Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable Celebrating our living city
Message from the Lord Mayor

As Lord Mayor of this unique city, I am dedicated to making Brisbane the cleanest, greenest, most sustainable city in Australia.

We have a lot of which to be proud, with our clean air, the richest biodiversity of any city in Australia, 35% natural habitat cover – on track for our target of 40% by 2031 – and generous green spaces for our community to enjoy with almost 2100 parks across the city, with more created all the time. Our commitment to sustainability has twice earned us the accolade of Australia’s Most Sustainable City.

Demonstrating leadership in sustainability throughout our own operations, Council has achieved full carbon neutral status, making it Australia’s largest 100% carbon neutral organisation. In 2012 Council completed Australia’s largest tree planting project – planting two million trees across the city. We now boast more than 9500 hectares of natural areas, preserving our precious bushland for our children, and their children to follow.

I want to put environmental sustainability and climate resilience at the heart of all we do and remain committed to rolling out the most ambitious environmental agenda in our city’s history. Together we can work to make Brisbane the most liveable city in the world.

Graham Quirk
Lord Mayor
Celebrating our living city

Brisbane is on its way to becoming a global leader in sustainability.

Decades of hard work and commitment have earned Brisbane the reputation as one of the world's most liveable and healthy cities, with Keep Australia Beautiful naming it Australia's Most Sustainable City in 2014 and 2016.

Brisbane is a city that lives and breathes its dedication to a clean and green lifestyle. Council is inspiring residents and businesses to effect global change through local action. Active and engaged community groups supported by an army of volunteers are working tirelessly to restore and preserve the natural world. As leader and collaborator, Brisbane is shaping regional and national agendas to achieve internationally recognised outcomes.

This summary of Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031 celebrates these achievements and sets out our goals to keep Brisbane at the leading edge of city sustainability.
Working for the greener good

As Australia’s largest carbon neutral organisation, Brisbane City Council leads by example. Council is the nation’s largest local government authority by far, giving it the power to effect change not only in Brisbane but across the region, state and nation. Council is recognised as a leader in many aspects of sustainable governance from air quality management to total water cycle management.

Council invests in renewable energy, builds and leases green buildings, recycles everything from office paper to old bus tyres, trials innovations and explores new technologies, invests in green transport and infrastructure, educates the community and advocates for legislative reform and government funding. Council has been a driving force in conservation across the region and state for more than 25 years, working as a partner with the community, government, business and industry.

Clean Air

1st Australian capital city to release Clean Air Strategy 1996

85% improvement in Council bus particle emissions since 2000

Low Carbon

Brisbane City Council is Australia’s largest carbon neutral organisation

Over 30% reduction in household carbon emissions from 2005-2013

One of Australia’s top three clean air cities

30% decrease in nitrogen dioxide levels and a 20% increase in ‘good’ air quality days over 20 years
Embracing a green change, every day

Small, everyday decisions by households are having a big impact on the city’s sustainability. People are living smarter, using energy wisely, littering less and reducing their carbon footprint by swapping the car for public transport, cycling and walking. Residents have become enduring water savers, keeping daily water use to just 169 litres since the Millennium Drought broke in 2009, the lowest level of any Australian capital city.

Household recycling is increasing and landfill waste from homes is diminishing. More and more green waste is being turned into mulch and compost. Waste is taking its place as a valuable, recoverable resource. Environmental sustainability is also being explored and celebrated through art and creativity, learning centres, education programs, community events and festivals.

Waste and Resource Recovery

- 13% in domestic waste to landfill per person since 2008
- 50% less rubbish on city streets since 2009
- over 40% less green waste in domestic bins since green waste bins were introduced in 2010

WaterSmart City

South East Queensland partnership approach to protecting waterways

- Brisbane City Plan 2014
- protecting 4000 km of local waterway corridors
- World leading 2011 flood response

Lasting community behaviour change

- 2001-2011 drought
- Redesigned and established flood-resilient infrastructure
Outdoor living in a subtropical city

Bathed in year-round sunlight, Brisbane is the envy of the world with our subtropical lifestyle. The natural world underpins the city’s liveability and the outdoor lifestyle so loved by residents and visitors. It also makes us globally competitive, helping to attract new businesses and the talented people we need to help the city grow, and contributes greatly to the economy through tourism and recreation.

Brisbane is privileged to be Australia’s most biodiverse capital city. Council protects significant vegetation and critical biodiversity areas through local laws and planning schemes. Residents have funded the purchase of vital bushland through rates contributions for more than 26 years and many thousands of volunteers and hundreds of private landholders are involved in biodiversity conservation. People of all ages are active in citizen-science programs, using new technology to increase understanding and protection of ecosystems.

Biodiversity

2500+ plant and animal species
Australia’s most biodiverse capital city with one of the nation’s most significant koala populations

3600 ha+ bushland purchased through Bushland Preservation Levy since 1990

35% natural habitat coverage, on track for 40% coverage by 2031

5000+ community volunteers protecting 870 waterway and bushland sites across 3000 ha

Parks

2050+ parks covering 15,000 hectares

85% of residents rate Brisbane parks highly

41 community gardens and city farms growing local food

10 million visitors to South Bank each year

1226 playgrounds including 41 all abilities playgrounds

Urban Forest

575,000+ street trees shade our city

50,000+ street trees planted along residential footpaths since 2006

Australia’s longest-running free plants program

40+ years

600,000+ plants
Growing a resilient, sustainable city

Council is planning for, and enabling, sustainable growth that has world-class public transport and community infrastructure. New development is concentrated into areas where it makes sense to grow, such as the inner city and around bus and train stations, in order to preserve our green spaces, quiet suburbs and the city’s important historic ‘timber and tin’ homes.

Lush street scaping is turning busy city streets into shady subtropical boulevards, a web of green links is connecting schools, shops, parks and homes, and the city heart is becoming a place for people. Council is making public infrastructure more water smart, flood-resilient and adaptable to a changing climate.

Brisbane leads all Australian cities in Green Star ratings and Council is continuing its drive for more attractive, sustainable buildings that embrace the subtropical climate and showcase our city’s outdoor lifestyle.

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Green Transport

- **100% air-conditioned, wheelchair-accessible buses**
- **1.8 million inner city public bike trips through CityCycle since 2010**
- **149 primary schools and 93,000 students participated in the Active School Travel program, with some schools reducing car trips by 35%**
- **Bus trips growing four times the rate of population growth with a 59% increase in bus patronage since 2002 to 76 million journeys annually**
- **$220 million invested by Council in bikeways since 2008**

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Sustainable CityShape

- **Brisbane City Plan 2014 enabling a sustainable CityShape**
- **400,000+ residents engaged**
- **76 Neighbourhood Plans guiding local development**
- **More Green Star-rated buildings than any Australian city, 30% inner city buildings Green Star-certified**
- **Brisbane City Hall achieved Australia’s first Green Star rating for a heritage-listed public building**
Sustainability is critical to growing a New World City. It is about ensuring the liveability of our city, now and into the future.

As the capital city of Australia’s fastest-growing region, Brisbane must get smarter in managing its finite resources, space and waste. We must also look to sustainable systems to help us stay resilient and adaptable when faced with the sudden shocks of floods, drought and other adverse natural events.

Being Australia’s most sustainable city requires commitment and investment. Council is proud of the city’s achievements and is ambitious in its resolve to play a leading role in transitioning Australia to a cleaner and greener society.

"Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031" sets out Council’s plan to build on these great achievements with measurable targets and priority actions to help Brisbane on its path to becoming a global leader in sustainability.

**Towards the future**

**Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable Goals**

- **Low Carbon**
  Brisbane City Council is recognised as a leader in reducing carbon.

- **Clean Air**
  Brisbane will consistently have clean, healthy air.

- **Waste and Resource Recovery**
  Brisbane will reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

- **Green Transport**
  More trips will be made by public and active transport, helping to reduce congestion, fossil fuel consumption and emissions.

- **WaterSmart City**
  Brisbane is a resilient, water smart city that uses water sustainably and protects its waterways.

- **Sustainable CityShape**
  Brisbane embraces development that enhances our subtropical lifestyle.

- **Urban Forest**
  Brisbane will value, nurture and protect its urban forest.

- **Parks**
  Brisbane parks are diverse and accessible.

- **Biodiversity**
  Brisbane will grow and connect its natural areas to protect its rich biodiversity.
