

# BRISBANE. CLEAN, GREEN, SUSTAINABLE

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## SUMMARY



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*



## Committed to a Clean, Green and Sustainable Brisbane

Brisbane has been a leader in sustainability for over 20 years and is recognised as Australia's most biodiverse and green capital city. This is something that Brisbane City Council and Brisbane community members have achieved for our city together.

As Lord Mayor of this unique city, I know that the residents of Brisbane are passionate about our growing city and want to see sustainable development, conservation of natural biodiversity and climate resilience at the heart of what Council does.

This is a passion that I share, and I am committed to delivering the most ambitious environmental agenda in our city's history. *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable* is Council's sustainability and environmental plan. It directs the way we operate, celebrates our achievements, and outlines Council's clean and green goals and future-focused aspirations.

I am excited to see Council's clean and green agenda come to life and am thrilled to work alongside all Brisbane community members to make our unique city the best it can be.

**Adrian Schrinner**  
Lord Mayor



## Dedicated to a Sustainable City

Brisbane really has it all: mountains, rivers, beaches and rainforests, and is home to more than 800 species of unique native wildlife. Almost 40% of mainland Brisbane is covered in natural habitat, and the character of Brisbane's suburbs is shaped by established trees, open parkland and the creeks that meander through our neighbourhoods.

*Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable* is a guide to our city's sustainable development, a way to celebrate what residents, businesses and Council have already achieved together, and share our collective aspirations for the future. I look forward to working with the Lord Mayor and our community to deliver Council's clean and green agenda and to make the Brisbane of tomorrow even better than the Brisbane of today.

**Councillor Tracy Davis**  
Civic Cabinet Chair for Environment, Parks and Sustainability

## Acknowledgment of Country

Brisbane City Council acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow.

May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.

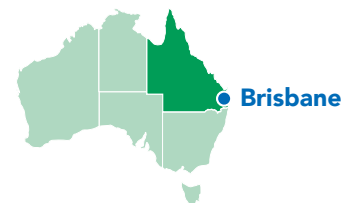


## A Brisbane alive with beauty

Brisbane is rich in biodiversity and is home to more than 800 species of wildlife, 2500 species of native plants, thriving areas of natural habitats, and over 4000 km of waterways. These natural assets are the backbone of what makes Brisbane unique and what residents value about our city.

### Brisbane at a glance

- >1.2 million people
- 26.3 °C average daily high temperature
- 16.6 °C average daily low temperature
- >1300 km<sup>2</sup> Local Government Area (LGA) land area
- 114 km length of Brisbane River (within LGA)
- >170 km foreshore areas with 55 km of mainland coastline and 118 km of island coastline



## How Brisbane City Council operates

### Our vision for a clean, green and sustainable city

Brisbane will be recognised by residents and visitors as a sustainability leader with an enviable lifestyle and a reputation for being clean, green and sustainable.

### Our indicators of progress

Every year, Council tracks its progress towards achieving the following outcomes.

- **Maintained** carbon neutral status of Council
- **Reduced** household carbon emissions
- **Increased** sustainable transport patronage and active travel
- **Improved** environmental health of the city
- **Reduced** waste generation and increased resource recovery
- **Increased** resilience and reduced risks to residents and property from natural hazards
- **Improved** quality and network of natural habitat and greenspaces within the city
- **Increased** community participation in Council environmental programs and education activities



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Council is proud of the sustainability successes Brisbane has achieved over the past two decades and acknowledges the invaluable support and contributions made by residents and businesses. We are committed to the ongoing delivery of initiatives that help make Brisbane a clean, green and sustainable city of the future.

### Brisbane has clean air, waterways and energy

#### Australia's largest certified carbon neutral government entity

- Carbon neutral since 2017

#### One of Australia's top clean air cities

- Winner of a 'Clean Air Achievement Award' for 20 years of commitment to clean air

#### Connected transport networks that reduce congestion and emissions

- High-quality active transport network including separated pathways, shared pathways and riverwalks

#### A city that reduces, reuses and recycles waste

- Recycling more than 110,000 tonnes of waste each year from Council's yellow and green recycling bins

#### Protecting more than 4000 km of natural waterways

- Regular water quality monitoring at 63 sites across the Brisbane River and the city's waterways

### Brisbane is green, resilient and sustainable

#### Sustainable city shape

- *Brisbane Green Buildings Incentive Policy* encourages the design of greener and more energy efficient buildings across Brisbane

#### Australia's most biodiverse capital city

- An ambitious target of 40% mainland Brisbane covered by natural habitat, currently at 38.9% or around 44,000 ha

#### A world leader in city resilience

- A comprehensive and award-winning offering of community awareness tools, services and products that support the community before, during and after severe weather events

#### Australia's greenest capital city

- More than 16,800 ha of parkland and natural areas and growing – Council delivered 71 parks and natural areas over a five-year period

#### Conserving our natural resources

- Council's partners support the protection and restoration of more than 12,000 ha of natural habitat

# A SUSTAINABLE CITY

## Aligning with international standards

Council has long recognised the need to manage the environment in a sustainable way, and *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable* details our approach to environmental management and city sustainability.

- Council's Vision and Corporate Plan support the United Nations overarching framework for global development and the **Sustainable Development Goals** by guiding the way we act and plan for the sustainable development of Brisbane.
- Council's **Climate-Related Disclosure**, published annually, addresses our climate-related risks and opportunities, helps to refine our mitigation and adaptation strategies to ensure we are prepared for climate-related risks.
- Council is invested in helping to deliver the **Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games** where sustainability comes first.

## Alive with collaboration

Council partners with community groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, regional stakeholders and the private sector to deliver our vision of a clean, green and sustainable Brisbane.

# AN ADAPTIVE CITY

## Adaptive management

As the capital city of Australia's fastest-growing region, situated on the banks of the Brisbane River, it is important that Brisbane can plan and prepare for, respond to and recover from adverse events. This ability to be resilient is a key attribute of a sustainable city – quickly recovering from adversity, adapting to changes and transforming to achieve better results.

## A changing climate

Council will continue to take real and practical action to deliver a resilient, low-carbon city through reducing our own carbon footprint and delivering initiatives to support Brisbane residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.



# A CLEAN CITY

**Goal: Brisbane has clean air, waterways and energy.**

## Our approach and commitments

Through our leadership and partnerships with local and regional stakeholders, community engagement and education, city planning, operational transformation and environmental policy, we are committed to delivering:

**1**

### Low-carbon

Brisbane is committed to global action on climate change.

**2**

### Clean air

Brisbane will consistently have clean, healthy air.

**3**

### Waterway health

Brisbane will protect and clean its waterways.

**4**

### Sustainable city development

Brisbane embraces development that enhances our city's subtropical lifestyle.

**5**

### Waste and resource recovery

Brisbane will reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

**6**

### Clean Transport

Brisbane will encourage the use of active and public transport networks.

# A GREEN CITY

**Goal: Brisbane is green, resilient and sustainable.**

## Our approach at a glance

Council's commitment to provide opportunities for sport, recreation, the daily commute, economic prosperity, restoration and preservation of the green and the blue networks for a more sustainable future will be delivered by:

**1**

### Well-designed parks and green spaces

Brisbane offers more to see and do.

**2**

### Increase urban forest

Our city combats urban heat island effects with nature.

**3**

### Sustainable city development

Brisbane embraces development that enhances subtropical lifestyle.

**4**

### Biodiversity protection and conservation

Brisbane is Australia's most biodiverse capital city.

**5**

### Sustainable water use

Council will ensure our water resources and systems are sustainable.

**6**

### Climate resilience

Council will lead the way to improve Brisbane's resilience.



# A FUTURE CITY

Creating a clean and green city that's fit for the future requires aspirational thinking and an unrelenting focus on sustainability. Our aspirations for the city are:

## World-class outdoor spaces

**Council will develop world-class green spaces – with sustainable, leading-edge operations and international-level attractions.**

- World-class parks and green spaces with more to see and do
- Reimagining assets converted into green hubs for adventure recreation
- Activating precincts through partnerships

## A walkable Brisbane

**To meet the community's needs, Council is prioritising active and clean public transport to encourage healthy outdoor lifestyles, deliver cleaner air and reduce congestion.**

- A more active transport system
- Pedestrian-focused suburbs

## Cooling with green

**Brisbane's subtropical environment and pre-existing urban forest allow for the maximising of green space to reduce urban heat.**

- Expanding our urban forest to reduce urban heat island impacts
- Increasing shade cover to support a healthy, outdoor lifestyle

## Renewable Brisbane

**The uptake of solar by residents and businesses is set to continue, enabling a low-carbon and future-ready power supply for the city.**

- Providing reliable, clean and affordable energy
- Connected and renewable-powered energy and transport solutions

## Embracing our biodiverse Brisbane

**As Australia's most biodiverse capital city, Council and the wider community play an important role in the conservation of our wildlife and natural environment.**

- Sharing stewardship
- Protecting and enhancing habitats to remain Australia's most biodiverse city

## Resilient Brisbane

**Continuing to increase preparedness for natural disasters will further improve liveability for residents – now and in the future.**

- Climate and disaster ready
- Designing with water in mind
- Improving waterway health

## Sustainability precincts

**Brisbane's sustainability precincts are where low-carbon, resilient and environmental on-ground strategies are used to create collaborative environments.**

- Showcasing sustainability through innovation hubs
- Connecting energy, resource recovery and water
- Enabling a circular economy



## The future is bright for Brisbane

Council's clean, green and sustainable agenda shapes our plan for a resilient and liveable city. It delivers environmental, economic and social benefits for our growing city and community members.

We are always challenging ourselves to do better and deliver more with the resources we have. By planning for the future, using sustainable city development strategies and identifying business opportunities, Council is creating a clean and green city where current and future generations will thrive.

We will continue to embrace the learnings of our past and collaborate with partners and the wider community to lead Brisbane into a cleaner, greener future for generations to come. We hope you will join us on this journey and take pride in the wonders of our beautiful Brisbane.



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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