and changes to the amount and quality of runoff from rainfall has reduced the capacity of some of our waterways to support the diverse services that we value. Continued poor ecosystem health report card grades demonstrate this declining capacity (Figure 2).

With the population of the City of Logan set to increase significantly over the next two decades, it is critical that we prepare for this growth and ensure that these unique community assets are enjoyed, utilised and protected for future generations.

The Recovery Plan demonstrates Council’s commitment to the recovery of our valued waterways by setting priorities, providing a framework for funding and enabling actions across the wider catchment.

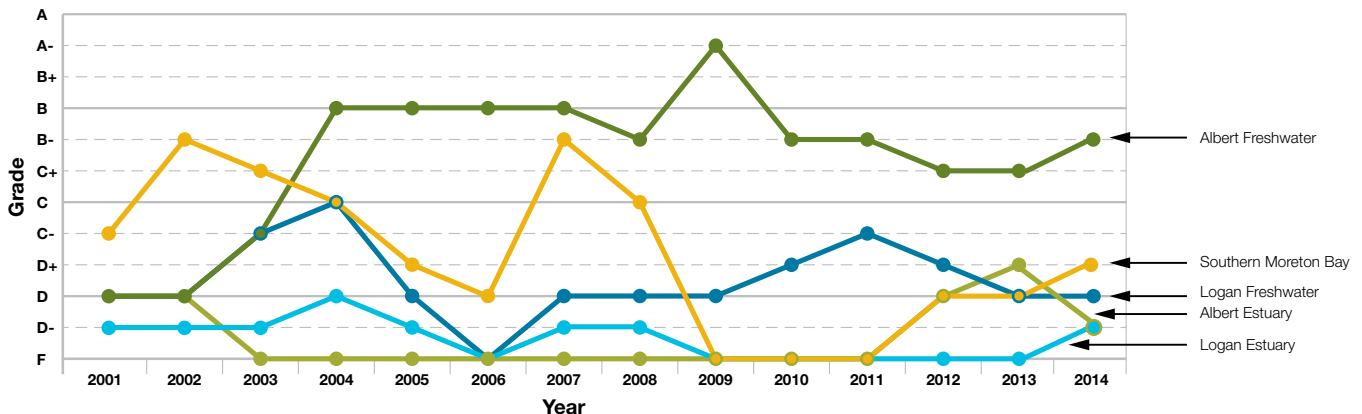


Figure 2: Logan catchments Healthy Waterways Report Card grades 2001–2014.



Riverdale Park, Meadowbrook



Spring Mountain Reserve, Greenbank



Albert River, Wolfdene



Reserve Park, Slacks Creek



Tygun Park, Waterford West

HOW DID WE DEVELOP THE RECOVERY PLAN?

This Recovery Plan has been developed through consultation with a range of stakeholders including residents, State Government, community groups, catchment managers, businesses and research institutions from across Logan and the wider SEQ region. Each of the 'Logan Listens: Residents' Surveys' from 2010 to 2013 highlighted the ongoing importance of waterways to our local community, and a desire for protection and investment in Logan's waterways.

These values were echoed during the '2011 Waterways Summit', which provided a platform for addressing the decline of Logan's waterways and established recommendations and actions to aid recovery.

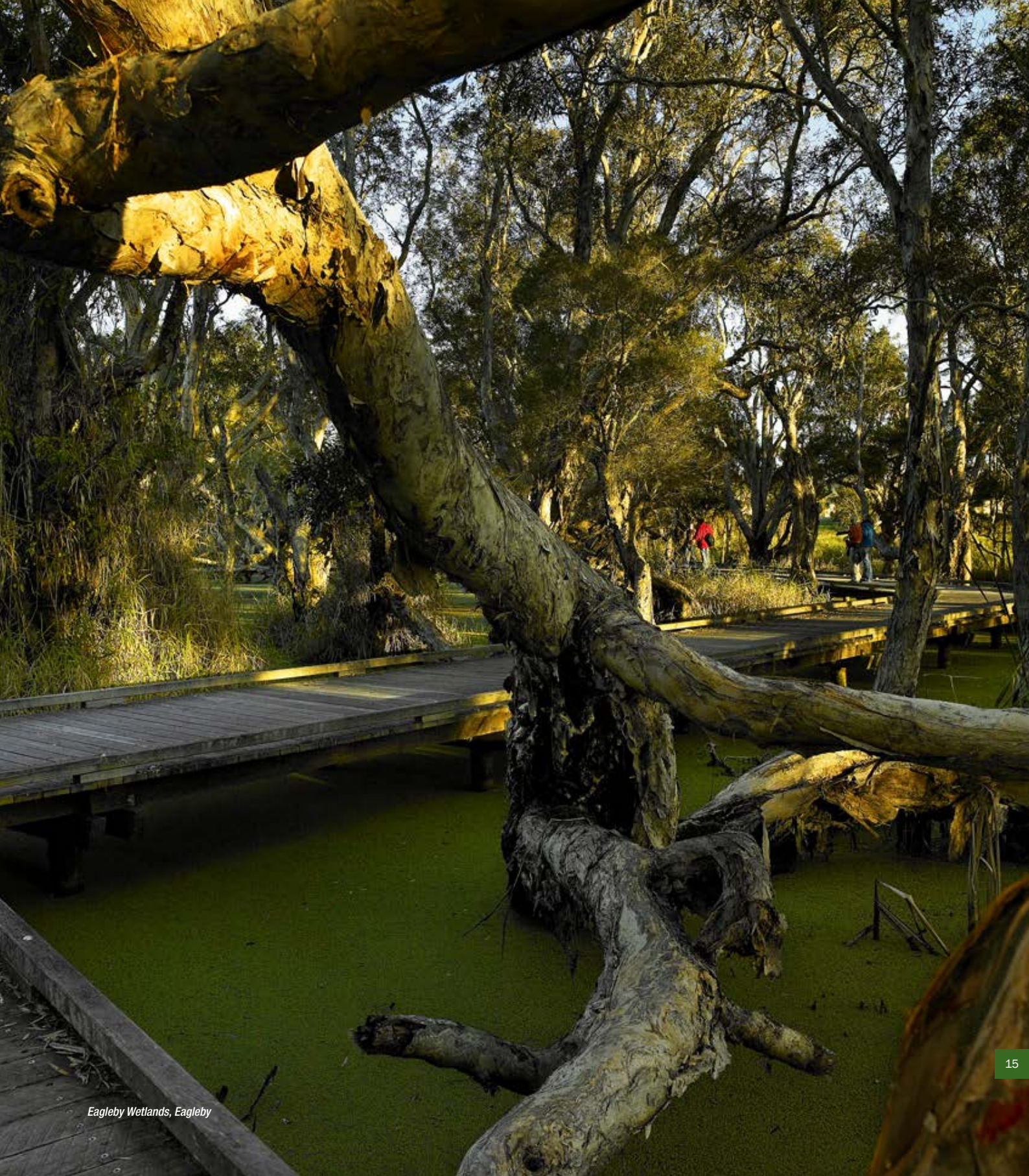
An external reference group including representatives from State Government, the University of Queensland, CSIRO, SEQ Catchments and Healthy Waterways has also undertaken a review of the key Recovery Plan actions. This is to ensure that community needs have been appropriately addressed and that the identified objectives and actions will be effective in achieving the Recovery Plan vision.



The 2011 Waterways Summit



Spring Mountain Reserve Environmental Expo



OUR VALUES

The implementation of the Recovery Plan is built on community engagement, collaboration and partnership. The triple bottom line policy position adopted in this Recovery Plan was informed and guided by over 120 participants at the Logan Waterways Summit which was a landmark engagement process.

The Summit led to the development of eight agreed upon recommendations which reflected the community's values to 'facilitate the effective connection, interaction and management of Logan's waterways'.



Community recommendations

1

Collaborative partnering between all stakeholders

2

Staged long-term implementation planning

3

A systematic waterway legislative review

4

A community education focus

5

Enhanced waterways and riverine knowledge

6

Supporting industry best practice

7

Improving waterway access and connections

8

Facilitating community engagement and consultation



OUR STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Strategic Outcome 1: Strengthening community connection

Our community has increased ownership and capacity to participate in the ongoing stewardship of our local waterways.

Objectives

- 1.1 Improve awareness of Logan's waterways
- 1.2 Promote and celebrate Logan's waterways
- 1.3 Encourage community participation in waterway recovery activities
- 1.4 Build collaboration and partnerships to deliver Recovery Plan outcomes

The wellbeing of our community is intrinsically linked to our sense of connection to, and the health of, our waterways.

Our community receives a range of services from our waterways, including food and water supply, recreation activities, transport opportunities, inspiration, climate control and a sense of place. These services also underpin the economic benefits our waterways provide.

To ensure the ongoing provision of these services, it is important that we as a community understand the impacts of our actions on waterway health and function.



This understanding will improve our community's capacity to actively participate in waterway recovery activities within their homes, businesses and local area.

In addition, with this understanding we can celebrate the values, cultures and shared history of Logan's waterways and build our mutual responsibility of managing Logan's waterways into the future.

Strategic Outcome 2: Sustaining productive waterways

The catchments in Logan are productive and sustainably managed and support diverse enterprise and function.

Objectives

- 2.1 Work with rural landowners to support uptake of best practice land management
- 2.2 Support waterway based amenity, recreation and tourism
- 2.3 Support a sustainable fishing industry in Logan

The waterways of the City of Logan have been integral to the establishment and growth of the early river towns with the timber and agricultural industries setting the foundation for a thriving local economy.

Today, Logan's waterways significantly support the regional productivity of the city with grazing, dairying, thoroughbred horse spelling and aquaculture ventures supplying products locally and overseas.

Recreation and tourism opportunities are being continually explored with Logan's waterways, parklands and natural areas highly valued by locals and tourists seeking an outdoor and nature based experience.

A river corridor plan identifying how we access, recreate and activate the space beside and on the river – will be a cornerstone Recovery Plan outcome, guiding our on-going relationship with this valuable asset.



Ray Crooks from Riverview Herbs, Stockleigh

From a productivity perspective, a healthy river system is ultimately critical to sustaining established industries, protecting and retaining good quality agricultural land and supporting new and diverse enterprise.

Strategic Outcome 3: Enhancing waterway health and resilience

The health and resilience of Logan's waterway ecosystems has improved.

Objectives

- 3.1 Undertake waterway and catchment restoration
- 3.2 Manage pollutant transport to waterways
- 3.3 Support best practice asset management
- 3.4 Design and plan our city for waterway recovery

A healthy river system provides a range of ecosystem services and has integral social, economic and environmental value. It is recognised that healthy waterways play a pivotal role in supporting a community's livability and are central to developing and sustaining a sense of place and community identity.

Improving the health of Logan's waterways will also ensure that these systems are resilient to increasing land use change and the pressures of climate variability.

As waterway health is strongly related to the condition of the riparian zone, appropriately managing, maintaining and rehabilitating the waterway banks will be fundamental to achieving this strategic outcome. In addition, bank stability; the reinstatement of floodplains and wetlands; asset management and managing stormwater effectively are further elements which will support this strategic outcome.

Within Logan, Council has adopted an Activate, Beautify and Clean approach to guide urban waterway rehabilitation projects. The model provides multiple benefits to the community and the environment, which is at the heart of this Recovery Plan.

From a rural context, engagement with landholders to support effective best practice land management for waterway health will support the productivity, lifestyle and sustainability of our rural community.



Stormwater Bio-infiltration System, Slacks Creek



INVESTING IN LOGAN'S RIVER RECOVERY JOURNEY

Our waterways are valued and valuable. These systems support a diverse range of business, community and social activities that contribute significantly to the local economy. Tourism in Logan with a focus on outdoor waterway recreation and leisure experience generates significant revenue and also supports a positive city image.

It is essential therefore to establish a framework that provides an innovative, flexible and coordinated process for maximising investment in the recovery of our waterways. The investment framework below provides a range of opportunities for establishing investment towards Logan's river recovery journey.

Efficiency

Aligning goals and objectives of relevant Logan City Council and other local, State and Federal government policies, plans, strategies and tools to incorporate waterway recovery outcomes and benefits.

Synergy

Alignment of goals and investment across the catchment through collaboration and partnership with business, industry, research, natural resource management (NRM) groups, neighbouring councils, community groups and State and Federal government.

Co-investment

Ensuring the broader scope of the Recovery Plan aligns with business industry, State and Federal priorities to leverage investment and attract grant opportunities.

Demonstration

Utilising key demonstration initiatives to promote on-ground and value-for-money recovery actions and innovation.

Alternatives

Aligning the Recovery Plan objectives with alternative opportunities such as environmental offsets, investigating public-private partnerships, and exploring incentives-based schemes.

Priorities

Targeting actions and investment to achieve the multi-value objectives of the Recovery Plan, support broader Council goals, and align with State and Federal NRM targets.

Stewardship

Empowering our community to take increasing ownership of our environment and deliver on-ground actions.

The financial implications associated with the implementation of this strategy where possible will be funded through the approved existing budget, via any savings and efficiencies that can be realised. Where additional funding may be required, the implementation of those actions will be subject to Council's annual budgetary service enhancement approval process.



Kayaking on the Logan River

OUR PRIORITIES

The development of the Recovery Plan and the ongoing community consultation has led to the emergence of priority areas of interest.

These include:

- Volunteerism
- Networking and partnerships
- Research and knowledge sharing
- Alternative investments
- Monitoring and evaluation

These priority areas are being demonstrated through the Slacks Creek Catchment Recovery Project. Our vision is that “Slacks Creek will be a vibrant, green corridor linking people and nature and inspiring healthy living and creativity.”

The project’s collaborative approach to urban creek renewal has led to increased Council buy-in, attracted considerable State and Australian Government funding, generated widespread community support, and put Logan “on the map” when it comes to catchment recovery.

Since its launch in 2013 the project has been revitalising the catchment through community led initiatives, recreational activities and environmental enhancement at several priority locations throughout the catchment.





ACHIEVING OUR VISION

The Environment and Sustainability Branch will lead the delivery of the implementation plan in partnership with relevant Council branches and external stakeholders.[†]

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 1)

Our community has increased ownership and capacity to participate in the ongoing stewardship of our local waterways

1.1 Objective: Improve awareness of Logan's waterways

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Provide Logan's community with avenues for advice, engagement and information relating to Logan's waterways and waterway management	Successful delivery of a range of forums and information sharing mechanisms	2014-2017
Connect and engage with Traditional Owners and Logan community elders to build a shared knowledge of the cultural value of Logan's waterways	Increased knowledge of the cultural value of Logan's waterways	2014-2017
Support local schools in the delivery of waterway education aligned with Council's school education approach	Increased delivery of waterway educational resources	2017-2020

1.2 Objective: Promote and celebrate Logan's waterways

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Promote Logan's waterways locally and regionally through key Council marketing material	Increased local and regional awareness of the values of Logan's waterways	2014-2017
Deliver key community events celebrating our waterways including World Rivers Day, World Wetlands Day, Clean up Australia Day and the Logan Eco Action Festival	Increased participation in events and activities celebrating our waterways	2014-2024

[†] The effective delivery of the Recovery Plan actions are funding dependant.

1.3 Objective: Encourage community participation in waterway recovery activities

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Encourage Logan's community groups to undertake waterway recovery activities	Increased waterway recovery works undertaken by community groups	2014-2017
Promote actions that Logan residents can undertake in their homes, workplaces and on their land, to support waterway recovery	Increased availability of information to support residents undertaking these simple actions	2014-2017
Support Logan residents and community groups to apply for available funding/grants	Increased success and uptake of community extension resources	2014-2017
Develop a yearly schedule of volunteer opportunities and events that aligns with Council programs	Readily available yearly schedule that supports volunteer participation across a range of Council activities	2014-2017

1.4 Objective: Build collaboration and partnerships to deliver Recovery Plan outcomes

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Establish Recovery Plan partnerships to support enhanced collaboration, communication and investment at regional, State and Federal forums	Improved whole of catchment collaboration across Logan's catchments	2014-2017
Develop an investment model to facilitate and incentivise corporate partnership opportunities, to diversify Recovery Plan investment	Increased diversification of funding for waterway recovery activities	2014-2020
Support focused research and project delivery in partnership with research institutions	Increased use of river focused research results and information	2014-2024

Strategic Outcome 2 (SO 2)

The catchments in Logan are productive and sustainably managed and support diverse enterprise and function

2.1 Objective: Work with rural landowners to support uptake of best practice land management

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Deliver targeted engagement programs in partnership with landowners, industry and natural resource management groups	Successful delivery of engagement programs	2014-2017
Broaden Council's Conservation Incentive Partnership Program to better support rural landowners	Increased participation in Council's Conservation Incentives Program	2017-2020
Develop an effective and sustainable funding model to support best practice rural land management	Delivery of funding model	2014-2024

2.2 Objective: Support waterway based amenity, recreation and tourism

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Promote waterway based tourism and recreation opportunities within Logan	Increased visitation of Logan's waterways	2014-2017
Encourage alignment of other Council recreational based strategies with Recovery Plan objectives	Inclusion of Recovery Plan outcomes in other Council recreation strategies	2014-2017

2.3 Objective: Support a sustainable fishing industry in Logan

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Work with industry representatives from the commercial and recreational fisheries to promote and support sustainable fisheries management	Increased use of sustainable approaches to fisheries management	2014-2024

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO 3)

The health and resilience of Logan's waterways has improved

3.1 Objective: Undertake waterway and catchment restoration

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Develop a city-wide riparian rehabilitation prioritisation plan	Riparian rehabilitation prioritisation plan delivered	2014-2017
Deliver on-ground riparian rehabilitation and weed management initiatives	Increased riparian and weed management delivery	2014-2024
Investigate barriers and mitigation measures to enhance aquatic fauna movement throughout the Logan's catchments	Fish barrier investigation report delivered	2014-2020
Support implementation of aquatic fauna movement barrier mitigation measures as recommended by the fish barrier investigation report	Improved movement of aquatic fauna in Logan's waterways	2020-2024
Collaborate with relevant authorities to manage noxious species in and along Logan's waterways	Reduced noxious species in and along Logan's waterways	2014-2024

3.2 Objective: Manage pollutant transport to waterways

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Investigate and undertake compliance activities for reported waterway pollution incidents	Continued investigation and compliance activities	2014-2017
Work with the development industry to support best practice erosion and sediment control	Improved audit outcomes	2017-2020
Support the development of a City of Logan litter management strategy	Litter management strategy delivered	2014-2017
Increase awareness and understanding of planning and environmental protection laws to assist business and industry in minimising risk of environmental harm	Increased availability or information resources for business and industry	2017-2020

3.3 Objective: Support best practice asset management

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Undertake training and education for environmental best practice Council operations	Increased number of training and education opportunities attended by staff	2014-2017
Develop a whole-of-Council waterway recovery policy to guide internal processes, procedures and policies	Waterway recovery policy developed	2017-2020
Develop and implement best practice asset management plans for improved waterway resilience	Asset management plans implemented	2017-2020

3.4 Objective: Design and plan our city for waterway recovery

Actions	Performance Indicators	Timeframe
Develop a long-term river corridor plan for the Logan River that addresses access, use and activation opportunities	Corridor plan developed	2017-2020
Develop guidelines for residents, community groups and the development industry as part of the new Logan Planning Scheme	Guidelines developed	2017-2020
Ensure multiple benefits of waterways are protected and enhanced through Council's strategic planning	Council strategies and plans support Recovery Plan objectives	2014-2024



REVIEWING AND REPORTING

Logan residents, government, business and industry all have a part to play in the river recovery journey. The strategic outcomes will be achieved, subject to the necessary resourcing being available, through the actions outlined in the Recovery Plan.

Ongoing monitoring and review using the national *Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting and Improvement* (MERI) framework will support the assessment of the Recovery Plan's performance in achieving the strategic outcomes and ensuring the plan is adapted where improvements are required.

Documenting and evaluating the progress of the Recovery Plan will be communicated as part of Council's monthly and annual reporting, with the Recovery Plan formally reviewed and updated every five years.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Plan 2014-2024 has been developed by Logan City Council, guided and informed by key stakeholders from government, industry, non-government organisations, research institutions and the wider Logan community.

Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Plan 2014–2024

