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Key Messages and FAQs: Kedron Brook Vision and Master Plan project

Key Messages:

- Brisbane City Council is giving residents more to see and do in a clean and sustainable Brisbane by preparing the Kedron Brook Vision and Master Plan.
- Kedron Brook is one of 3 key leisure and lifestyle destinations, alongside Oxley Creek and the Wynnum, Manly and Lota foreshores that will be revitalised.
- Council is preparing a 20-year revitalisation Vision and Master Plan for the Kedron Brook catchment, covering the area of 110-square-kilometres.
- The Kedron Brook Vision and Master Plan is a revitalisation project focusing on delivering long-term strategies to improve flood resilience of the waterway while providing opportunities for recreation.
- The Kedron Brook Vision and Master Plan will explore long-term opportunities to undertake bank stabilisation and habitat planting, with the aim of restoring natural water flow and enhancing the ecological balance.
- With the Kedron Brook Vision and Master Plan, Council is providing more opportunities for recreation, relaxing, and meeting with family and friends in one of the many places that makes our city great.
- Council is committed to keeping Brisbane clean and sustainable, making our city liveable and sustainable for future generations.

Stage 1: April – June 2025 – Register your interest, awareness raising and Have Your Say

- You can register your details online to receive project updates.
- Stage 1 will consist of online and in person community engagement to inform the preparation of the Vision and Master Plan. The focus will be on



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understanding the community's connection to the catchment and their aspirations and perspectives for its future to guide improvements.

- Council would like to thank the community for participating and providing their valuable feedback throughout this process.

Educational Messages:

Brisbane's Creeks and Catchments

Brisbane is built around its waterways. Some creeks start small, running through bushland high in the catchment, others flow across our suburbs and through parks. They crisscross our city until eventually flowing into the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay.

Brisbane's creeks are diverse in size and characteristics, and they play a variety of roles. They provide habitat for plants and animals, they carry our floodwaters, they provide spaces for us to interact with nature and cool down and provide links to walk and cycle beside. Our creeks are special and deserve appreciation. Everyone, no matter where they live, is connected in some way to their local waterway and surrounding catchment.

History of the Brook

Foundational story and Aboriginal history

The Traditional Custodians, the Yuggera and Turrbal people have cared for the Kedron Brook catchment and its surrounds for thousands of years. The traditions, practices and values embedded in the culture of these communities have managed, cared for, and sustained the complex interrelated systems that shape Country. Kedron Brook formed a significant embodiment of these systems providing not only sustenance and resources but also deep spiritual connection to place and culture. Hundreds of recorded accounts detail the rich cultural connection to the brook with sightings of camps, corroboree, Bora rings and more occurring along the entire length of the brook (QLD State Archives).

With settlement came increased pressure on the catchment to provide for a growing population. Kedron Brook is one of Brisbane's most urbanised waterways, with development encroaching on the floodplain of the brook and reducing sections of the corridor to a managed channel to support water conveyance and provide flood protection. In the process, sites of Aboriginal people's cultural heritage and major tracks and crossing points have been built over, and the inherent resilience in both the human and non-human systems that have allowed for the continuation of culture and environment across time has been lost.



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Urban development along the corridor has resulted in natural waterways attributes being diminished over time and its capacity to absorb flood and filter pollutants have been curtailed. The development of the waterway has left it with little room to move naturally, constraining the waterway and resulting in erosion and sediment loss.

Today the Kedron Brook catchment is a highly valued community, recreation and sporting precinct with multiple bridge crossings supporting a network of pedestrian and cycle connections to key community destinations, schools, shops and places of work. With the catchment population forecast to increase by 14.7% over the next 20-years, a balance between our precinct, infrastructure assets and the natural flood cycle is needed.

Natural waterways and access to open spaces near them are increasingly sought-after as places of relaxation and recreation in the subtropical city. Proximity to water and access to the water's edge are attractive attributes of Brisbane's outdoor lifestyle.

To ensure the balance within the catchment and mitigate the impacts of higher magnitude flooding into the future, a variety of nature-based strategies and resilience focused initiatives can be introduced to facilitate the transition to a more adaptable, resilient, safe and attractive catchment and waterway.

In acknowledging the deep significance of the Kedron Brook catchment, the intergenerational knowledge embedded within, and the understanding of its management, it is fundamental both culturally and strategically to ensure the integration and celebration of First Nations knowledges and culture within the future planning of the Kedron Brook catchment.

Through collaboration, on-going community engagement, and integration of First Nations peoples the Kedron Brook Catchment Vision and Master Plan aims to provide a strategic future focused plan to re-establish a resilient 'mountains to mangroves' corridor that balances waterway health, flood and ecological resilience, and community recreation, amenity, and cultural practices.

What we know about Kedron Brook catchment

- Kedron Brook catchment comprises over 110-square-kilometres of land in the northern Brisbane suburbs of Ferny Grove, Mitchelton, Everton Park, Keperra, Enoggera, Stafford, Lutwyche, Kedron, Woolloowin, Clayfield, Nundah, Northgate, Toombul and Nudgee. Smaller creeks that flow into the brook along the way include Cedar Creek, Sandy Creek, and Cannery Creek.
- Kedron Brook extends from D'Aguilar National Park, near Camp Mountain (within the Moreton Bay Regional Council area) 29 kilometres downstream to west of the Brisbane Airport at Nudgee, finally emptying into Moreton Bay as the Schulz Canal.

- The Kedron Brook catchment consists of the upper, middle and lower catchments.

Upper catchment

The upper catchment includes reserves and emerging communities around Upper Kedron, Ferny Grove, Keperra and Mitchelton.

Middle catchment

The middle catchment is largely developed with the commercial, industrial and residential areas of Enoggera, Stafford, Lutwyche, Kedron and Woolloowin and regional parks bordering the waterway, including what was the longest stretch of bikeway from Webster Road to Sandgate Road.

Lower catchment

Downstream of Woolloowin, the lower catchment supports heritage communities, the Brisbane Airport, Moreton Bay and established industrial areas. Terminating at Moreton Bay is the engineered and dredged saltwater channel adjacent to the Boondall Wetlands.

- The Kedron Brook catchment is a diverse community and provides important connectivity to community activity and cultural facilities, housing, employment and schools. As of 30 June 2021, the estimated resident population for Kedron Brook catchment was 156,189 persons. (ABS, Regional population, various editions). The catchment is expected to see population growth of 22,000 over the next 20 years.
- Kedron Brook catchment is mostly urbanised but significant areas of native vegetation remain, particularly in the upper catchment. As Kedron Brook passes Kalinga Park, Clayfield, it becomes a highly-structured waterway and finally, at the Gateway Motorway Deviation Bridge, the canal becomes the Kedron Brook Floodwide – a wide-walled waterway flowing to its outfall into Moreton Bay, near Nudgee Beach.
- Scattered remnant bushland areas throughout urbanised sections of the catchment provide habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Streamside habitat along Kedron Brook is important for insectivorous bats, such as the common bent-wing bat that feeds on insects emerging from the stream or adjacent vegetation.
- At the lower end of the catchment, Boondall Wetlands is an internationally recognised habitat (RAMSAR site) for migratory wader birds and other animals in Moreton Bay.

Natural assets

Significant natural assets in the Kedron Brook catchment include:

- **Sparkes Hill** – Contains some significant bushland with walking tracks and hilltop picnic areas that offer lovely views.
- **Grinstead Park** – Has a playground, picnic facilities, large areas of open parkland and several rehabilitation sites including frog habitat. The natural pool at the confluence of Sandy Creek and Kedron Brook offers good wildlife viewing.
- **Kalinga Park** – Has an area of remnant bushland, picnic areas, barbecues, playgrounds and walking tracks.
- **Nudgee Waterholes Reserve** – Has a long history of Aboriginal peoples and recreational use. It has a playground, barbecue and picnic areas, walking track, interpretive signage, lagoon viewing platform and beautiful paperbark forest.
- **Boondall Wetlands** – The catchment's largest open space area is located adjacent to Moreton Bay and provides opportunities for walking, cycling and canoeing, as well as an environment centre.

Did you know?

- At the lower end of the catchment Boondall Wetlands is an internationally recognised habitat for migratory wader birds in Moreton Bay.

Fauna

In the upper catchment in D'Aguilar National Park and the Enoggera military areas, significant mammals such as the echidna (*Echidna hystrix*) and the yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*) occur. Scattered remnant bushland areas throughout urbanised sections of the catchment provide habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Streamside habitat along Kedron Brook is important for insectivorous bats, such as the common bent-wing bat that feeds on insects emerging from the stream or adjacent vegetation.

At the lower end of the catchment, Boondall Wetlands is an internationally recognised habitat (RAMSAR site) for migratory wader birds and other animals in Moreton Bay. Habitat near the mouth of the brook contains the only known breeding and roosting location for the grass owl (*Tyto capensis*), a species of owl that only lives in the grasslands adjacent to the brook and has been observed hunting upstream along channelised sections of the floodway.

190 species of birds have been recorded in Boondall Wetlands as well as numerous marine and terrestrial fauna including the threatened water mouse (*Xeromys myoides*). It is also a temporary home for migratory shorebirds that make their way each spring from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds to feed in the mudflats



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and tidal wetlands of Moreton Bay and surrounding areas. Migratory birds of significance include the eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*).

Flora

The headwaters of Kedron Brook catchment contain remnants of araucarian forest dominated by the hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and mixed eucalypt forests. Remnants of dry rainforest found between Tramway Street and Samford Road, Ferny Grove form part of a bushland corridor that links remnant forest in Enoggera Reservoir through the headwaters of Kedron Brook to the bushland in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area. The creek is spotted with some of the last remaining remnants of riparian rainforest and includes remnants of the locally uncommon flood gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*).

Along the Kedron Brook floodway, mangroves and exotic grasses are the dominant vegetation.

Restoring Kedron Brook

There are many groups and volunteers who have and continue to be involved in restorative programs and initiatives along the Kedron Brook waterway and surrounds.

The Kedron Brook Catchment Network (KBCN) encourages the involvement of the community and governments at all levels. KBCN is partnered with the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch of Wildlife Queensland.

KBCN undertakes a variety of activities including glider surveys at Ferny Grove, annual fish snap shots, frog surveys, bird observations, school education and art projects. KBCN is also involved in some large rehabilitation and revegetation projects within the catchment in partnership with Brisbane City Council, Powerlink, Queensland Rail, landholders and other groups.

Council's community conservation partnerships program helps community groups restore natural habitats in parks, remnant bushland and wetlands along waterways. There are currently several active bushcare groups tending rehabilitation sites along Kedron Brook from Ferny Grove to Northgate.

The program also supports the community to protect and restore Brisbane's waterways and bays in partnership with groups, businesses, schools and individual property owners.

The Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre (BWEC) provides information and displays on the wetlands and is operated by friendly staff and volunteers happy to share their love and knowledge of the wetlands.

Waterways

- Waterways are naturally dynamic and move around.
- A 'healthy' waterway is a dynamic waterway. The natural processes of a waterway are reliant on erosion and accumulation which leads to interactions between sediment and vegetation along a waterway and through time.
- The Kedron Brook Vision and Master Plan recognises that Kedron Brook has ever changing natural processes that alter the geology whilst supporting ecosystem resilience and natural diversity rather than maintaining a waterway that is completely static.
- There are 4 types of waterways along the extent of Kedron Brook. The healthy waterway, the dynamic waterway, the managed flood channel and the estuary.
- The Waterway Resilience Framework (WRF) aims to help organisations,

Flora and Fauna

- Council's community conservation partnerships program helps community groups restore natural habitats in parks, remnant bushland and wetlands along waterways. There are currently a number of active bushcare groups tending rehabilitation sites along Kedron Brook from Ferny Grove to Northgate.
- Scattered remnant bushland areas throughout urbanised sections of the catchment provide habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Streamside habitat along Kedron Brook is important for insectivorous bats, such as the common bent-wing bat that feeds on insects emerging from the stream or adjacent vegetation.
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Flooding in Brisbane

- Brisbane sits on a floodplain which means flooding is possible. Council works to manage and reduce the risks of flooding to ensure our city remains safe and liveable.
- Every flood is different, and it is important for residents, businesses and community organisations to understand the types of flooding and flood likelihood that may impact your property.

Councils' response to 2022 flood event and overlay mapping

- Council has a long-standing plan to manage and reduce the impacts of flooding and to assist our community to prepare for and become more resilient to these events.
- Council provides up to date flood information to Brisbane residents so they can be safe, confident and ready for potential future flooding.
- Part of Council's rolling program of flood preparedness initiatives is undertaking new flood studies and making that information publicly available.
- In response to the February 2022 Flood Review and Flood Resilience Action Plan, under Action 3.5, the Council has committed to updating existing flood studies and using new data obtained from the 2022 weather event.
- As a result of updated flood studies for Brighton Creek, Kedron Brook, Sandy Creek Toowong Creek, and Witton Creek catchments, Council has updated the flood overlay map in *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.
- The Queensland Government allows changes to City Plan for hazard mapping updates to use the most current and best information for development assessment.
- All properties affected by a change in creek/waterway flood planning area were notified by mail about the City Plan: Minor T amendments in early December 2024.
- Brisbane's [FloodSmart Future Strategy](#) provides residents, industry and business with the confidence that Brisbane has an integrated plan to respond to its flood risk. The strategy enables sustainable economic development and growth. The recent progress update was published in 2023.



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- Council has a range of flood information products available for different purposes, including Flood Awareness Maps (for public flood awareness) and the City Plan Flood overlay map (for new building and development assessment). Two updates to flood mapping products occurred in the latter part of 2024.

Councils flood information products

- **Council's Flood Awareness Map** is for general awareness about the possibility of flooding in your local area.
 - It also provides historic flooding information and information on various sources of flooding.
- **FloodWise Property Reports** show the risk and type of flooding at a specific property.
- **The Flood overlay code in City Plan** ensures that future development contributes to creating a safe and flood-resilient city in the future.
- [Flooding in Brisbane | Brisbane City Council](#)
- [Be Prepared](#) – information on how to stay safe before, during and after severe weather events.

Volunteer environmental groups contributions to date

Brisbane's catchment groups

These volunteer groups always welcome a helping hand and new members. Joining on of these volunteer environmental groups is one way you can make a positive difference to Brisbane's waterways.

- Kedron Brook Catchment Network: www.kedronbrook.org.au
- Save our Waterways Now, The Gap: www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au

Other volunteer environmental groups

- Habitat Brisbane – community bushcare – find your local group by visiting brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'Habitat Brisbane.'



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- Men of the Trees (MOTT): www.mottqld.com.au - a non-profit, non-political, International society dedicated to fostering a tree sense, and the planting, maintenance and protection of trees.

FAQs:

Q. What is a catchment and how do they work?

A. A catchment is an area of land where water is collected by the natural features such as hills or mountains. Gravity causes rain and other water in the catchment to run downhill and flow to a common low point, such as a creek, lake, river, bay and eventually the ocean.

- The combined catchment area of the creeks and rivers flowing into Moreton Bay is 21,220 square kilometres.
- Brisbane has 38 major creek catchments and 630 kilometres of waterways.

Q. What is the meaning of 'Mountains to Mangroves'?

A. The phrase 'mountains to mangroves' is used to describe how water flows through a catchment and the importance of protecting the entire catchment, as changes in one part affect the entire system.

Q. What is the area that covers the Kedron Brook catchment?

A. Kedron Brook catchment comprises over 110-square-kilometres of land in the northern Brisbane suburbs of Ferny Grove, Mitchelton, Everton Park, Keperra, Enoggera, Stafford, Lutwyche, Kedron, Woolloowin, Clayfield, Nundah, Northgate, Toombul and Nudgee. Smaller creeks that flow into the brook along the way include Cedar Creek, Sandy Creek, and Cannery Creek.

Q. What is in a Vision and what is a Master Plan?

A.

- **Vision** – A vision is a broad, aspirational framework, outlining what the master plan aims to achieve in the future. A vision guides the direction and purpose of the master plan and serves as the foundation that guides all strategic decisions and actions.
- **Master Plan** – A master plan is a dynamic long-term planning document that provides a conceptual layout to guide future investment. A master plan is informed by community and stakeholder engagement and the results of technical investigations. Master Planning typically involves the preparation of spatial maps that show key features, spaces and connections scheduled for delivery (pending budget availability and Council's priorities).



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Q. What are the benefits of a whole catchment Vision and Master Plan?

A. A whole of catchment approach is beneficial because it considers the waterway from the mountains to mangroves and considers the connections between environmental, social and economic factors. It will involve everyone working together to manage the area and create long-term benefits for the environment, people and community.

It will acknowledge the changing nature of Kedron Brook, allowing natural processes to shape the landscape while focusing on ecosystem resilience and natural biodiversity.