Biodiversity Code

1 Application

This Code will apply in assessing a material change of use and/or building work and/or reconfiguring a lot, where the proposed development site, or a significant natural ecological feature or process that the site supports, is within or adjacent to:

- a Heritage Place site listed in Table 2—Heritage Places of Natural Heritage Significance in the Heritage Register Planning Scheme Policy

OR

- a site or valuable ecological feature in Schedules 1 or 2 of the Natural Assets Planning Scheme Policy

OR

- a site identified as having biodiversity value on the Strategic Plan Green Space System Values —Map B

OR

- a site in the area subject to State Planning Policy 1/97 Conservation of Koalas in the Koala Coast

OR

- a site containing a Wetland or Waterway or within a Waterway Corridor

OR

- a site in the Emerging Community, Future Industry, Conservation, Environmental Protection, Rural or Parkland Areas affected by Vegetation Protection Order.

2 Using this Code

In using this Code reference should also be made to Section 1.1—How to use the Codes, at the front of this Chapter.

This Code is only ever called up as a ‘secondary’ Code by some other Code. This Code is to be read as part of that other Code.

In assessing proposals the following Codes are also likely to be used:

- Heritage Place
- Stormwater Management
- Wetland
- Waterway.

The following Planning Scheme Policies should also be consulted where relevant:

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Heritage Register
- Management of Urban Stormwater Quality
- Natural Assets.

Glossary

Ecological corridor: an area of land and/or water, including areas above and below ground, which functions to:

- allow wildlife movement between habitat areas
- provide wildlife refuges and habitat
- provide habitat connectivity
- support the maintenance of biodiversity
- support the maintenance of ecological processes

Ecological features: ecological features include those areas, features, species, communities and processes as contained in Schedules 1 to 5 of the Natural Assets Planning Scheme Policy

Ecological processes: the interactions between components of an ecosystem, including plants, animals, soil, water and air, e.g. predation and competition, and physico/chemical processes including hydrological, erosional, depositional, and fire regime processes

Edge effects: adverse effects on the biodiversity values and ecological processes of habitat areas, caused by incompatible adjacent land uses/activities, e.g. invasive garden weeds, dogs and cats preying on native wildlife, stormwater run–off, rubbish dumping, light, noise and vandalism

Habitat area: the terrestrial and/or aquatic environment where an organism or group of organisms live through time, including growing, feeding, nesting or roosting

Riparian zone: the land area immediately adjacent to a waterway, which directly influences waterway form and function

Significant Flora Species, Significant Fauna Species, Significant Vegetation Communities: selected species and communities of special ecological significance, as contained in Schedules 3, 4 and 5 of the Natural Assets Planning Scheme Policy

Vegetation: any vegetable growth and material of vegetable origin, whether living or dead, including trunks, branches, stems, leaves, fruits and flowers
3 Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to:

- ensure that the ecological features and processes that underpin the biological, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the City are protected and managed to ensure their long term viability.

4 Performance Criteria and Acceptable Solutions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Acceptable Solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1 Ecological features and processes on or adjacent to the site, including those identified in the Natural Assets Planning Scheme Policy, must be protected, managed and restored, where necessary, to ensure their long term viability.</td>
<td>A1.1 Ecological features and processes likely to be affected by the proposal are identified, evaluated and protected. Local knowledge is accessed where available.</td>
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<td>Note: Brisbane City Council Ecological Assessment Guidelines provides guidance on demonstrating compliance with this part of the Code.</td>
<td>A1.2 Potential impacts, including edge effects, on ecological features and processes are identified, assessed and protected.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1.3 Development layout and planning retains, protects and manages the ecological features and processes identified on or adjacent to the site, such as fauna and flora habitat areas, ecological corridors, habitat trees, waterways (in-stream habitats), riparian zones and wetlands.</td>
<td>A1.4 Disturbed significant habitat areas are rehabilitated through revegetation and restoration that assists in maintaining and improving biodiversity values. A rehabilitation plan is prepared and implemented generally consistent with the format and principles contained in the Brisbane City Council Ecological Assessment Guidelines.</td>
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<td>A1.5 The proposal meets the management intent for any Significant Flora Species, Significant Fauna Species or Significant Vegetation Communities, as defined in the Natural Assets Planning Scheme Policy, or in any existing Council Conservation Action Statements, Natural Area Management Plans or other relevant conservation or management plans.</td>
<td>A2 The design and management of ecological corridors is consistent with the principles contained in the Brisbane City Council Ecological Assessment Guidelines.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

P2 Ecological corridors within or adjacent to the site must be identified and retained to create, maintain and/or improve connectivity between habitat areas and to allow wildlife movement between habitat areas.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Acceptable Solutions</th>
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| **P3** The management of fire must maintain and/or enhance biodiversity | **A3.1** Clearing for fire management does not occur outside Building Location Plans, accessways and areas required for essential infrastructure and services  
OR  
**A3.2** Where clearing is proposed outside of areas described in A3.1, a Fire Management Plan demonstrating the protection of biodiversity is provided. The Plan is consistent with the principles contained in the Brisbane City Council Fire Management Guidelines and Ecological Assessment Guidelines |
| **P4** The design and management of the proposal must ensure that significant biodiversity areas will be provided with ongoing protection | **A4.1** Areas supporting significant ecological features and/or processes are transferred to community ownership or control, e.g. Council, community group trusteeship, or community title  
OR  
**A4.2** Areas supporting significant ecological features and/or processes are included in the Conservation Area or included under a protective covenant |
| **Waterways and wetlands** | **A5** Impacts on the surface and ground water flow patterns of the subject waterway or wetland are minimised  
*Note: information used to demonstrate the above is collected and presented in accordance with the principles and procedures of the Stormwater Management Informationent Code and the Environmental Impact Assessment Planning Scheme Policy* |
| **P5** Ecological features and processes associated with waterways and wetlands must not be significantly and adversely impacted by changes in hydrological regimes, including wet/dry regimes | **A6** Ecological assessment information accompanying an application is consistent with the principles and procedures contained or referenced in the Brisbane City Council Ecological Assessment Guidelines, Brisbane City Council Fire Management Guidelines, Natural Assets Planning Scheme Policy, Management of Urban Stormwater Quality Planning Scheme Policy and the Environmental Impact Assessment Planning Scheme Policy |
| **Information** | **P6** Ecological assessment information accompanying applications must be comprehensive, competent and adequate |