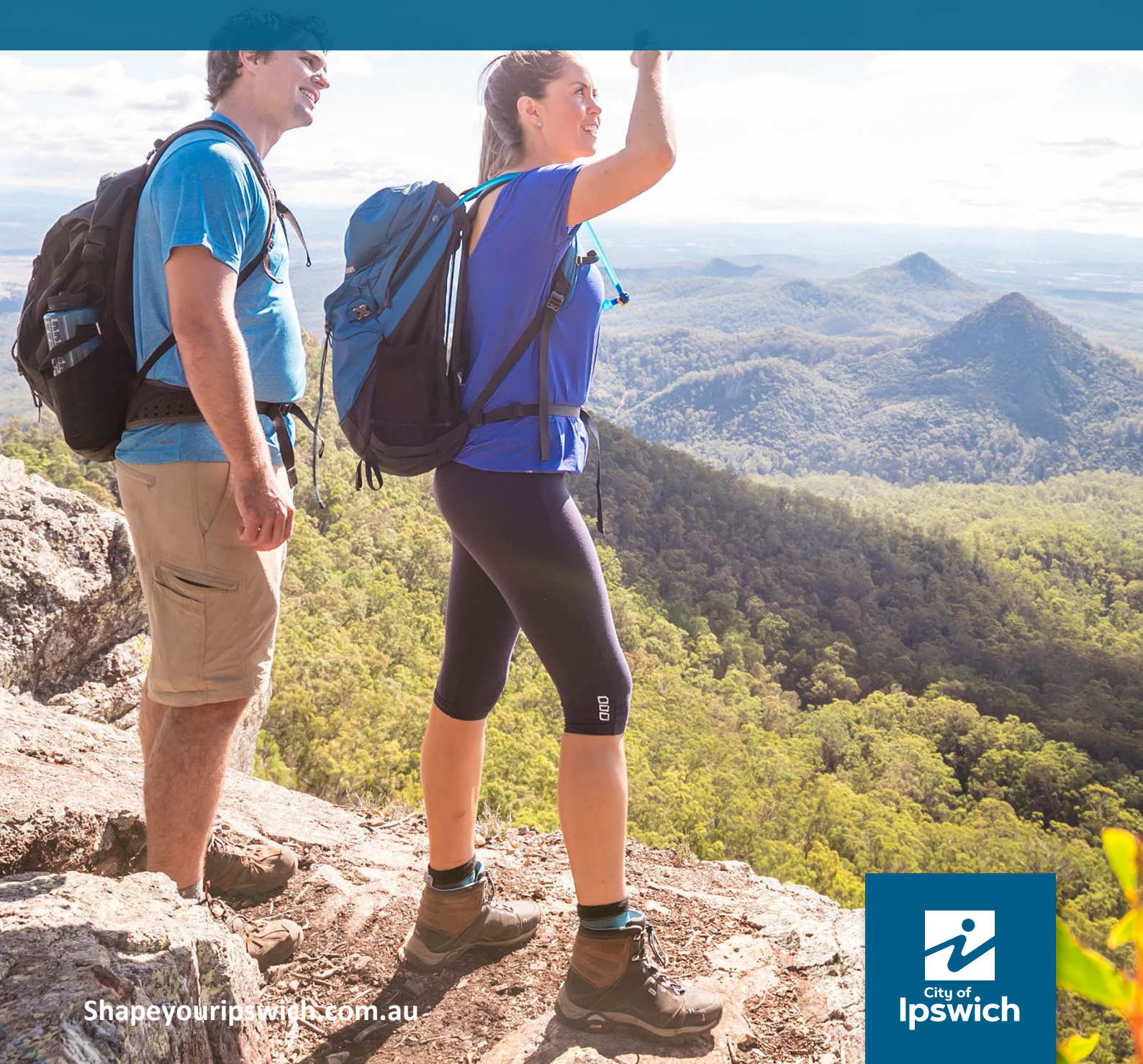


City of Ipswich

Flinders – Goolman Masterplan

Draft for discussion



Shapeyouripswich.com.au

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY3

VISIONS, AIMS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES6

LOCAL CONTEXT.....7

DRAFT FLINDERS-GOOLMAN MASTERPLAN9

IMPLEMENTATION – STAGE 1..... 11



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group, as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This masterplan outlines a proposed vision for natural and cultural values protection and best practice visitor management.

The purpose of the Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate (FGCE) Masterplan is to facilitate a planned approach in protecting conservation and cultural values while providing a safe and accessible location for nature-based recreation as the surrounding areas develop and visitors are attracted to the estate.

The management of the ecological health of the estate is also important on a broader scale. FGCE is part of the Flinders - Karawatha Corridor. The corridor extends from Flinders Peak through to Karawatha Forest in Brisbane. It is the largest remaining stretch of open eucalyptus forest in South-East Queensland. Maintaining and enhancing the estate contributes directly to the health of the corridor.

Land use and values have been mapped to illustrate the current and assumed impacts on the estate.

Topics investigated include:

- land management
- natural environment and wilderness values
- geological, scenic and historical features
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural landscape values
- utility infrastructure
- service track network
- recreation and trail network.

This work has informed stakeholder engagement and the development of 'themed trails' with additional nature-based recreation areas in stage 1 of the implementation plan. Informal tracks will be identified and assessed for formalisation on a case-by-case basis following surveys such as cultural heritage, threatened species, erosion and intent of use.

Install visitor infrastructure

The installation of site-responsive infrastructure will be to show case and protect the elements of the natural and cultural values of the estate. This includes:

- upgrade to Hardings Paddock and Flinders Plum amenity areas
- planning and design of a day use area at Wards Road entrance on the north-eastern boundary of the estate
- upgrade to existing and installation of new interpretive signage
- installation of way-finding signage
- installation of viewing/resting points
- upgrade to existing tracks where required
- planning, design and installation of new tracks
- use of local endemic species in landscaped areas to show case native plants that can be used in an urban setting.

Monitor and measure use and impact

- undertake condition audit of existing tracks and trails to decide on suitability for development of themed trails
- undertake cultural heritage surveys and threatened species surveys around agreed points of interest
- undertake unexploded ordnance investigations around agreed points of interest and new or formalised trails
- establish flora and fauna survey and monitoring programs to measure existing conditions and compare any changes to the ecological health of the estate.

Engage the community

- develop stakeholder and community engagement strategies to educate visitors and local community, in protecting the natural and cultural values, while enjoying the nature-based recreation and education opportunities available.
- ground truth proposed themed trails for points of interest that will enhance the visitor experience and promote 'take away' knowledge of stewardship of conservation estates.

This will be implemented in a staged approach as outlined in the implementation plan.



Sub-regional context map: This map shows the corridor that extends from Flinders Peak in Ipswich through to Karawatha Forest in Brisbane. This is the largest remaining stretch of open eucalyptus forest in South-East Queensland. The Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate is in the north-western boundary of the corridor.

VISIONS, AIMS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ipswich City Council's Natural Environment Strategy provides management objectives for key natural and cultural values. These management objectives are incorporated into the vision, aims and guiding principles for the masterplan.

Vision

Flinders – Goolman Conservation Estate is a rich, biologically diverse and attractive natural environment sustaining a broad range of ecological systems, cultural values and diverse nature-based recreation for the local and broader community.

Aim

The aim of the masterplan is to provide a well-considered, consolidated 20-year vision for the conservation and protection, enhancement and enjoyment of the estate by the Ipswich and broader community.

Guiding principles

- protect, manage and enhance the diversity and health of native flora and fauna species, vegetation communities and waterways within the estate
- identify, protect, promote and embellish culturally significant sites. Reflect and include Traditional Owner knowledge and interests in the estate planning and management
- allow for public appreciation of the estate by providing appropriate outdoor and sustainable nature-based recreational opportunities
- conserve the geological, scenic and landscape features of the estate including minimising and mitigating erosion
- provide opportunities for community engagement and education that are compatible and complementary to the important conservation values contained within the estate
- landscape connectivity – maximise the connections between the estate and surrounding areas.

Opportunities

- to provide themed trails that showcase the natural, cultural and historical values of the estate
- to provide sustainable infrastructure that guides visitors and offers protection for culturally significant areas and habitat for native flora and fauna species
- to rehabilitate areas suitable for koala release and provide visitor education in relation to koala habitat requirements
- to rehabilitate waterways and associated vegetation communities which will contribute to the ecological health of the estate
- to establish east-west connections to contain access and movement to the northern part of the estate while developing strategies in line with the vision for future stages of the masterplan.

Challenges

achieving a balance between nature-based recreation and educational uses and the natural assets of the estate without degradation of natural and cultural value improving management of access points to prevent unauthorised access to the estate monitoring and managing access points that result in eliminating construction of trails etc for unauthorised activities.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate (the estate) is located within the Ipswich local government area.

It is one of Ipswich's largest conservation estates with a total area of about 2300 hectares. Ipswich City Council purchased the land for the estate through the Enviroplan initiative from 1998 onwards. Voluntary acquisitions continue to increase this important conservation estate, with an additional 93 hectares added in 2024.

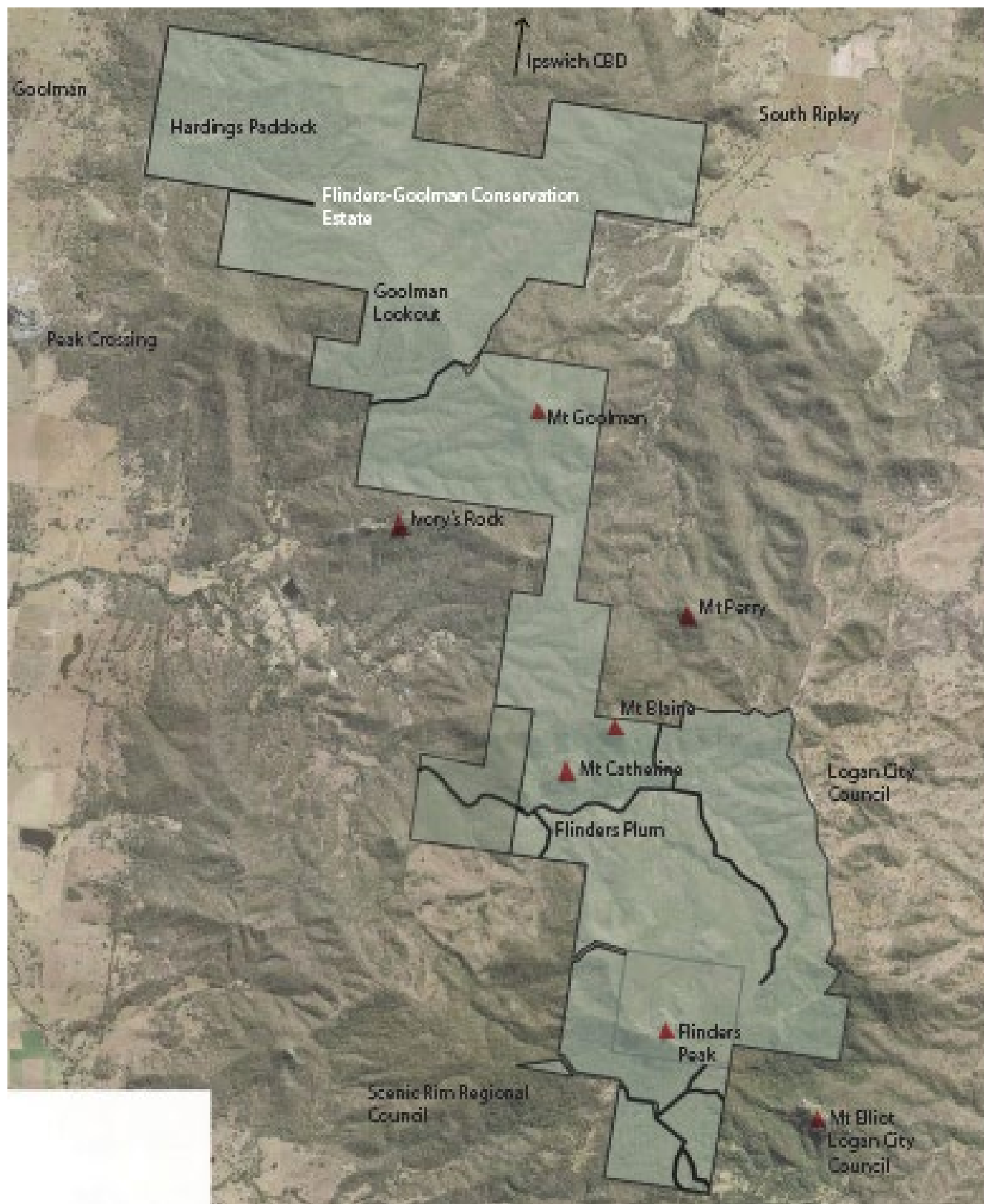
The estate is approximately 40 km south-west of Brisbane and 14km south of the Ipswich CBD and is part of the Flinders Karawatha corridor. The corridor extends from Flinders Peak in Ipswich through to Karawatha Forest in Brisbane and is the largest remaining stretch of open eucalyptus forest in South-East Queensland. The estate is located on the north-western boundary of the corridor. It is important to note that the health of the estate contributes to the overall health of the corridor which provides habitats for a variety of flora and fauna.

The various volcanic peaks of Flinders-Goolman form an imposing and powerful cultural landscape. Each of these mountains – Flinders Peak, Mount Blaine, Mount Catherine, Mount Goolman and Mount Razor – inside the estate, and Mount Elliott, Ivory's Rock and Mount Perry just outside, had major Aboriginal significance for the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People. A number of creek systems, including Purga, Bundamba, Undullah and Sandy Creeks are supported by headwaters within the estate.

Sustainable nature-based recreational activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding are available along the trails. Hardings Paddock contains a camping area and day use area with picnic facilities and amenities. It also features a bush tucker trail, totems and yarning circle and Kupmurri. Flinders Plum has day use facilities and is the trailhead to Flinders Peak, Mount Blaine and Mount Catherine trails. Current authorised activities include walking, horse riding and mountain biking. Council offers guided interpretive night walks that highlight the natural and cultural values as well as previous early settlement uses.

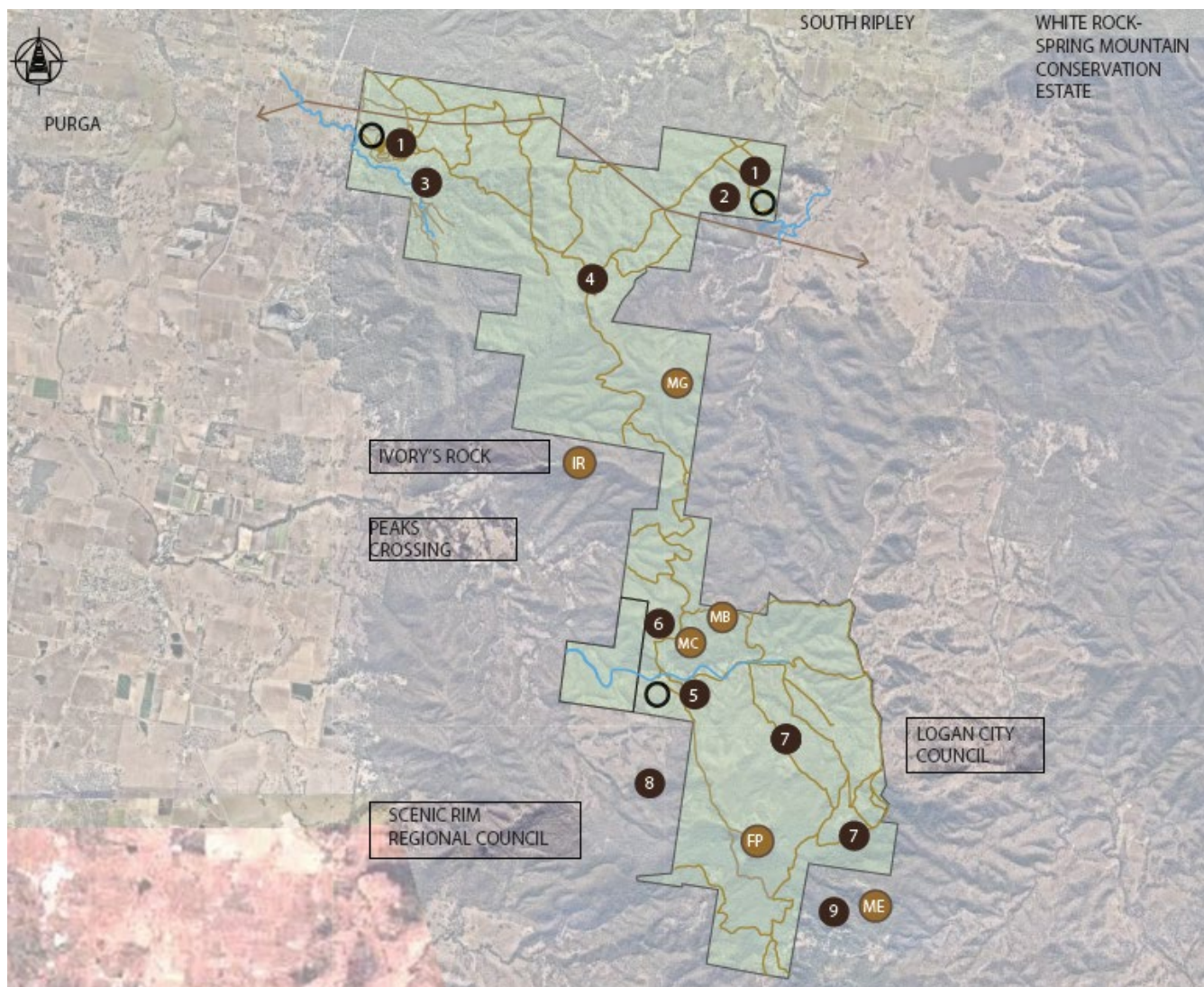
By 2036, Ipswich's population will be up to half a million people, Greater Springfield will be home to more than 130,000, and Ripley Valley will explode to 120,000. With this estimate and potential visitors as well as the adjacent areas to the estate developing, it is estimated that there will be approximately 3,000 visitors from adjacent developments weekly to the estate. This will have significant impact on the integrity of the estate if not managed well.

This staged master plan aims to provide a balance between the natural and cultural values of the estate and nature-based recreation and educational activities while improving the overall ecological health of the estate.



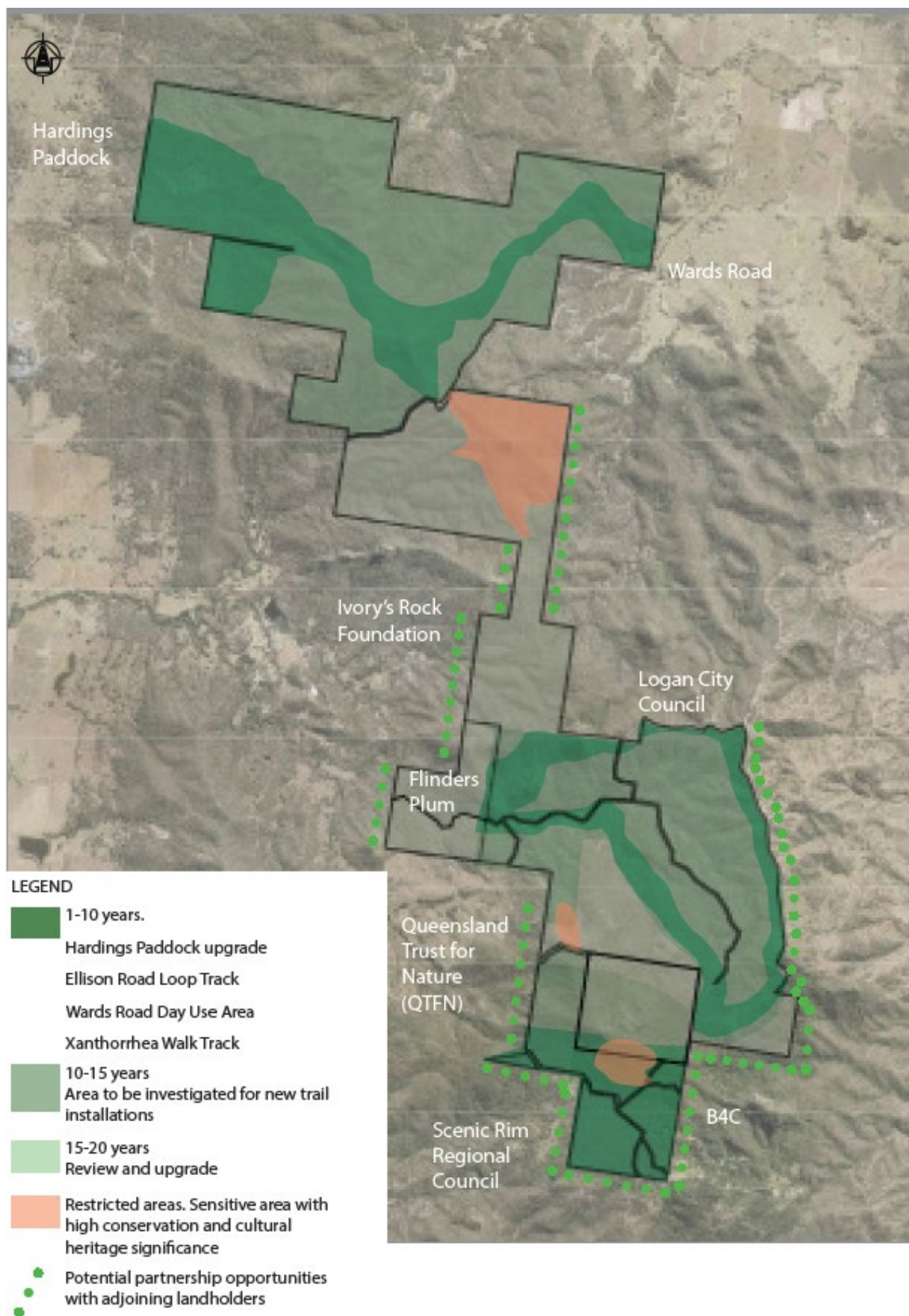
Local context map

DRAFT FLINDERS-GOOLMAN MASTERPLAN



Legend

1	Hardings Paddock to Wards Road day use area	8	QTFN koala crossing – investigate potential for partnership programs
2	Wards Road day use area – installation of day use amenities, information huts, interpretive and way-finding signage	9	Bulimba Creek Catchment – investigate potential for partnership programs
3	Hardings Paddock to Ellison Road loop – Installation of new walking/cycling track loop from Hardings Paddock to Ellison Road section of the estate	○	Major node entry upgrade
4	Investigation of Xanthorrhoea Walk – installation of new trail and interpretive signage and viewing/resting point and connecting track to Goolman Lookout	MG	Mount Goolman
5	Flinders Plum – major node upgrade, Mt Flinders Road upgrade into Flinders Plum. Investigation of suitability for new walks	MC	Mount Catherine
6	Mt Catherine Trail upgrade – site investigation of authorised trail to summit	MB	Mount Blaine
7	Long Walk and Ride – installation of interpretive signage, resting/viewing	FP	Flinders Peak
		IR	Ivory's Rock
		ME	Mount Elliott



IMPLEMENTATION – STAGE 1

The masterplan recommends increasing the extent of actively managed area.

An implementation plan will be developed to guide and prioritise the construction of Stage 1 of the masterplan. The following areas are intended to be planned and implemented within the first five years. The works include:

- enhanced entry zones
- establish themed trails
- formalise Long Walk and Ride, investigate new walking trails
- upgrade to Flinders Plum day use area
- installation of Wards Road day use area and associated trail heads

Enhanced entry zones

There are three entry zones to be enhanced over the next five years. The entry zones are Wards Road day use area, Hardings Paddock and Flinders Plum. Hardings Paddock amenities to be upgraded include shelters, toilets, parking, updating the existing information hut, associated signage and landscaping. Trail heads and wayfinding signage will be reviewed and updated where necessary. A new major entry node and trail heads connecting the eastern entry into the estate from developing areas in South Ripley is planned.

Establish themed trails and nature-based recreation locations

The estate contains many areas of interest including natural history in land formations, native flora and fauna, Aboriginal cultural connection, early settlement history. Ground truthing for points of interest will be undertaken to showcase these elements along existing trails. This will establish the themes which are intended to provide interesting and informative trails on existing service tracks/trails and new trails in the natural setting for visitors. The themed trails and nature-based recreation are:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Landscape Values Trail
- European History Trail
- Natural Environment and Geological History Trail
- Long Walk and Ride Trail

Formalise Long Walk and Ride

The Long Walk and Ride concept was developed to provide an experience over a greater distance for visitors who are looking for a challenge. This trail takes them further into the lesser frequented areas of the estate. The vegetation communities and associated fauna change through open forest species to dry vine forest species.

Wards Road day use area

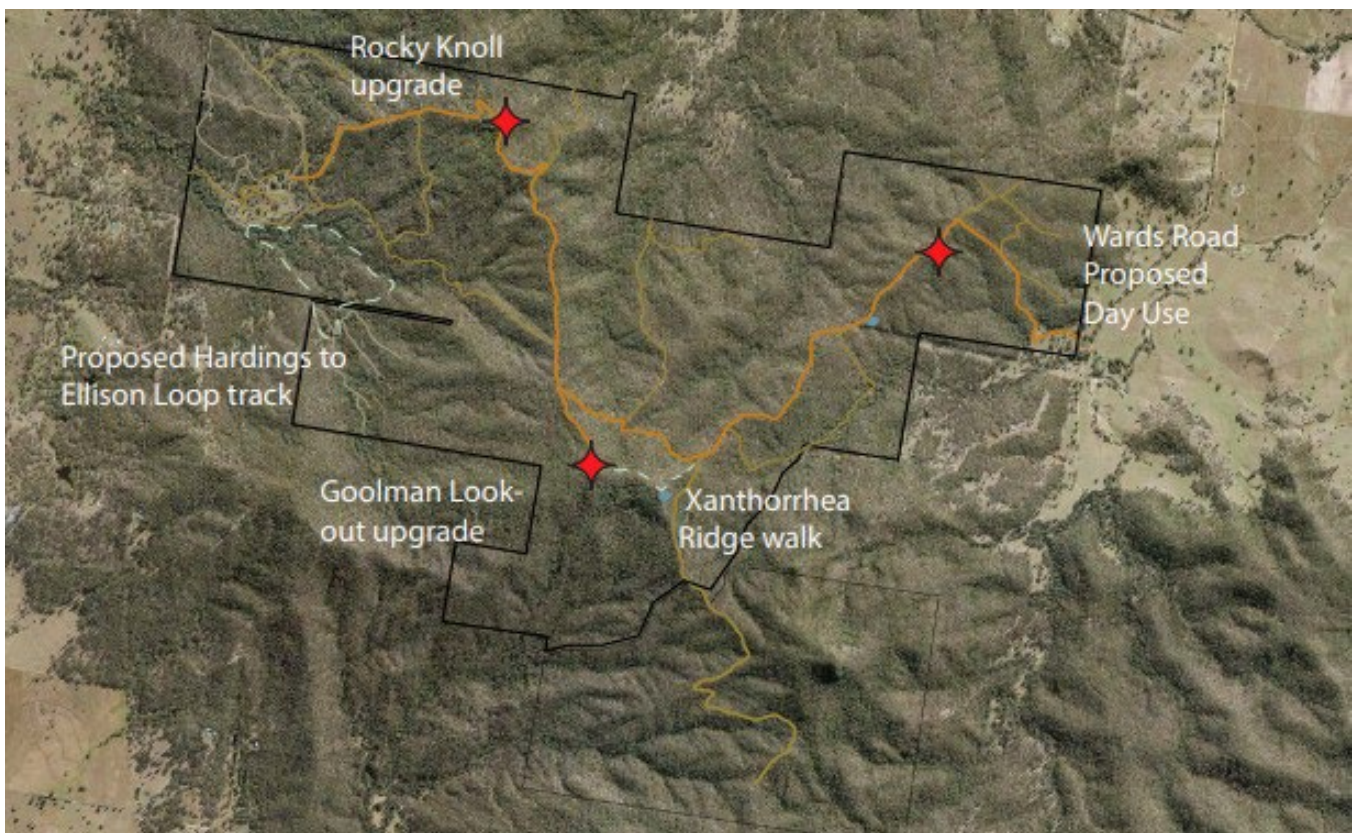
Within the first five years of implementing the masterplan, the proposed Wards Road day use area will be designed and constructed at the north-eastern boundary of the estate. The purpose of the day use area is to provide visitors with amenities, interpretive signage in relation to biodiversity values, Aboriginal cultural heritage and landscape values of the estate. The day use area will provide picnic tables, amenity block and an information hub informing visitors of the trail heads and what they could expect to see on the trails.

Ellison Road loop track

Installation of new walking track from Hardings Paddock horse trail head to Ellison Road. Proposed installation of boardwalks, interpretive signage and wayfinding signage, viewing and resting points (locations to be determined). Investigation and approval process for nature-based recreation such as birdwatching and shared trails.

Xanthorrhoea Ridge Walk

The Xanthorrhoea Ridge Walk concept was developed as a potential new trail from a new Wards Road day use area. It would follow the existing Eastern Boundary Track towards the Goolman Track. There could potentially be two loops that vary in distance and difficulty, with both providing great natural experiences and spectacular views.



Stage 1 implementation: Key areas for the first five years.



Ipswich City Council
PO Box 191, Ipswich QLD 4305,
Australia

Phone (07) 3810 6666
council@ipswich.qld.gov.au
ipswich.qld.gov.au

Join us online:



[/IpswichCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/IpswichCityCouncil)

[/ipswich-city-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ipswich-city-council)

[/IpswichCityCouncilTV](https://www.youtube.com/IpswichCityCouncilTV)

