

# Ipswich City Council **Natural Environment Strategy**

Stakeholder Engagement  
Report – DISCOVERY PHASE







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## BACKGROUND

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### Purpose

In July 2021, Ipswich City Council (council) commenced a new corporate plan known as iFuture. One of the plan's themes is 'Natural and Sustainable'. A catalyst project of the plan is to develop a Natural Environment Policy and Strategy.

Soon after, in September 2021, the Natural Environment Policy was adopted. The policy sets rules for operation and decisions. The policy's development was through research and several stakeholder engagement activities.

With rules in place, the next step was to set strategic priorities – A Natural Environment Strategy.

Important to success of the strategy is stakeholder input. Council is committed to meaningful engagement with stakeholders on issues affecting the city's natural environment and impacting stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is the foundation of sustainable decision making and is mutually beneficial to stakeholders and council.

With this approach front and centre, in February 2022 the Natural Environment and Land Management Branch set out on an engagement program with stakeholders to gain input and feedback.

Staff from council's Communications and Engagement Branch provided support, guidance and facilitated the engagement process.

The engagement program involved several phases, the initial being a Discovery Phase. This report covers Discovery Phase engagement.

Insight from stakeholders along with research and management best practice would inform strategy development.

This stakeholder engagement report accompanies the draft Natural Environment Strategy. Stakeholder feedback from the draft strategy will be presented in the engagement report associated with the final strategy.

### Engagement Aims

Council sought to gain representative and reliable stakeholder insight on strategic priorities it should focus on, specifically in relation to:

- natural environment elements
- objectives that are most important
- approaches that give the greatest benefits
- locations of highest values.

### Engagement Approach and Activities

Best practice engagement principles and practices underpinned the process. Engagement activities involved an online survey, in-person workshops and individual meetings. These approaches provided all stakeholders opportunity for input.

#### External Stakeholders

Council's online engagement platform Shape Your Ipswich (SYI) contained a strategy landing page. The public face for engagement, the page contained a survey and background information.

The survey asked for feedback on the strategy's themes, their objectives and an opportunity to identify what natural areas are most valued.

The public was invited to participate in the survey. The survey was open for a period of just over seven weeks from 13 April to 29 May 2022.

There were 59 contributors to the survey. Not all survey questions were completed by all contributors.

SYI also contained a specific closed page for Community Panel members to access, provide input and ask questions.

64 Community Panel members were invited to attend a workshop on the 26 April 2022. Members registered to the 'Environment, sustainability and climate change' and 'Governance' categories were invited.

14 members RSVP'd and 11 attended. Attendees participated in a workshop that followed a similar structure to the survey. They could provide commentary and feedback, along with voting activities.

A similar workshop was also held with identified key external stakeholders on the 3 May 2022. Email invitations were sent to more than 100 representatives from 17 sectors.

### What will the strategy do?

The Natural Environment Strategy captures where we are now, where we are going and the preferred approach to get there.

It identifies approaches that give the greatest benefit to best achieve the natural environment vision for council.

The strategy covers natural environment elements and guides actions through support strategies, plans and program.



28 participants from nine sectors were represented at the workshop. Sectors represented were:

- Environmental or Catchment Management Group
- Regional Group
- Commerce or Development Industry
- Natural Area User Group or Business
- Community or Landholder Partner - Council
- Rural Landholder Partner
- Waterways User Group or Business
- Biosecurity Organisation
- Recreation - Non-Government Organisation.

## Internal Stakeholders

Council's subject matter experts participated in individual meetings, workshops and a 'dotmocracy' – a method of voting. Subject areas represented include:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- biosecurity planning and compliance
- destination development
- development assessment
- environmental and sustainability education and awareness
- infrastructure planning
- land-use planning
- natural areas planning, projects and management
- natural environment and land management
- open space design
- outdoor and nature-based recreation
- sustainability
- urban greening

Internal stakeholder engagement involved two stages. The initial stage involved meetings with representatives to gain insight on opportunities, barriers, tools and key natural areas. Information was used as part of theme and objective development.

A follow-up stage involved a workshop and dotmocracy exercise to identify popular objectives for each theme. Feedback on additional objectives was also provided.

Mayor and councillors were initially briefed in February 2022. A workshop was undertaken in May 2022 to outline the draft strategy scope, natural environment elements and to test key objectives at the time.

## Promotion and Communication Activities

The survey was promoted to the wider Ipswich region during April and May via:

- social media advertising (Facebook)
- social media posts
- social media shares on local group pages
- direct email networks (Environment matters newsletter, Shape Your Ipswich newsletter, Ipswich First newsletter)
- stakeholder network emails
- Ipswich First website
- council intranet website (The Wire)
- events (posters at Trees for Mum planting day and Ipswich Show)
- print (posters in council's administration building)

Targeted emails were sent to stakeholder networks on several occasions to increase participation.

## Engagement Limitations

Limitations relevant to the engagement process:

- a targeted engagement approach specific to Aboriginal and Traditional Owner groups was not undertaken during this phase, while overall communication and engagement was being resolved. Groups were invited to participate in the survey and workshops.
- limited demographic information was obtained through engagement activities. Generally, participants were identified by their broad types – community, Community Panel member, key external stakeholder and internal stakeholders.

## Methodology and Analysis

Community feedback on the city's natural environment element as part of developing the policy, sustainability policy (and strategy) and corporate plan was reviewed. This identified important trends in priorities, outcomes, objectives and actions.

This feedback and internal input, research of best environmental practice and a review of existing strategies led to identifying six priority outcomes. For engagement purposes the terminology used was:

1. Waterways and wetlands
2. Native plants and animals
3. Aboriginal Cultural landscapes
4. Urban greening
5. Outdoor/nature-based recreation
6. Rural landscapes.

Several objectives were also drafted for each outcome. These outcomes and their objectives were tested with stakeholders through the survey and workshops.

Identification of locations of highest natural environment values was also undertaken.

Frequently emerging objectives and approaches issues were prioritised for consideration when developing the draft strategy.

As a result of engagement and draft strategy development, the six priority outcomes terminology were refined to:

1. Waterways and wetlands health improvement
2. Biodiversity and threatened species recovery
3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition
4. Urban biodiversity enhancement
5. Sustainable nature-based recreation
6. Rural biodiversity enhancement.

The two highest emerging objectives for each outcome were prioritised. These were further refined when developing the draft strategy.

The top voted approaches to support were highlighted for further consideration in the strategy's development.

This methodology of identifying key stakeholder priorities and further refinement supports developing a focused strategy that concentrates on matters of the greatest importance.

## Community Survey

The survey contained questions regarding:

- the level of agreement for each priority outcome – using a scale
- whether an outcome was missed – open ended
- selection of the top 3 objectives for each outcome
- listing any objectives missed – open ended.

Contributors could also mark an important location on a map of the city and provide information on why it needs protection.

Closed questions and open comments provided an opportunity to provide feedback. To analyse the data, a contributor's selection of a 'top 3 objectives' was converted to a vote. Comments were categorised into high frequency aspects/themes.

## Workshops

Each workshop involved:

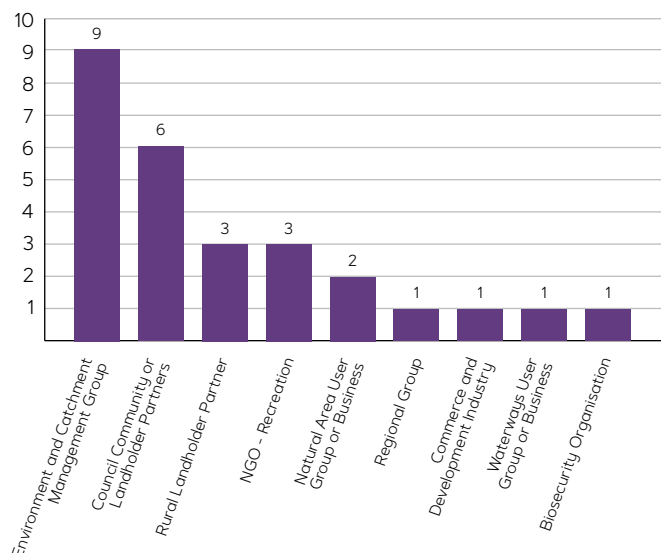
- identifying a favourite natural place
- obtaining feedback and voting on the outcomes and its objectives
- highlighting where to target effort.

Participants had 10 'dots' each to vote on objectives. Large citywide maps, post-it notes and blank paper were hand marked. Maps for each outcome contained contextual spatial background information.

# ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

## External Stakeholders

### SECTORS REPRESENTED AT EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP



**KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**  
**100 INVITED**  
**28 PARTICIPANTS**

## COMMUNITY SURVEY CONTRIBUTIONS

**59** contributors

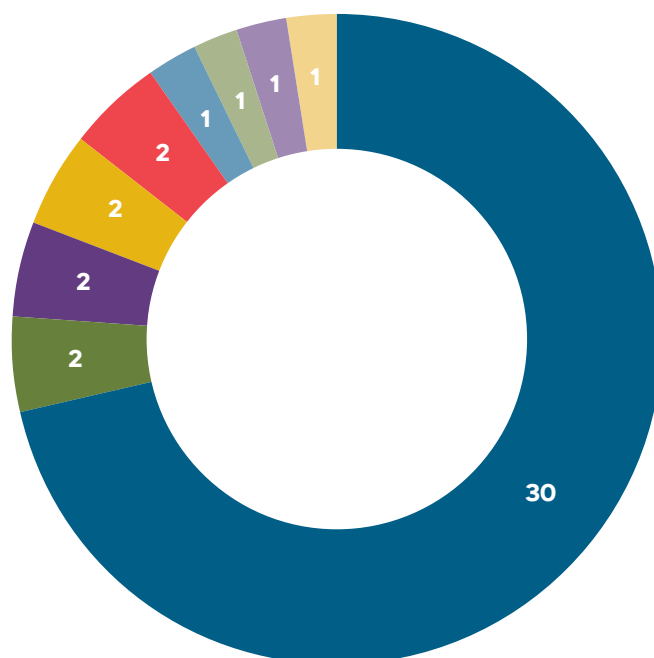
**83%** of contributions were anonymous

**35-64** was distribution age group for the majority of participants

Ipswich suburbs participants are from – Collingwood Park, Flinders View, Pine Mountain, Redbank Plains, Silkstone, The Bluff and Woodend

## Internal Stakeholders

### COUNCIL SECTION PARTICIPATION



- Natural Environment and Land Management
- Engineering, Health and Environment
- Natural Area and Urban Forest
- Emergency Management and Sustainability
- Infrastructure Strategy and Planning
- Animal Management and Biosecurity
- Sport and Recreation Programs
- City Design
- Marketing and Promotions

## COMMUNITY PANEL WORKSHOP

**64** members invited

**11** participants

Ipswich suburbs participants are from – Woodend, Barellan Point, The Bluff, Coalfalls, North Ipswich, Newtown, Goodna, Bundamba, Yamanto, Eastern Heights and Springfield Lakes

## KEY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

### Most Valued Areas

- White Rock and White Rock-Spring Mountain Conservation Estate
- Flinders Peak and Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate

### Priority Strategic Outcomes (themes)







#### Engagement Version

- Waterways and wetlands
- Native plants and animals
- Aboriginal cultural landscapes
- Urban greening
- Outdoor/nature-based recreation
- Rural Landscapes.

#### Draft Strategy Version







- Waterways and Wetlands health improvement
- Biodiversity and threatened species recovery
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition
- Urban biodiversity enhancement
- Sustainable nature-based recreation
- Rural biodiversity enhancement.

### Two Highest Voted Objectives for each Strategic Outcome

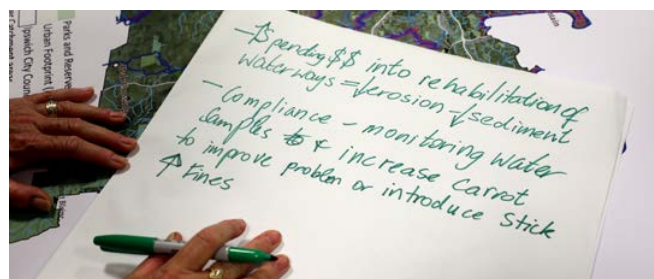
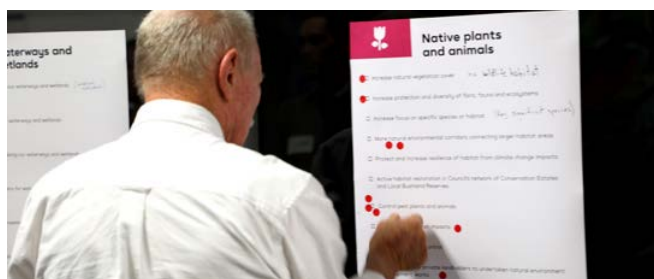
	Engagement Version	Draft Strategy Version
	<b>Waterways and wetlands health improvement:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce sediment (pollution and salinity) entering our waterways and wetlands</li> <li>▪ More native vegetation along our waterways and wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce sediment entering our waterways and wetlands</li> <li>▪ Increase extent and condition of vegetation cover around waterways and wetlands</li> </ul>
	<b>Biodiversity and threatened species recovery:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems</li> <li>▪ More natural environmental corridors connecting larger habitat areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased protection and enhancement of natural habitat areas across Ipswich</li> <li>▪ Increase in ecological corridor land protected and enhanced across Ipswich</li> </ul>
	<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve recognition of Aboriginal cultural landscapes and cultural heritage values</li> <li>▪ Increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in management of the natural environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition across Ipswich's natural areas</li> <li>▪ Increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in the management of Ipswich's natural environment</li> </ul>
	<b>Urban biodiversity enhancement:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Including natural landscapes when designing and developing urban areas</li> <li>▪ More corridors of natural landscapes and vegetation in urban areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased native canopy in urban areas</li> <li>▪ Increase the extent and condition of protected urban habitat corridors</li> </ul>
	<b>Sustainable nature-based recreation:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community connection to nature</li> <li>▪ Increase community access to natural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase in sustainable nature-based recreation opportunities across Ipswich</li> <li>▪ Increase in participation of the community in nature-based activities</li> </ul>
	<b>Rural biodiversity enhancement:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase corridors for native wildlife movement</li> <li>▪ Protect the natural flows and water quality in waterways and wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase the protection and condition of rural ecological corridors</li> <li>▪ Increased protection and function of Ipswich floodplains</li> </ul>



## Top Voted Approaches to Support Priority Strategic Outcomes

Priority Strategic Outcome	Approach
 <b>Waterways and wetlands health improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships, incentives and support</li> <li>Restoration and rehabilitation</li> <li>Education and awareness</li> </ul>
 <b>Biodiversity and threatened species recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration and rehabilitation</li> <li>Partnerships, incentives and support</li> <li>Research and monitoring</li> </ul>
 <b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition</b>	To be developed
 <b>Urban biodiversity enhancement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration and rehabilitation</li> <li>Education and awareness</li> </ul>
 <b>Sustainable nature-based recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and awareness</li> <li>Infrastructure investment</li> <li>Research and monitoring</li> </ul>
 <b>Rural biodiversity enhancement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships, incentives and support</li> <li>Restoration and rehabilitation</li> </ul>

## WORKSHOP IMAGES



# RESPONSE DATA

## What natural environment areas are most valued and why?

44 contributions were made to the online digital map as part of the survey. This involved ‘pinning’ a priority outcome icon onto the digital map. An open comment field linked with the icon provided opportunity for contributors to explain why that area was valued.

Attendees at the Community Reference Panel and Key External Stakeholder workshops nominated areas which were recorded on handwritten maps and notes taken.

Internal stakeholders also nominated favourite areas during consultation.

Council’s two large, protected greenspace areas received the most mention - White Rock – Spring Mountain and Flinders – Goolman conservation estates.

The Bremer River was the most identified area by contributors to the survey.

### HIGH VALUED NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS



## Examples of Sentiment

### White Rock – Spring Mountain Conservation

**Estate** – “Over years of accessing tracks concern around disregard for cultural heritage of this area and vandalism of recent signage put in. Very sad to see people climbing and defacing the rock and surrounds daily. (Dogs still accessing the area frequently too.)”

**Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate** – “White Rock and Flinders (plants, rocky outcrops, lookouts etc) - Great achievement to get people to experience the special places within these.”

**Bremer River** – “The Bremer is a critical ecological feature of Ipswich but its aquatic and terrestrial condition is woeful. A suggestion would be to plant DNA/species nodes every 100'ish metres where you re-introduce the drupe species that have long since been removed so that the birds/bats/rodents/fish/gravity/ water can spread those species instead of exotic drupe species such as celtis and camphor.”

**Brisbane River** – “Restoring native fish populations eg Brisbane River Cod & Jungle Perch. Riparian vegetation needs to be improved for native fish populations to recover. Control program needed for introduced pest fish like tilapia & carp.”

**Haig Street Quarry Bushland Reserve** – “Nice walking area. Concern over potential algae blooms in quarry pond and no explanatory signage about whether humans/animals should not enter.”

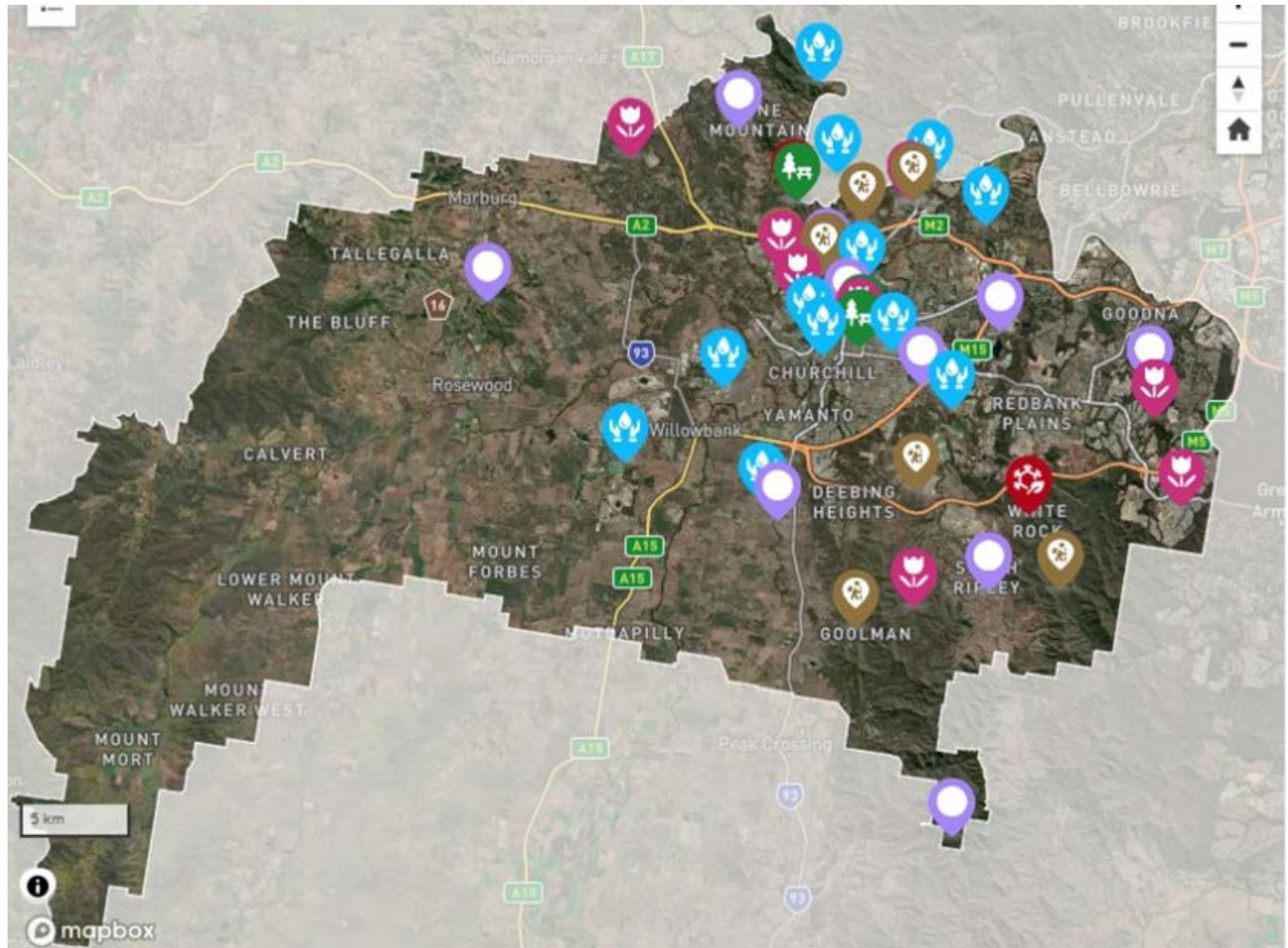
**Kholo Botanic Gardens** – “This is one of our family's favourite parks in Ipswich. There is so much to see and there is a great diversity of plant and animal life here. The open grassy area and picnic areas make it a great place to visit with family and friends.”

**Opossum Creek** – “This area hosts species such koalas, echidnas and a breeding pair of vulnerable Powerful Owls. There is plenty of photographic evidence, though a lack of education in the community on how they can help these animals by reporting sightings, etc.”

**Woogaroo Creek** – “Has enormous potential to provide high level environmental services of many descriptions.”

**Nerima Gardens** – “We love to walk to this park and it has so much going on in one space. My children enjoy the park and nature centre and I appreciate that I can also get my free plants and native plants at the nursery. It could benefit from having more nature play experiences for children such as a nature play playground.”

**Chuwar** – “Lots of native birds, including parrots, kookaburras, butcher birds, pigeons (crested and bronze wings), ducks, and noisy minors (happy to thin out the native minors).”



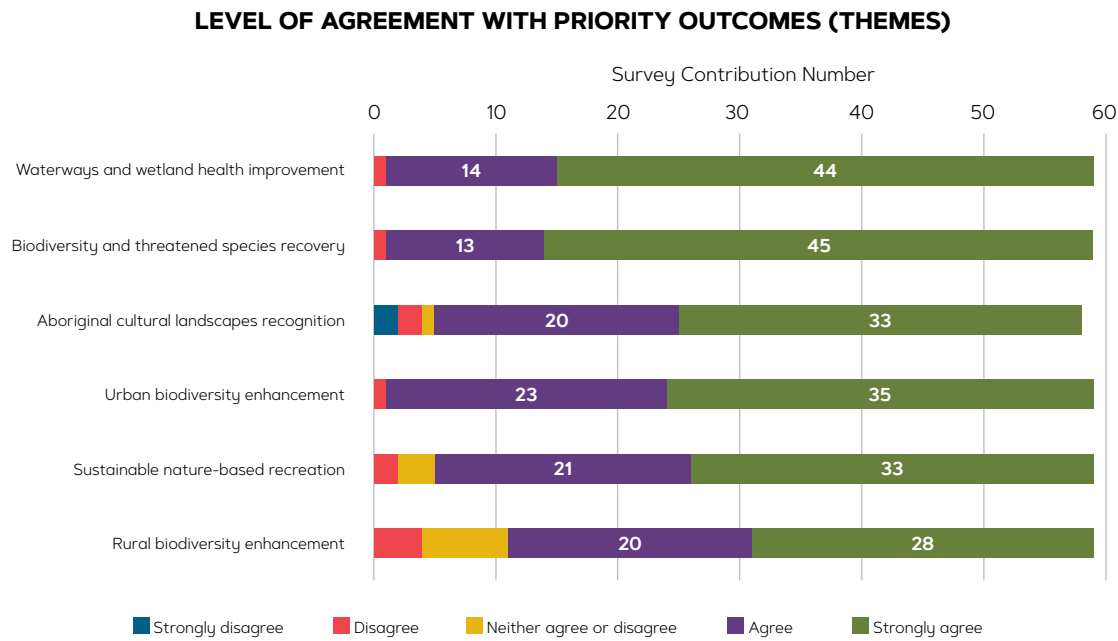


**What is the level of agreement for each of the strategy priority outcomes (themes)? and have we missed any?**

The community were surveyed for the level of agreement with the strategic priority outcomes (themes) and whether any were missed.

60 contributions provided a level of sentiment for the outcomes. There was strong community support for all outcomes.

Contributions relating to missed outcomes were either not in-scope or considered actions/approaches e.g., 'Educating ratepayers about how they can encourage the themes of Native Plants and Animals and Urban Greening in their own properties is also important to me'.



**Examples of Sentiment**

*"Promotion of backyard wildlife corridors."*

*"Increase conversation estates and limit development in bushland."*

*"Protect/divide animal habitat from traffic/road where possible to save wildlife."*

*"I want to see more tree planting be it in rural area like farms, parks, recreation areas and beside footpaths."*

*"Perhaps to add to urban greening - the railway corridors are weed spreading, ugly areas. Careful planning could improve the look and help with noise and dust pollution."*

*"Connectivity - For humans and animals. We, like all animals, don't live in isolation. Without easy connections throughout the region people and animals are unable to move freely. Habitat corridors, wider riparian zones and more bike ways!"*

*"Regeneration of land to counteract all the land clearing for housing developments."*

*"Do need to consider the impact of dogs - need some dedicated dog off leash areas to minimise impact on wildlife etc."*

*"Households - especially those that adjoin bush reserves, creeks and sensitive areas."*

*"Stop allowing massive tracts of bushland to be cleared for single dwelling housing."*

*"Integrating and giving effect to these values in Planning and development rather than just performing the regulations that allow developments to buy a licence to pollute e.g., developer offsets that transfer the cost of their profit maximisation to the comm."*

*"1.clean air- freedom from industrial and automobile pollution 2. clean environment - more rubbish bins in city streets and parks."*

*"Fresh air - reducing the impact of the urban environment on air quality - exhaust fumes, rubbish dumps, burning etc."*

*"Community Education and Participation."*

*"Community food and flower gardens."*

*"Self-sustainability (particularly growing your own food)."*

Which objectives for waterways and wetlands health improvement are most important?

Participants were provided an opportunity to contribute to identifying the most important waterways and wetlands health improvement objectives.

Two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

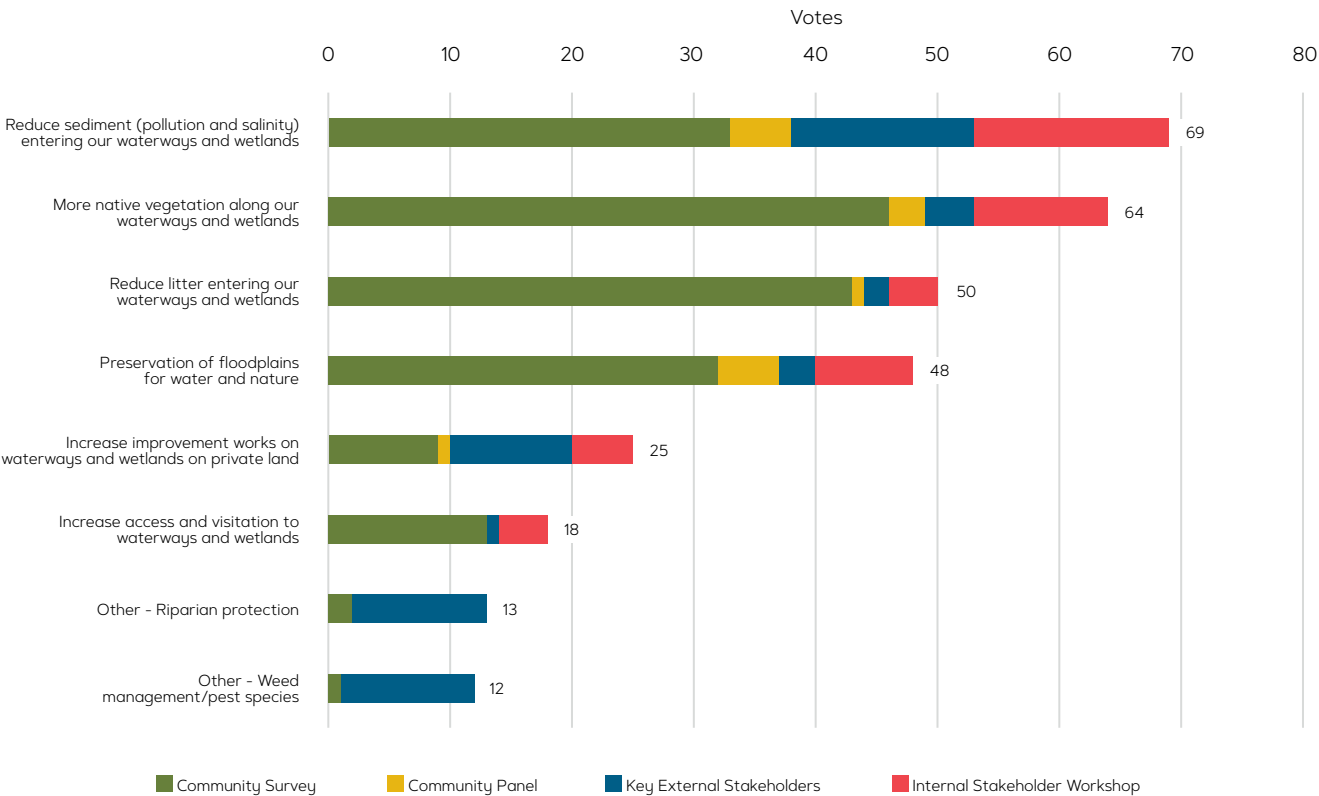
- reduce sediment (pollution and salinity) entering our waterways and wetlands (69 votes)
- more native vegetation along our waterways and wetlands (64 votes)

Sediment reduction was the top objective identified by internal stakeholders, community reference panel and key external stakeholders.

More native vegetation and reducing litter entering the waterways received the most votes through the community survey.

Additional objectives suggest were riparian protection and weed management/pest species.

WATERWAYS & WETLANDS HEALTH IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES



## What key approaches could be taken to achieve waterways and wetland health improvement objectives?

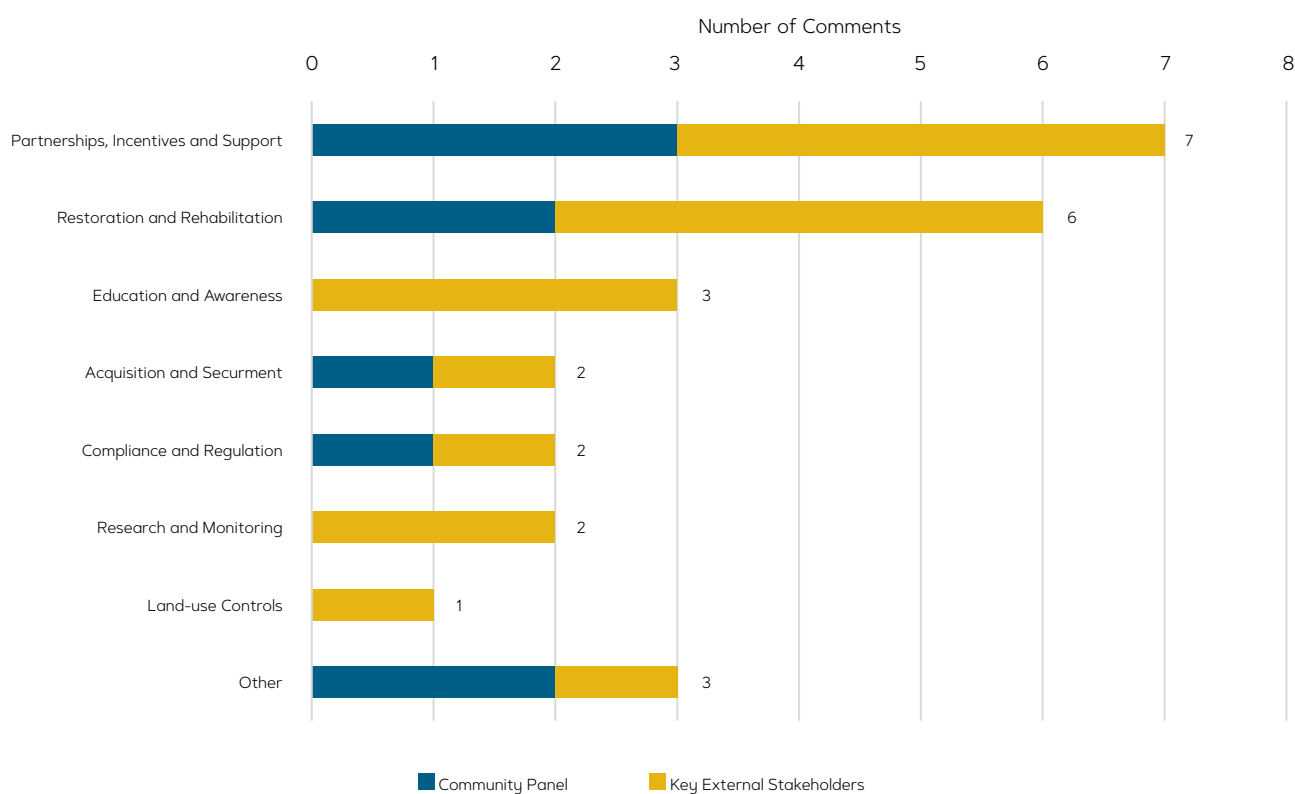
Approaches to achieve waterways and wetland objectives were identified as part of the Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshops.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 7 comments mentioned community partnerships, incentives or support activities
- 6 comments stated a need to undertake restoration or rehabilitation works
- 3 comments referred to the importance of educating and raising awareness.

### "WATERWAYS & WETLANDS HEALTH IMPROVEMENT - APPROACHES"





## Examples of Sentiment

"Greater education for landowners on waterways. How to reduce runoff, what pollutants are and impacts."

"Increase spending into rehabilitation of waterways= less erosion & less sediment."

"More bushcare groups – greater financial support and greater collaboration."

"More financial support for landowners."

"Reduce rates if owners restore degraded land."

"Pest plant and weed control (e.g., eradicate all *Leucaena* growing near One Mile Bridge and infesting all downstream Bremer River)."

"Access to areas, invite people to help plant."

"More water quality and communication of results."

"Close to lower bank (mud area) along the river need revegetation."

"More native fish and less feral fish."

"Erosion control on public and private land."

"Improve erosion and sediment controls in construction projects"

"Study of rubbish in river – what is it and where does it come from."

"More work in upper catchments."

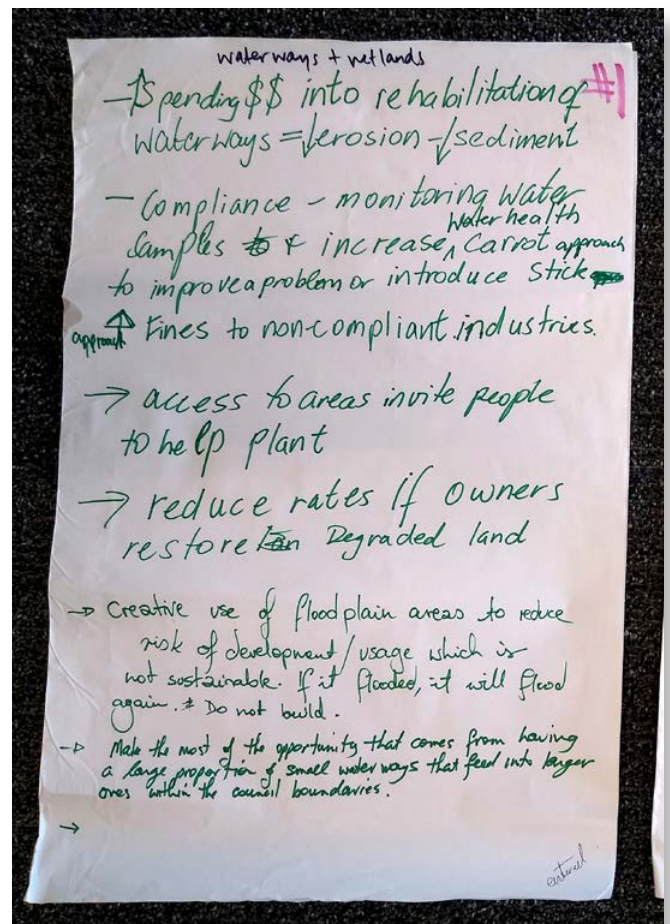
"Increase riparian width meters in policy."

"Creative use of floodplain areas to reduce risk of development/usage which is not sustainable. If it flooded, it will flood again. Do not build."

"Increase fines to non-compliant industries."

"Reduce dirty and other liquid contaminants (other than sediment) entering the waterways and wetlands."

"Protect wetlands from human involvement."



Which objectives for biodiversity and threatened species recovery are most important?

Participants voted on which are the most significant biodiversity and threatened species recovery objectives.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- Increase protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems (77 votes)
- More natural environment corridors connecting larger habitat areas (59 votes)

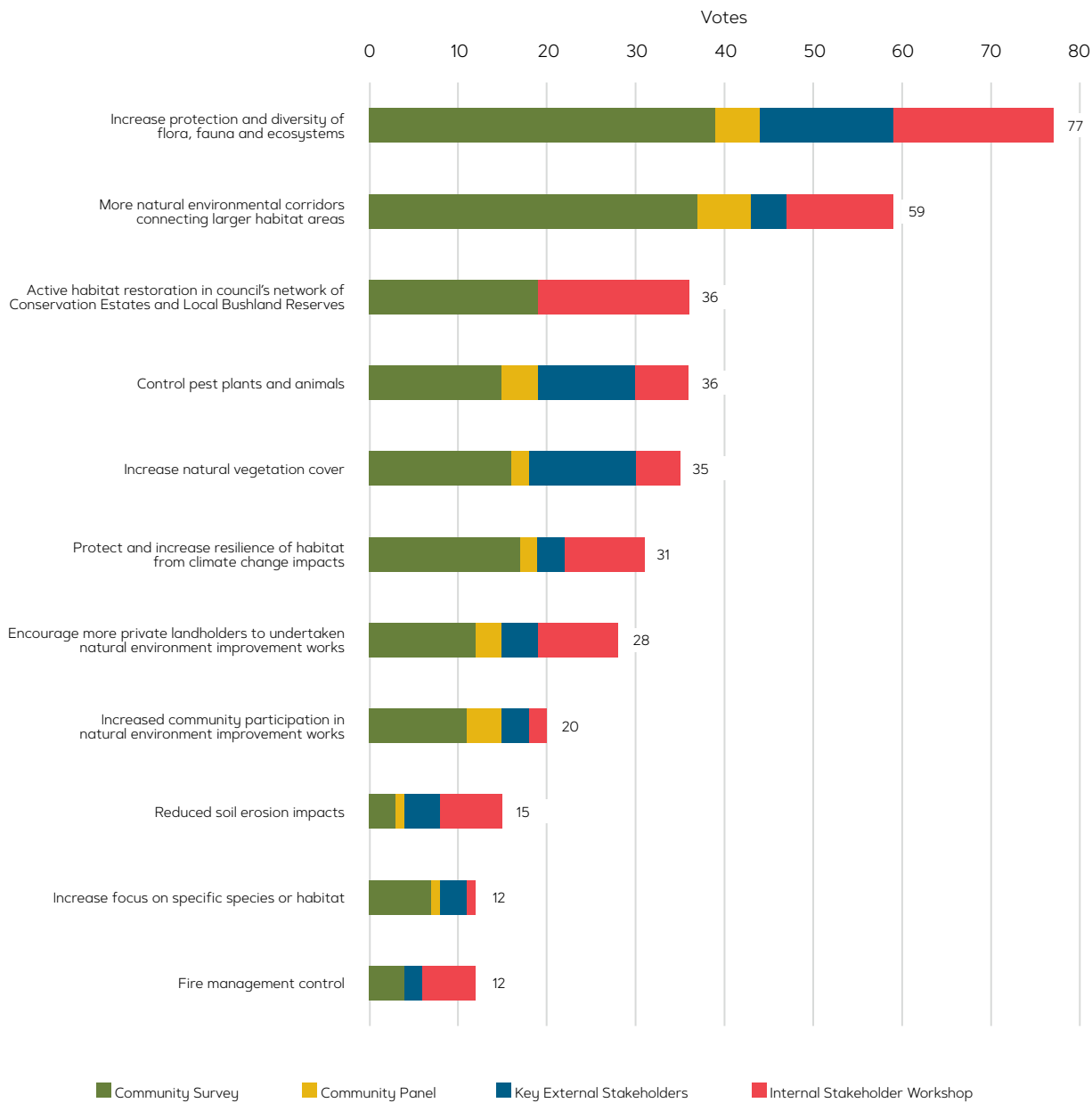
These objectives received the most community survey and the Community Panel votes.

The top two objectives for key external stakeholders were:

- Increase protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems (15 votes)
- Increasing vegetation cover (12 votes)

Increasing protection and diversity of flora, fauna and ecosystems (18 votes) was in the top two for Internal stakeholders, along with Active habitat restoration in council’s network of Conservation Estates and Local Bushland Reserves (17 votes).

BIODIVERSITY & THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY OBJECTIVES



# What key approaches could be taken to achieve biodiversity and threatened species recovery objectives?

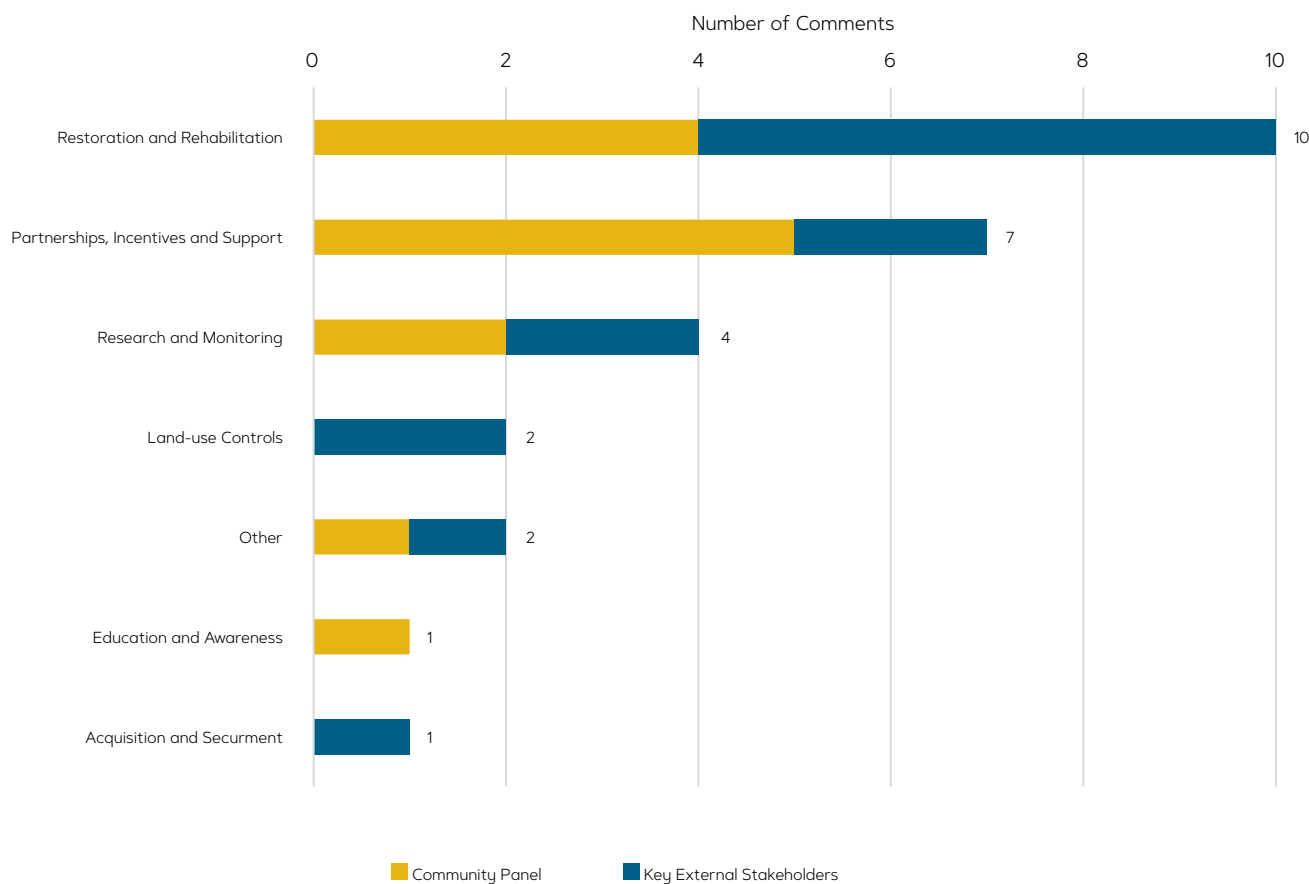
Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshop participants provided comments on what approaches would provide the best success in achieving biodiversity and threatened species recovery.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 10 comments mentioned undertaking restoration and rehabilitation works
- 7 comments stated partnerships, incentives and support for the community
- 4 comments referred to research and monitoring.

BIODIVERSITY & THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY - APPROACH





## Examples of Sentiment

"Connectivity to corridors – how will animals move safely e.g., road underpass, bridges, rope bridges – Compton Road Karawatha Park."

"Corridors – connect east & west side of LGA habitats via the creek/river network."

"Baseline data – citizen science projects i.e., platypus watch, great koala count, echidna watch."

"Network and share priorities with adjoining shires. Many outcomes depend more on what our neighbours do than what we do."

"Get community involved in programs and hands on action to increase interest, understanding and awareness."

"Look at existing reserves and create connectivity to encourage movement versus land locking keynote species and map out keynote species – plants and animals."

"Offset all the land clearing for housing developments by buying land for wildlife and flora!!"

"Reveg. of cleared areas (with endemic vegetation), especially in flow paths (starting at the top of the catchment) is the key priority. This will have flow on impact for water quality and fauna diversity."

"Encourage and educate the community to become more aware of human presence impact on natural environment including impact of leaving/dropping/ dumping of rubbish and taking care not to disturb or injure wildlife."

"More Indigenous plant propagation and distribution through council nursery. More plants for waterway properties."

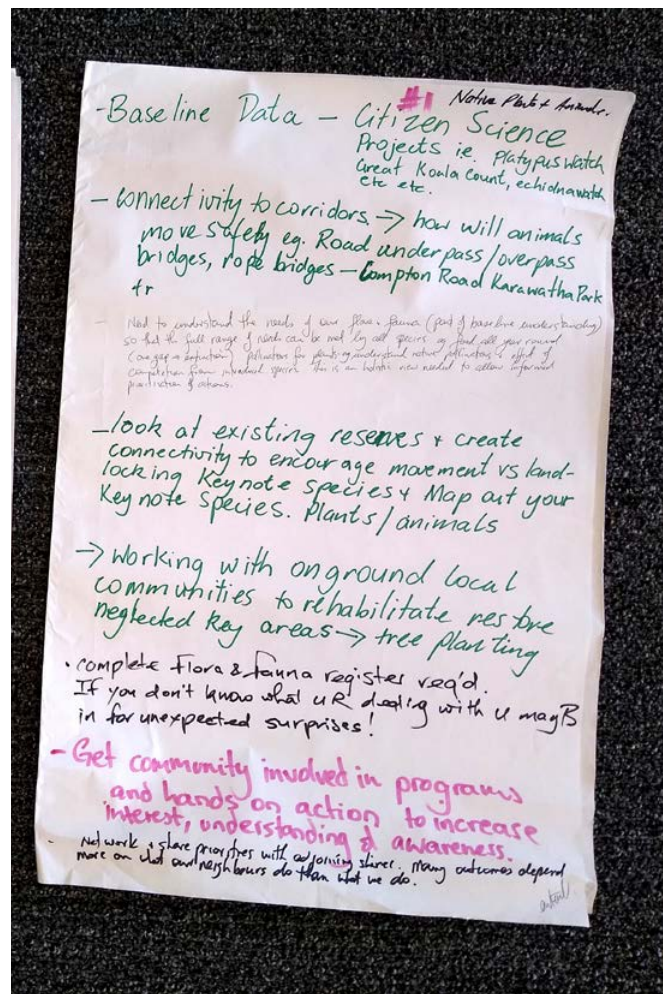
"Council to only use natives. Council nursery only use natives."

"Protection of native dry rainforest as a specific environment."

"Council to take ownership and control of open space corridors between major urban developments for conservation."

"Develop Rosewood Scrub Strategy – council needs to acquire and protect remnants of Rosewood Scrub e.g., Perry's Knob."

"Increase participation of community/private landholders to connect remaining patches of Rosewood Scrub."



Which objectives for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values are most important?

Participants had an opportunity to vote for the most significant Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values recognition objectives.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- improve recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape values (72 votes)
- increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge in management of the natural environment (72 votes).

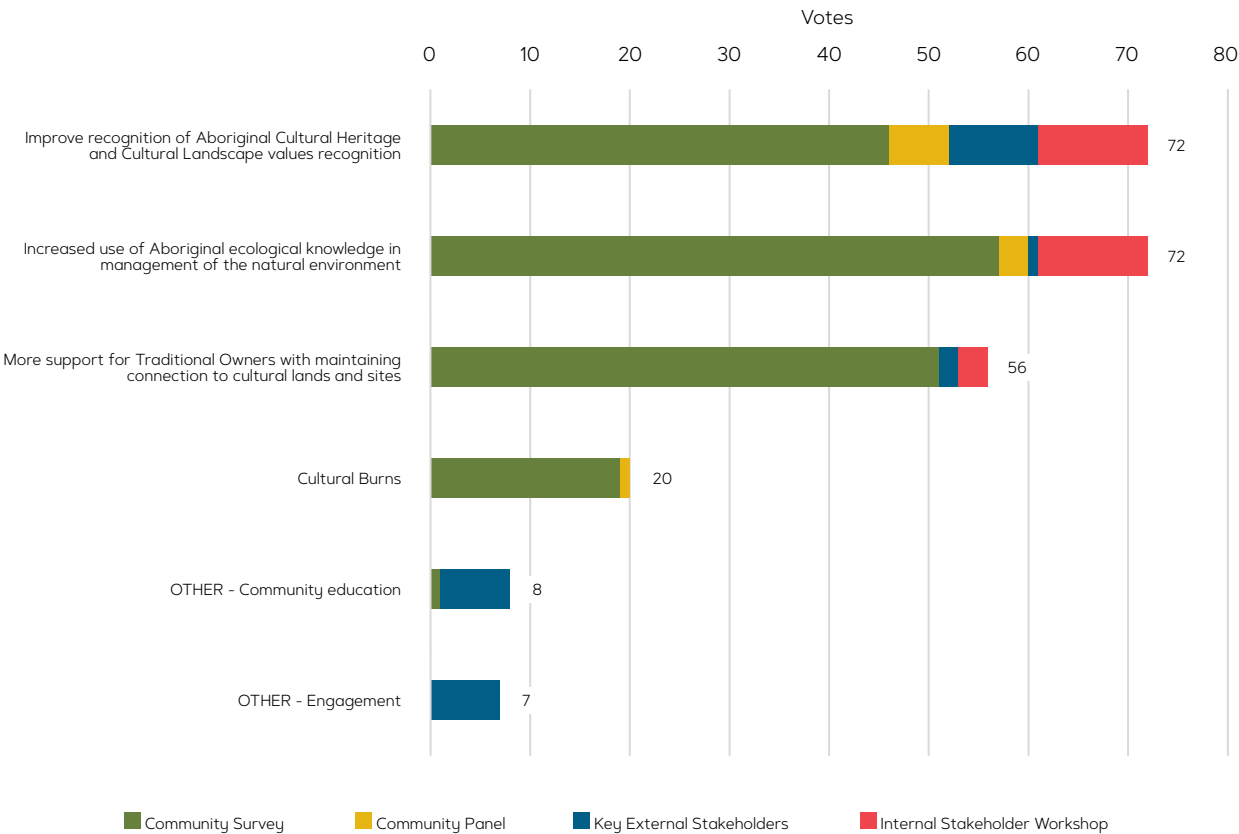
The Community Panel and internal stakeholders both voted these as the top two objectives.

For key external stakeholders, community education (7 votes) and engagement (7 votes) are top objectives along with improving recognition (9 votes).

More support for Traditional Owners with maintaining connection to cultural lands and sites (51 votes) along with increased use of Aboriginal ecological knowledge (57 votes) received the most votes in the community survey.

As no aboriginal representatives attended both workshops, a decision was made to limit voting and commenting to objectives.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE VALUES RECOGNITION OBJECTIVES



## Examples of Sentiment

"Conversation with Yuggera, Ugarapul & Wirrinyah peoples before strategy development continues."

"Education of the wider community e.g., what are the significant areas and why."

"Seeking input on where the traditional owners would like to improve the natural environment."

"Protection from development - no point being awarded native title over land that's been utterly destroyed by immoral developers."

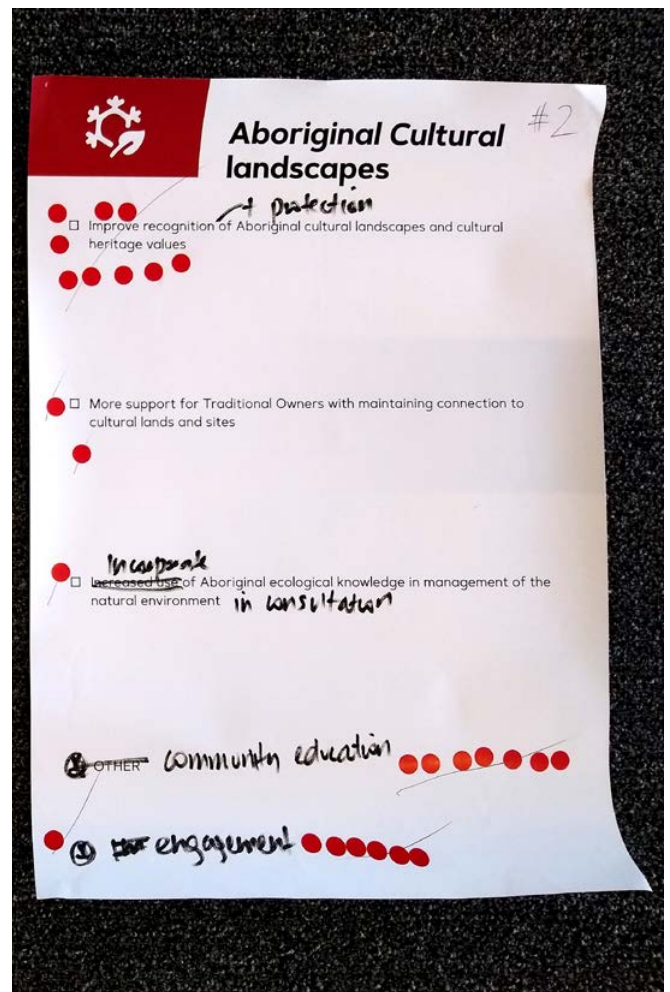
"Increased community awareness and education, particularly in all schools, using a range of action plans."

"Respect cultural sites and traditions regardless of development plans."

"Recognition and preservation of cultural significance of Deebling Creek for First Nation people."

"Return Deebling Creek significant land to traditional owners."

"Specifically - support Deebling Creek Protection Camp by stopping development there."





## Which objectives for urban biodiversity enhancement are most important?

Participants voted on the most significant urban biodiversity enhancement objectives.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- including natural landscapes when designing and developing urban areas (70 votes)
- more corridors of natural landscapes and vegetation in urban areas (64 votes).

These objectives received the most votes by community survey participants.

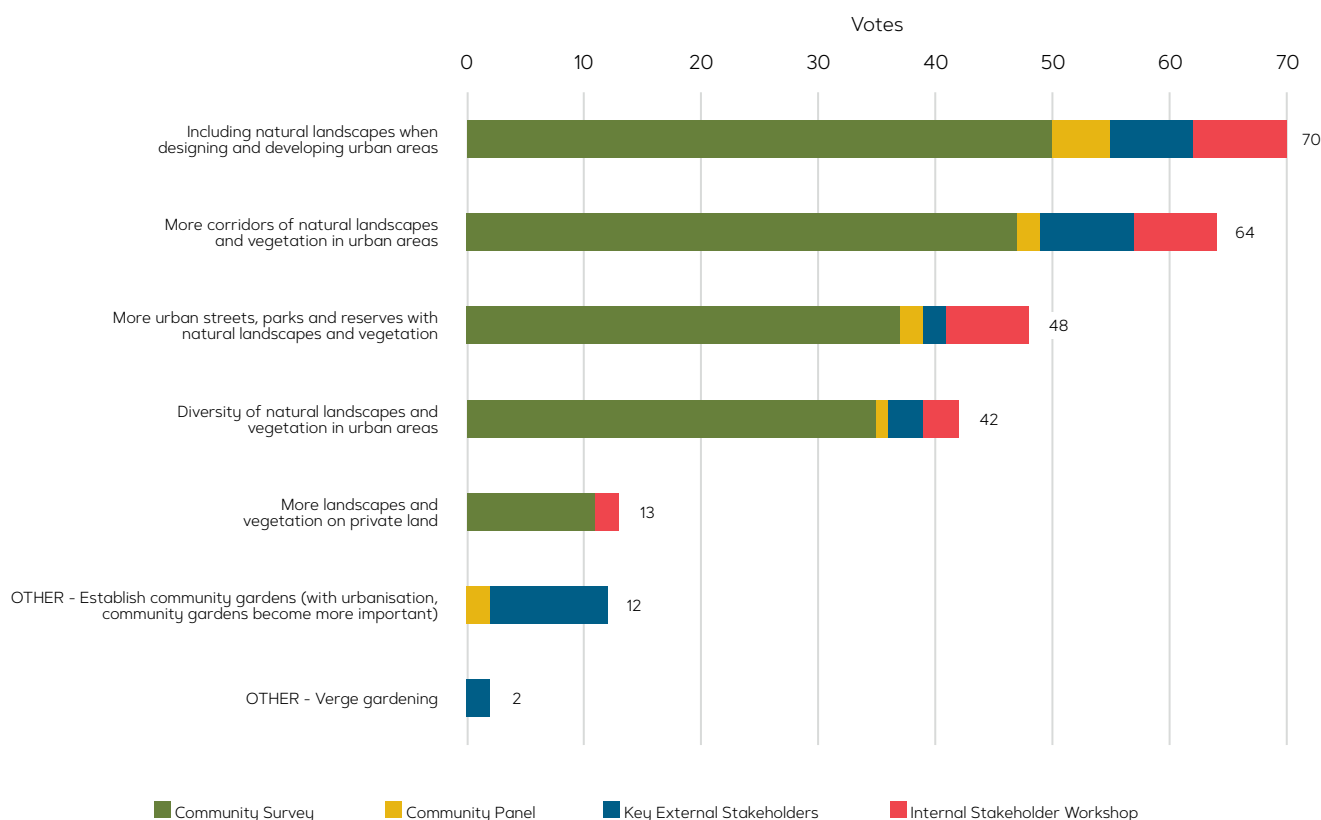
Internal stakeholders also voted these objectives as the top two, along with more urban streets, parks and reserves with natural landscapes and vegetation (7 votes) which received the same votes.

These objectives were voted in the top two by the Community Panel as well as:

- more urban streets, parks and reserves with natural landscapes and vegetation (2 votes)
- an additional suggestion to Establish community gardens (2 votes).

Establishing community gardens (10 votes) and more corridors (8 votes) were the top two voted by key external stakeholders.

### URBAN BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OBJECTIVES



## What key approaches could be taken to achieve urban biodiversity enhancement objectives?

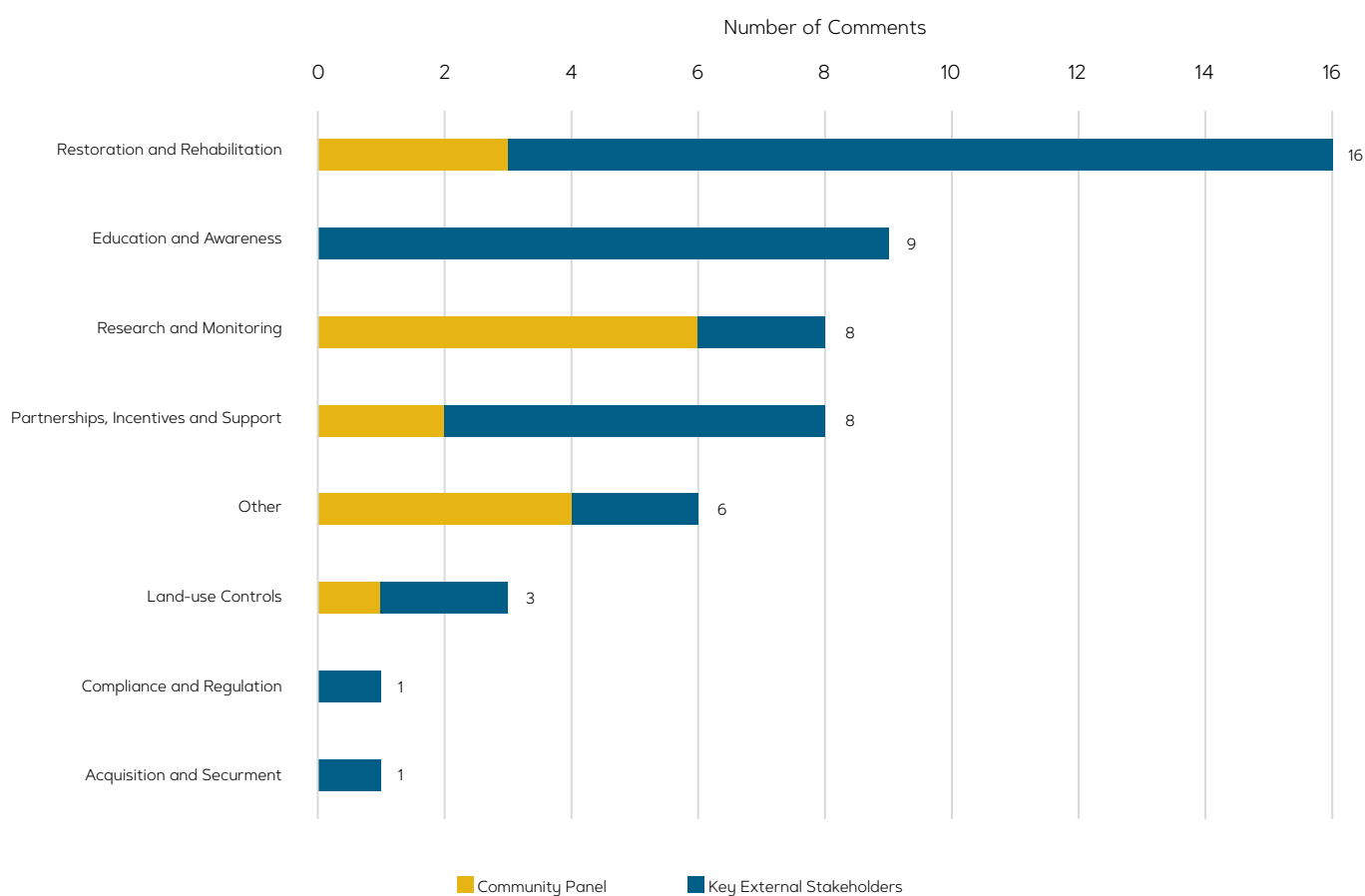
Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshop participants provided comments on what approaches would provide the best success in achieving urban biodiversity enhancement objectives.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 16 comments referred to restoration and rehabilitation activities
- 9 comments mentioned education and awareness.

### URBAN BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT APPROACHES



## Examples of Sentiment

"Comprehensive parks plan. Improve walkability, improve connectivity, wider walkways."

"Greater protection of corridors in urban areas."

"RE (regional ecosystem) maps don't always provide the best indication of vegetation."

"Street trees and roundabouts should NOT be part of the natural environment. Urban greening should be along connecting corridors, bike ways, natural water, interconnecting parks."

"Maintaining natural landscapes in new development areas, not just planting new ones. More trees in Limestone Park. And more treelined streets across all of Ipswich, especially older areas."

"Design landscapes with least possible interaction between humans and wildlife as possible, so that cars, dogs or people could not hurt or injure wildlife."

"Ensure vegetation is suitable for wildlife habitat and food."

"Focus on tree lined streets to help combat increased temperatures."

"Animals are displaced when new estates are developed as the native bushland is totally destroyed in the development and then replanted as the houses are built. Is there a way of preserving some of the natural bushland?"

"Review the free plants program. Make it more accessible. What about renters? Why limit plant numbers? (attend large community events. Can be hard to get to nursery)."

"Legislate to empower local government override State Governments obsession for extreme rapid dense urban sprawl."

"Connect with active transport and development strategies for the city."

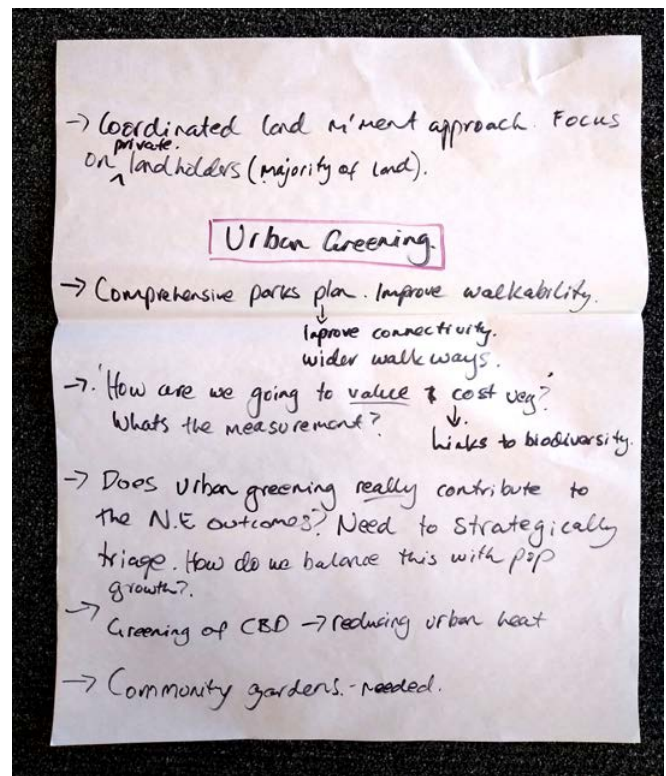
"Community gardens – food, community education, self-reliance, native bee-hive programs, sustainable and affordable."

"Partner with nursery's (OR Bunnings) to promote native bee friendly gardens."

"Does urban greening really contribute to the natural environment outcomes. Need to strategically triage. How do we balance this with population growth."

"Support and increase Habitat Gardens program. Educate and encourage planting of safe trees."

"Chuwar - extend koala corridor through remnant bush."



Which objectives for sustainable nature-based recreation are most important?

Internal stakeholders, Community Panel members, key external stakeholders and community members voted on which sustainable nature-based recreation objectives are priorities.

The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- community connection to nature (78 votes)
- increase community access to natural areas (45 votes).

All abilities access (39 votes) and community connection to nature (50 votes) received the most votes in the community survey.

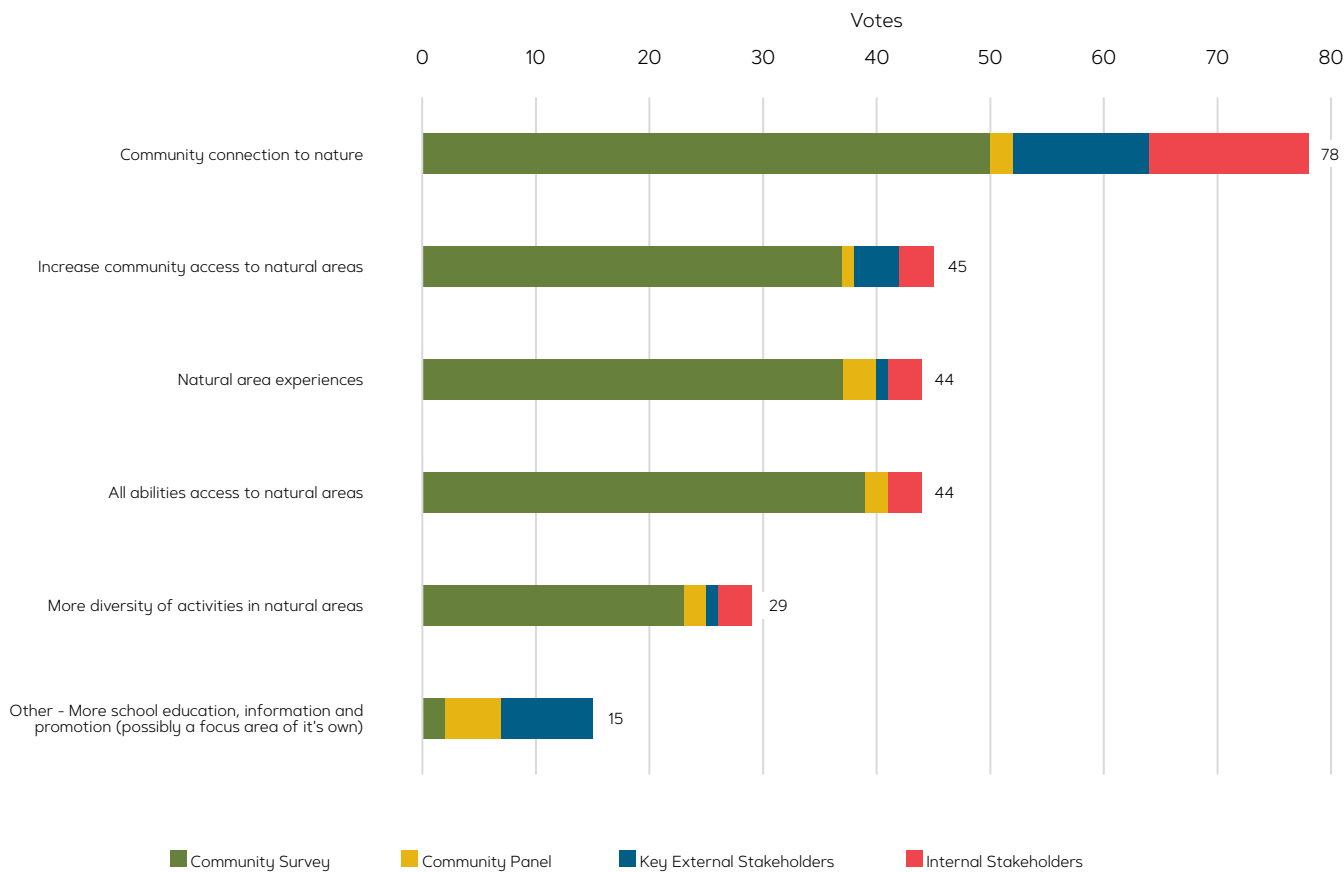
More school education, information and promotion (8 votes) and connecting to nature (12 votes) were top two objectives voted by key external stakeholders.

The top two objectives for the Community Panel were:

- more school education, information and Promotion (5 votes)
- natural area experiences (3 votes).

For internal stakeholders, community connection to nature (14 votes) received by far the most votes. Increase community access to natural areas; natural area experiences; all abilities access to natural areas; and more diversity of activities in natural areas all received 3 votes.

SUSTAINABLE NATURE-BASED RECREATION OBJECTIVES

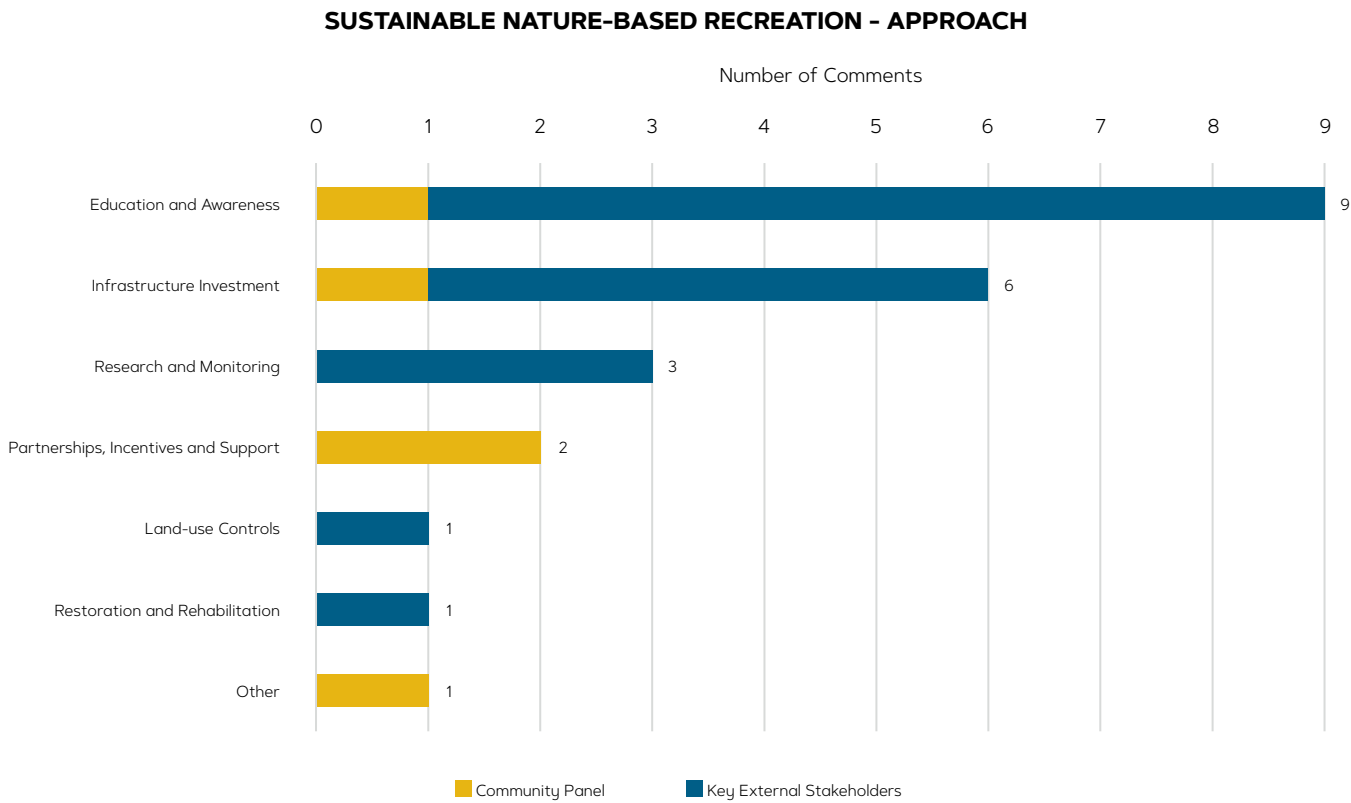


# What key approaches could be taken to achieve sustainable nature-based recreation objectives?

Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshop participants provided comments on what approaches would provide the best success for achieving sustainable nature-based recreation objectives.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

- Key approaches include:
- 9 comments referred to education and awareness
  - 6 comments mentioned the need for infrastructure investment.





## Examples of Sentiment

*"Educational walks through the areas with signs explaining the flora, flora, climate, geography and other aspects of the area."*

*"Activities that improve the environment are encouraged over experiencing the environment- council could provide more active care of the environment."*

*"Management of rubbish, weeds and infrastructure (track maintenance) in natural areas if open for public use."*

*"Development of outdoor recreational parks (not sporting fields) with greater natural environmental forest plantings. There is a perfect part rehabilitated mine at Rosewood for an Olympic standard mountain bike facility, nestled into remnant vegetation."*

*"Leave natural areas natural, don't interfere too much."*

*"Increase community awareness through activities of how to care for and improve the environment."*

*"Keep wildlife protected from human interaction/ activities where possible."*

*"Stop development close to waterways, better walking trails with water and shelter and bins."*

*"Enabling community access/connection to nature should be balanced with impacts on those natural areas."*

*"Increased natural vegetation areas and themes within parkland and public open spaces and recreation precincts."*

*"More activities/programs (children & adult) which bring community into natural spaces and increase connection/understanding."*

*"Increase community awareness of locations and potential uses."*

*"Improve river activation, particularly for kayaks / canoes. Provide jetties/pontoons at interesting locations along the river."*

*"Wider accessways desirable."*

*"Local interest groups."*

*"Infrastructure to support activities."*

*"More education/information/promotion signage."*

*"Recognise mental and physical benefits."*

*"Where is the education component? Should be a leading theme – not integrated."*

## Which objectives for rural biodiversity enhancement are most important?

Participants voted on which rural biodiversity enhancement objectives they saw as priorities.

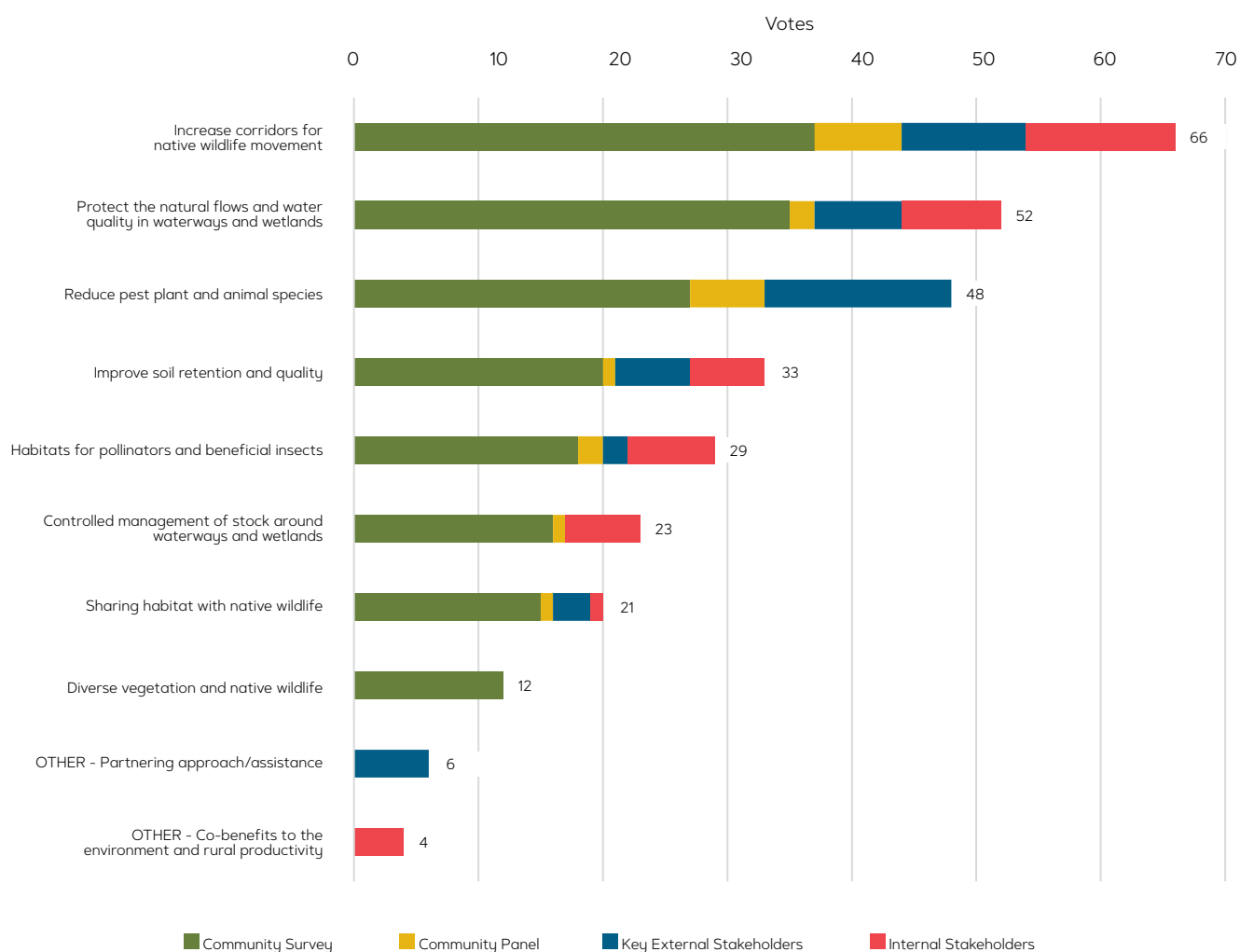
The top two objectives that received the most combined votes were:

- increase corridors for native wildlife movement (66 votes)
- protect the natural flows and water quality in waterways and wetlands (52 votes).

These objectives were the top two voted in the community survey and by internal stakeholders.

Increasing corridors and reducing pest plant and animal species were the top objectives voted by the Community Panel and key external stakeholders.

### RURAL BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT OBJECTIVES



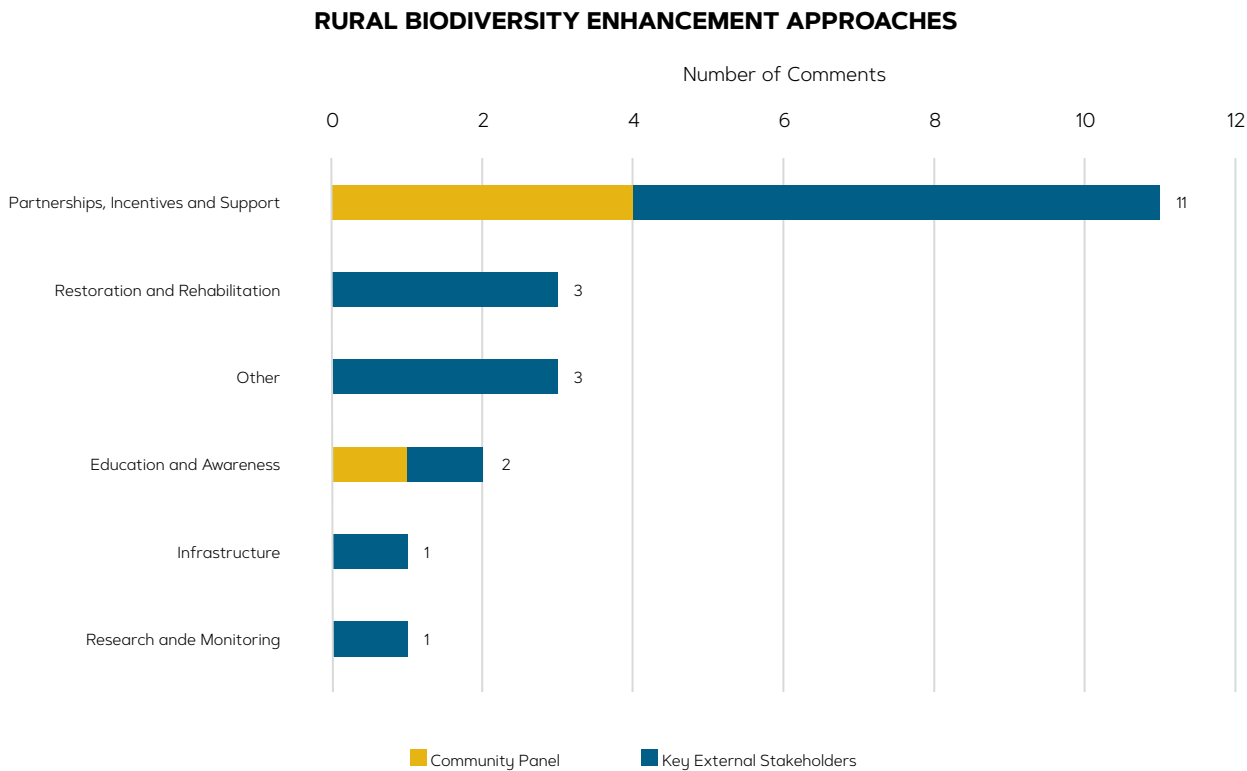
**What key approaches could be taken to achieve rural biodiversity enhancement objectives?**

Community Panel and key external stakeholder workshop participants provided comments on what approaches provide the best success in achieving rural biodiversity enhancement objectives.

Comments were categorised into high frequency themes. Where a comment contained multiple elements, it is consequently categorised against multiple themes.

Key approaches include:

- 11 comments referred to partnerships, incentives and support
- 3 comments mentioned restoration and rehabilitation.



## Examples of Sentiment

"Weed rebate – incentive for property owners. Didn't need a property agreement."

"Opp. To broaden levy – set new conditions – e.g., lot size, environmental value."

"Habitat corridors throughout the region."

"Erosion control and stabilisation / Improve soil retention and quality."

"Encourage farmland owners to leave patches of vegetation for native species to shelter and thrive in. These areas then could also provide shade and shelter for livestock."

"As the significant percentage of rural land is privately owned, it will be absolutely essential, through consultation and awareness, to encourage all rural landowners to embrace the Theme."

"Implement support for youth to invest in farming."

"Recognise the value of retaining agricultural land and not allowing it to be carved up for large scale housing developments."

"Co-operation with rural landholders – education, incentives (e.g., free trees/\$\$)."

"Support catchment approach to cooperation between landholders and other stakeholders."

"Supporting landholders."

"Pest animal and plant management."

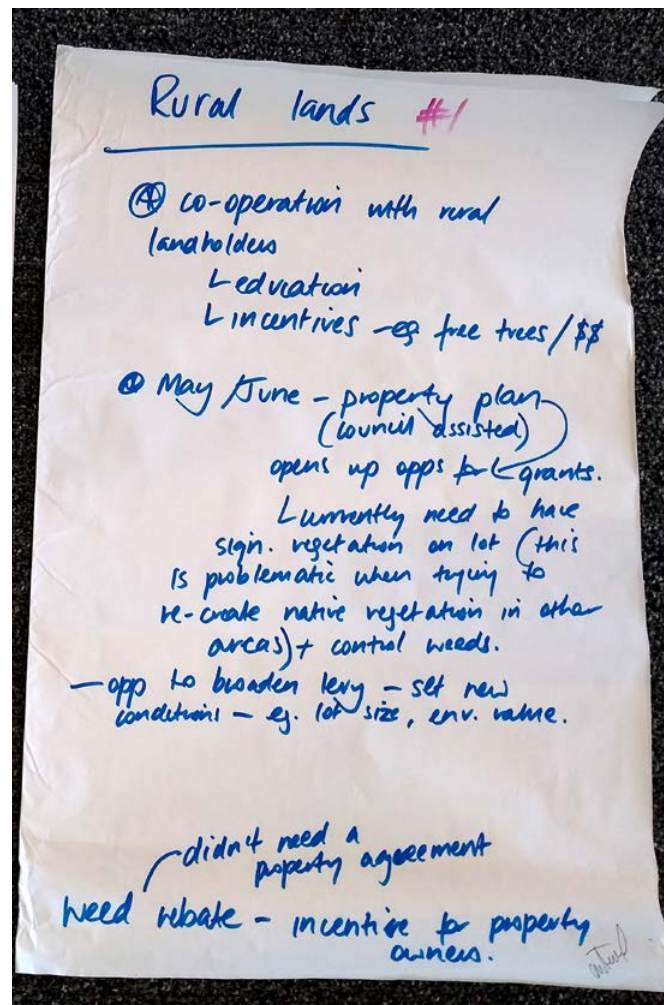
"Partnering with landholders/farmers – weed poisoning discounts accepted."

"Managing waterways and erosion."

"Improving water quality – Franklin vale initiative."

"Education."

"Community networking."



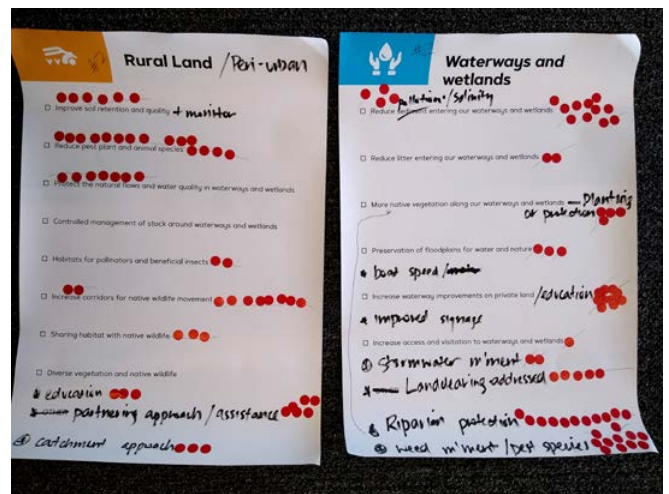
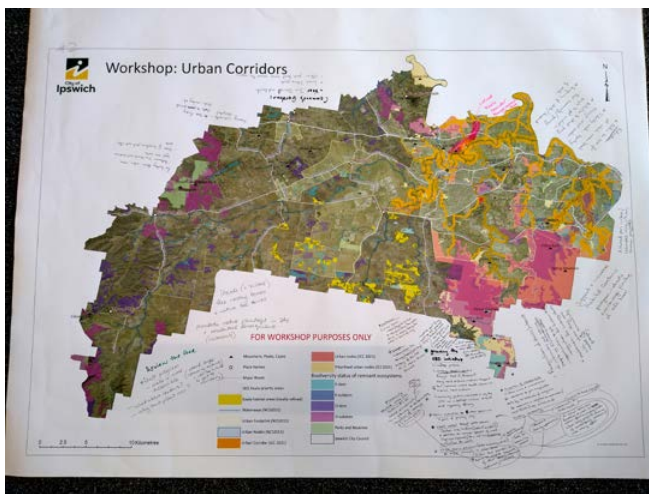
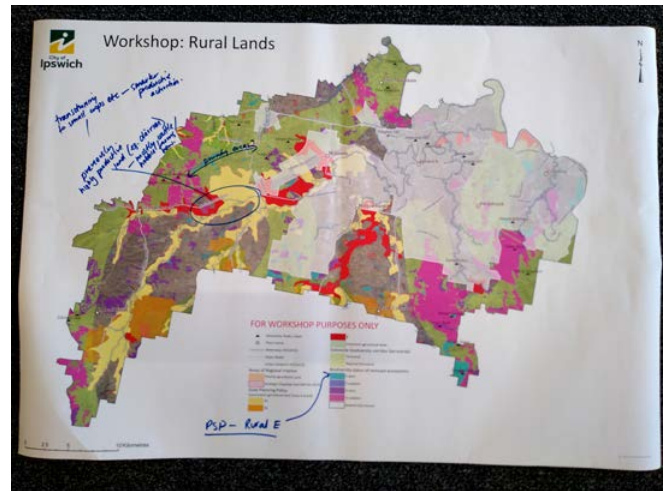


## Examples of General Comments

Related comments through Facebook and Shape Your Ipswich Panel regarding objectives include:

- "SE Qld has some of the most spectacular trees on the planet. Iconic examples of these in Ipswich could be recognised (e.g., plaques, education) which may reduce the risk of their destruction." (Panel member)
- "More street trees for shade!" (Panel member)
- "There needs to be attempts to control effect that mynah birds are having on the population of small birds e.g., finches in the environment." (Facebook post)
- "Love the bird life out here in my new community." (Facebook post)
- "Maybe do something about the out-of-control weeds too? Lantana is everywhere." (Facebook post)
- "Build upwards with smart urban green planning." (Facebook post)
- "Stop destroying the habitat of native species and building housing estates in their place...." (Facebook post)
- "Protect koala habitats." (Facebook post)

## Sample of Feedback from Workshops



#1

Waterways & wetlands.

→ Jurisdiction.

→ other pollutants.

Native plants & animals.

→ Bats

→ Baseline data - where are the species?

→ How are you going to do that? Size of populations.

→ Biodiversity 1. Maintaining what we've got.

2. Recovery.

→ How do we restore habitat? Post bushfires.

#1

Urban greening

□ Diversity of natural landscapes and vegetation in urban areas

□ More corridors of natural landscapes and vegetation in urban areas

□ Including natural landscapes when designing and developing urban areas

□ More urban streets, parks and reserves with natural landscapes and vegetation

□ Community Garden in CBD - *Establishment of birds all around here. Talk to the council. Many ideas.*

□ More landscapes and vegetation on private land

□ CBD Greening. Education Days in Tivoli.

□ Invite Environmental Champions to speak.

□ Celebrate Environment with children's facilities.

□ OTHER

□ Connected parks

□ Prioritisation of green infrastructure & value

□ Community Gardens

*with urbanised early garden*

#1

Outdoor/nature based recreation

□ Community connection to nature

□ Increase community access to natural areas

□ More diversity of activities in natural areas

□ Nature-based experiences.

□ All abilities access to natural areas

□ OTHER

□ Education - as focus area/prioritised

*water resources - natural*

*local water groups*

*find out how we can help*



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