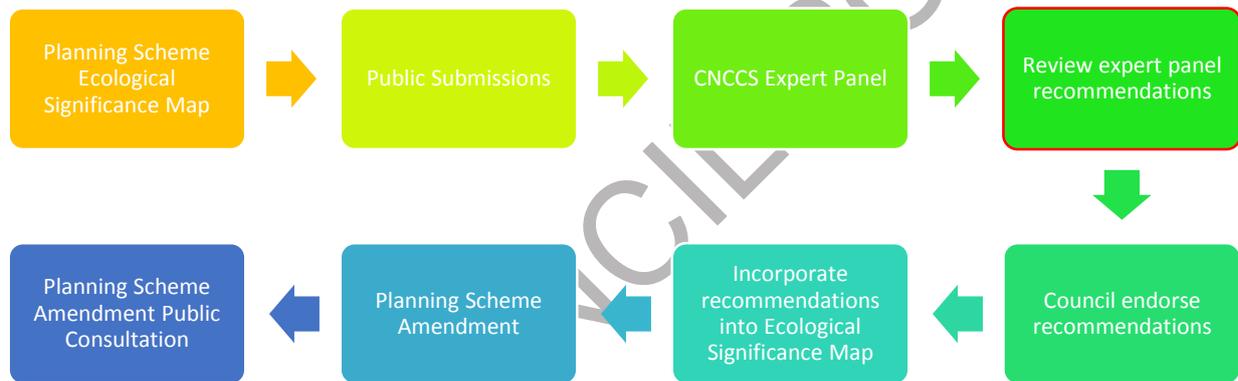


In late September, Logan City Council called for community submissions to help improve and refine Council's Ecological Significance Map.

On the 9th of November 2015, seventeen ecological experts from around SEQ gathered to provide advice and recommendations to Logan City Council in accordance with 6 CNCCS Expert Panel Criteria. The experts had a very full day with lots of discussion around both the community submissions and the experts own suggestions. The chair of the expert panel thanked the community for the breadth and detail contained within their submissions.

A huge amount of information was gathered and is still being collated by the consultant and the Environment and Sustainability Branch, however please find below a summary which reflects the discussions of the group. Many of these items require further research, discussion and investigation. The expert panels' recommendations will be submitted to Council for adoption.

A full table of recommendations including the panels' justifications will be submitted to Council for endorsement in the next few months (depending on Christmas shut down periods and Council caretaker mode) and then released to community.



Criterion H: Other Habitat for 'At Risk' Species

Highly mobile species discussed included Koalas, Quolls, Glossy Black Cockatoos, Powerful Owls, Flying-foxes, Brush-tailed rock wallaby, Square-tailed kite and shore birds. As these species are highly mobile or have large home ranges, the CNCCS methodology only allows for point locations of areas that are considered critical habitat or important for part of the life cycle, represent a significant part of the known geographic range or support a high proportion of the known population. If this information is unavailable habitat mapping can sometimes be used to represent important habitat for a species.

Koalas

The experts discussed a range of koala habitat mapping methodologies however accepted that Logan have already incorporated an Australian Koala Foundation derived* Koala Habitat map for modelling koala habitat within the Ecological Significance map. The experts did however recommended reviewing the State Governments Essential Koala habitat mapping and upgrading any areas of essential habitat that are not already considered Koala Habitat. It was also recommended that koala sightings be overlayed with koala habitat mapping and any areas with a high volume of koala sightings and no koala habitat mapping (including cleared areas) be upgraded in the koala habitat mapping. Logan City Council will review and consider all koala habitat mapping methodologies and sources of koala presence/absence and/or sightings.



*Koala Habitat 1 and Koala Habitat 2 classes derived from:

1. Australian Koala foundation's (AKF) Koala Habitat Atlas 1/9/2011 (based on Remnant and Preclearing Regional Ecosystems (V6.2) and high value regrowth (V2.0));
2. Remnant and Preclearing Regional Ecosystems Version 8.0; and
3. Logan City Council's Treecover derived from LiDAR July 2013.

Quolls

The experts recommended incorporating any verified scientific sightings of quolls and known quoll hot spots into the draft quoll habitat modelling currently under development by SEQ Catchments.

Flying Foxes

Any current Flying Fox roosts were recommended for incorporation under Criterion H if they contained Grey-Headed Flying foxes and Criterion I if they contained other flying fox species.

Brush tailed rock wallabies

The Panel recommended that South East Queensland Catchments' draft rock wallaby habitat mapping be re-run to include known rock wallaby locations within Logan. This mapping can then be reviewed in conjunction with the rocky outcrops identified as part of Criterion L including Spring Mountain, Mount Elliot and Flinders Peak.

Birds

Known nesting locations for powerful owls, glossy black cockatoos and square tailed kites were recommended for inclusion in Criterion H.

It was also recommended that Council review and incorporate SEQ Catchment's draft Glossy Black Cockatoo Essential Habitat Mapping after additional nesting locations and regrowth vegetation has been included.

Eagleby, Berrinba and Loganholme wetland polygons are recognised as being very important for birds and are to be incorporated under Criterion H.

Wallum Froglets

Essential habitat mapping for wallum froglets was recommended for adoption. It was noted that Core habitat for wallum froglets (according to the methodology developed by EHP) is already incorporated into the Ecological Significance map as part of Criterion A.

Plants

Vegetation polygons containing known individual plant locations such as *Persicaria elatior*, *Melaleuca irbyana*, *Planchonella eerwah*, *Callitris baileyi*, *Diploglottis campbellii*, *Marsdenia coronata*, *Cupaniopsis tomentella*, *Eucalyptus Curtisii*, *Gossia gonoclada*, *Macadamia integrifolia* and *Planchonella eerwah* that are not already incorporated into Criterion A, were recommended for incorporation under Criterion H.

Other

The recommendations made by the previous Beaudesert and Gold Coast City Council CNCCS Expert Panels that apply within Logan are to be reviewed and where still appropriate to be adopted under Criterion H.

Notes:



- Greater gliders are currently under review for listing under the *EPBC* Act. If they become listed, then they will move from being recognised under Criterion I to Criterion H and afford a higher weighting.
- Green-thighed frogs and Lewin's rail have recently been de-listed and were recommended for consideration under Criterion I

Criterion I: Habitat for Other Species (Locally Significant Species)

The draft locally significant species list provided to the expert panel, is still under review and will be finalised once all expert panel members' comments are incorporated.

Greater, Yellow-bellied and Squirrel Gliders

There was considerable discussion regarding Squirrel, Greater and Yellow-bellied Gliders however the CNCCS methodology does not allow for point locations of highly mobile species unless they are critical habitat areas, important for part of its life cycle, represents a significant part of the known geographic range or supports a high proportion of the known population. It is evident that there are numerous old growth hollow-bearing trees along Camp Cable Rd. The panel agreed that these trees would be regarded as of significance, but could not agree on an appropriate mechanism to reflect their location in the mapping. The final decision was to defer to an EIS prepared for a powerline upgrade in the locality for guidance. Council will need to review all available information and make a decision as to whether enough information is available to incorporate known critical habitat areas for gliders into the ecological significance map.

Swamp Wallabies and Grey Kangaroos

The panel decided not to include swamp wallabies or grey kangaroos as a locally significant species, however decided to include Logan West Parklands under Criterion J as significant habitat for Grey Kangaroos within the urban area of Logan.

Mountain Brush tail possum

The public submission was accepted, and additional sightings will be sourced. However due to the highly mobile nature of mountain brush tail possums Council cannot assign areas of habitat that are essential to the species until habitat modelling is available.

Phascogale

Additional known locations are to be provided to LCC by members from the expert panel and are considered important by the experts. However due to the highly mobile nature of phascogales Council cannot assign areas of habitat that are essential to the species until habitat modelling is available.

Flying Foxes

Any current Flying Fox roosts were recommended for incorporation under Criterion H if they contained Grey-Headed Flying foxes and Criterion I if they contained other flying fox species.

Black-necked stork, Osprey, Owlet nightjar, Lewin's rail

Known nesting locations of black-necked storks, ospreys, owlet nightjars and lewin's rail were recommended for incorporation under Criterion I.



Platypus

Waterbodies containing, known, verified sightings of platypus provided by the expert panel are to be incorporated under Criterion I.

Birds

Eagleby, Berrinba and Loganholme wetland polygons are recognised as being very important for locally significant birds and are to be incorporated under Criterion I.

Friilled lizard

Known location within Greenbank Military Training Area to be incorporated under Criterion I.

Green thighed frog

Include the riparian vegetation at the rear of lots on western side of Jamboree Close as per public submission.

Criterion J: Localised Contribution to Biodiversity

Include any remnant or regrowth vegetation within landzone three as it provides drought refugia for lowland fauna, corridors for altitudinal fauna migrants, protection of ephemeral wetlands, protection of water quality for aquatic fauna taxa and recognition of core habitat for a wide range of priority flora taxa.

These areas play an important ecological role providing habitat for a diversity of threatened and otherwise significant species.

Include any remnant vegetation dominated by *Eucalyptus seeana* or *Eucalyptus racemosa* (12.9-10.4, 12.9-10-12) as these communities frequently support large and abundant hollow bearing trees once they reach remnant status.

Include the ecotone between dry-rainforest and eucalypt forests across the city, as these areas provide localised contribution to biodiversity.

Riverdale Park and Eagleby Wetlands are recognised as being important stepping stones for altitudinal migratory birds and are to be incorporated under Criterion J.

Areas within and surrounding Plunkett Conservation Park, Flesser Reserve, Jerry's Downfall Reserve, Logan Village Park, Logan West Parklands, Greenbank Military Training area, Ferry Road Carbrook, Loganholme Wetlands, Berrinba Wetlands, Eagleby Wetlands, Carron Park, Mount Elliot Road, Bahrs Scrub, Veresdale Scrub were identified as biodiversity hotspots or areas which are providing localised contribution to biodiversity and were recommended to be included under Criterion J.

Criterion K: Corridor Links, Context & Connection

Unfortunately the expert panel didn't get the opportunity to discuss the current corridor network in detail, however the chair did ask if any panel member had areas they needed to flag. No one raised any pertinent issues.

It was recommended that LCC check its corridor network against the States corridor network to ensure alignment where possible.

Offers were also made to the experts who wish to have one on one meetings with Council staff to express their suggestions for any amendments to the corridor network.



Logan City Council will be undertaking a review of the current corridor network including reviewing areas suggested in community submissions.

Criterion L: Geomorphological Variation

Areas that provide important habitat diversity and ecosystem micro variation were recommended for incorporation under Criterion L. These areas included:

Deep alluvial soils in the Greenbank area, which are important gradients within the LGA.

Plug, peak and sandstone scree slopes around Flinders peak.

Unique combination of quartzite and meta-sediments side by side within Bahrs Scrub/Belivah.

Sandstone outcrops including Spring Mountain, Plunkett Conservation Park and Springwood Conservation Park.

Rice Road sunken valleys.

Criterion M: Other Ecosystem Values

The public submission for Carron Park was considered and included under Criterion J.

Swamp Tea-tree (*Melaleuca irbyana*)

No additional patches of *Melaleuca irbyana* communities were identified. Logan City Council will further investigate areas identified in community submissions.

Rainforest (Vine Forest)

Unfortunately the panel were unable to discuss the draft rainforest mapping in detail. It was agreed that any panel members with suggestions or changes to the mapping are to send them to LCC or have a meeting with a Council officer. The panel agreed that rainforest is important and needs to be incorporated into the mapping. Council will be reviewing submissions made by the expert panel and public submissions and conducting further ground truthing before finalising the rainforest mapping.

Angle-Stemmed Myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*)

No submissions regarding *Gossia gonoclada* were received from the community. Some members of the expert panel have volunteered to take part in an offline *Gossia gonoclada* working group aimed at refining and re-mapping *Gossia gonoclada* habitat.