

Policy Details

Directorate:	Growth, Economy and Sustainability
Branch:	Health, Climate and Conservation
Responsible Manager:	Health, Climate and Conservation Manager
Date adopted:	09/12 2020 (minute number 163/2020)
Date for review:	2 years from the date of adoption or date of last review
Legislative basis:	<i>Local Government Act 2009</i>
Related Documents - forms and procedures	Environmental Conservation Partnerships Procedure (DM: 14165341) Environmental Levy Policy (DM: 6057976) Land for Wildlife Agreement template (DM: 7092252) Voluntary Conservation Agreement template (DM: 8473555) Voluntary Restoration Agreement template (DM: 10100480) Voluntary Conservation Covenant template (DM: 8473559) Delegation of Authority – Signing of Documents relating to Council’s Environmental Conservation Partnerships (DM: 8431260)

1. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide an effective and transparent framework for the delivery of environmental conservation partnerships to the community.

Council's Environmental Conservation Partnerships support the protection, maintenance and enhancement of our natural environment, ecological corridors and waterways through a network of focussed community partnerships and targeted private land conservation initiatives.

2. Scope

This policy is applicable to properties within the City of Logan that are involved in the following environmental conservation partnerships:

- (a) Habitat Connections (HC)
- (b) Working Towards Land for Wildlife (WT-LfW)
- (c) Land for Wildlife (LfW)
- (d) Voluntary Restoration Agreement (VRA)
- (e) Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA)
- (f) Voluntary Conservation Agreement - Nature Refuge (VCA-NR)
- (g) Voluntary Conservation Covenant (VCC).

This policy also applies to ratepayers, residents, all councillors, employees and contractors working for Council regardless of whether they are permanent, temporary, full-time, part-time or casual. For the purposes of this policy, the term contractor includes on-hired temporary labour services (agency staff) and sub-contractors.

The Health, Climate and Conservation Manager is responsible for ensuring the policy operates effectively to ensure compliance of contracts and covenants and effective implementation will be monitored by annual program planning and review.

3. Policy Statement

Logan City Council is committed to supporting, engaging and partnering with City of Logan community to:

- (a) protect, manage and enhance the ecological values on their properties;
- (b) deliver best practice biodiversity conservation actions by linking ecological corridors within and throughout the City of Logan;
- (c) establish meaningful, effective, flexible, cost-effective and long-term mutually beneficial conservation networks between environmental conservation partners and Logan City Council;
- (d) increase awareness within the community of the importance of managing private land to protect and enhance its biodiversity;
- (e) complement other plans, policies, programs and initiatives, undertaken by Logan City Council which aim to protect, enhance and manage Logan City's areas of ecological significance; and
- (f) positively recognise the contribution environmental conservation partners have in protecting and enhancing ecological and biodiversity values of the City of Logan.

Logan City Council will provide this support through a range of Environmental Conservation Partnerships.

4. Reporting

Reporting on the successful delivery of Environmental Conservation Partnerships is through the Environmental Levy Annual Report.

5. Definitions

The following definitions apply to this policy and the associated procedure.

TERM	DEFINITION
Agreement (Environmental Conservation Partnership Agreement)	For the purposes of this document is a signed contract, either legally binding or not, between a Landowner and Council concerning the management of a specific area of land for environmental conservation purposes. See also "Environmental Conservation Partnership Agreement".
Biodiversity	The variability among living organisms from all sources, including, <i>inter alia</i> , terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (United Nations Rio Earth Summit, 1992).

TERM	DEFINITION
	For the purpose of this policy, the term biodiversity refers to <u>native</u> biodiversity.
BushCare	A Local Government coordinated program, which facilitates and guides community volunteers to protect, enhance and manage Local Government owned land (generally bushland parks).
Conservation Area	The area within a property (all or part of a parcel of land) which is part of the Environmental Conservation Partnership and is therefore managed by the Environmental Conservation Partner for conservation purposes and subject to the terms of an Environmental Conservation Partnership.
Environmental Conservation Partnerships	The umbrella term which refers to the range of environmental conservation partnerships offered by Council and include; Habitat Connections, Land for Wildlife, Voluntary Restoration Agreements, Voluntary Conservation Agreements and Voluntary Conservation Covenants.
Environmental Conservation Partner	The person/s who own a parcel of land that is subject to an Environmental Conservation Partnership within the boundaries of the City of Logan or the person/s who are charged with the management (by the owner's discretion) of a parcel of land within the boundaries of the City of Logan.
Environmental Conservation Partnership Agreement	A voluntary, written partnership (agreement) made between an Environmental Conservation Partner and Council covering all or part of a parcel of land which can be either legally binding or non-legally binding in which the Environmental Conservation Partner agrees to manage the land which is covered by the agreement to protect and enhance biodiversity and achieve mutually beneficial conservation goals.
Ecological Corridor	As mapped in the Logan Planning Scheme 2015.
Ecological Significance	The ranking (very high, high or medium) of properties within the City of Logan according to the Ecological Significance Map.

TERM	DEFINITION
Ecological Significance Map	A biodiversity assessment tool, which identifies properties within the City of Logan of very high, high and medium ecological significance. This map guides decisions made regarding the acceptance of a property for an Environmental Conservation Partnership.
Environmental Values	<p>A list of natural/ecological features including, but not restricted to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any native vegetation identified under the State Government Regional Ecosystem mapping or Council mapping; • Any native flora or fauna; • Any habitat or potential habitat; • Any natural soil, geology or landform; • Any water, wetland, river, creek (running or not), billabong, lake, soil or groundwater, and including man-made structures that are significantly utilised by native fauna; • Any natural process. <p>Environmental Values for an individual Conservation Area are defined in the specific Agreement for that area.</p>
Habitat Connections (HC)	A voluntary non-legally binding Environmental Conservation Partnership aimed at educating and supporting residents to establish environmentally friendly backyards and to enhance wildlife habitat and movement on their property.
Incentive Package	A package given to Environmental Conservation Partners in recognition of their contribution to Logan City's biodiversity protection, enhancement and management. Packages consist of a mix of incentives depending on the type of Environmental Conservation Partnership.
Land for Wildlife (LfW)	A voluntary non-legally binding Environmental Conservation Partnership (which covers all or part of a parcel of land) in which the Environmental Conservation Partner agrees to manage the Conservation Area to protect and enhance its biodiversity. Should the property change ownership, the new owner may be offered the option of entering into a new agreement, at the discretion of Council.
Landowner	<p>The person(s) or entity listed as registered owner on the title of a parcel of land in the City of Logan.</p> <p>Only the Landowner may sign an Environmental Conservation Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>A Landowner may nominate another person to manage the Agreement on their behalf.</p>
Nature Refuge	The Nature Refuge Program is a state administered conservation program, where landholders dedicate all or part of their property as a Nature Refuge. Nature Refuges are legally binding and properties are registered under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> .

TERM	DEFINITION
Retained Habitat	An area on a property which is (or close to) its natural or remnant state. <i>See also LFW Queensland Guidelines definition of Retained Habitat.</i>
Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA)	A legally binding Environmental Partnership covering all or part of a parcel of land in which the Environmental Conservation Partner commits to manage the Conservation Area to protect and enhance its biodiversity. The agreement is entered into for a pre-determined period, ranging from 5-20 years. Voluntary Conservation Agreements act as a property specific action plan which outlines conservation objectives. A Voluntary Conservation Agreement also acts as a supplementary agreement for Voluntary Conservation Covenants and Nature Refuges to access funding and incentives through commitment to agreed actions.
Voluntary Conservation Covenant (VCC)	A legally binding Environmental Conservation Partnership registered against the title of a property under the <i>Land Title Act 1994</i> or the <i>Land Act 1994</i> covering all or part of a parcel of land in which the Environmental Conservation Partner commits to manage the land which is covered by the covenant (the Conservation Area) to protect and enhance its biodiversity. A VCC requires a VCA to act as a property specific action plan to access funding and incentives under the ECP.
Voluntary Restoration Agreement (VRA)	A legally binding Environmental Conservation Partnership covering all or part of a parcel of land in which the Environmental Conservation Partner commits to restore native vegetation within the Conservation Area to protect and enhance its biodiversity. The agreement is entered into for a pre-determined period, ranging from 5-10 years. Voluntary Restoration Agreements act as a property specific action plan which outlines restoration and conservation objectives.
Waterway	As mapped in the Logan Planning Scheme 2015.
Waterway Buffer	As mapped in the Logan Planning Scheme 2015.

Document Control

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Amendment History

Version Number	Description of Change	Author / Branch	Date
1.0	Original version	Corporate Governance	9 December 2020