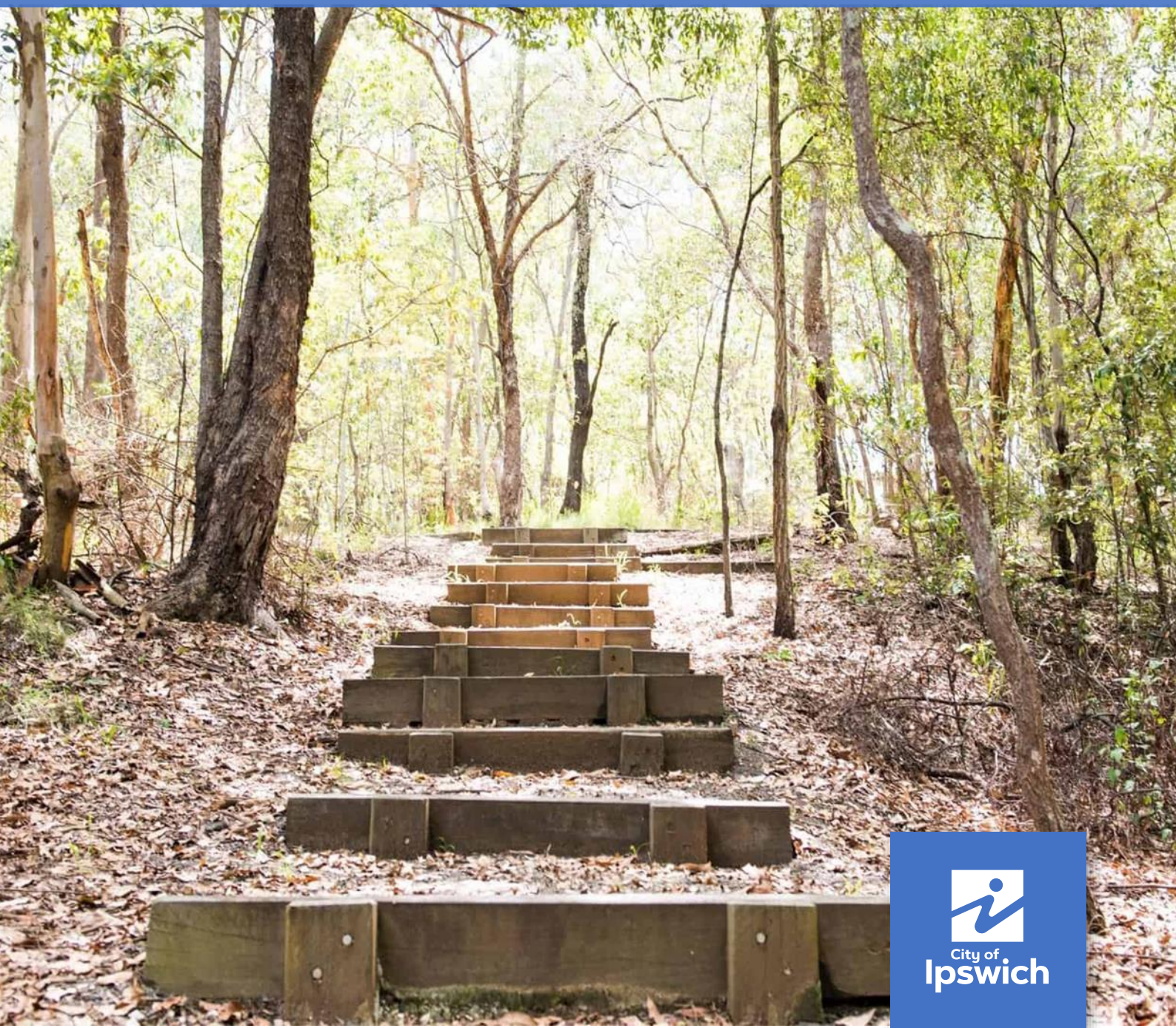
City of Ipswich

Environmental Protection Policy

Community Engagement Report

November 2024



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Disclaimer: Quantitative and qualitative data was collected from participants during the engagement, in accordance with council's Information Privacy Policy. Quantitative data was downloaded from the various digital platforms and/or transcribed into a master Excel database by project staff. The data was cleaned, de-identified, aggregated and charted in the master database. Open thematic analysis of qualitative comments was carried out using Excel. For the purposes of this report, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, which may result in a total not equal to 100%. Please note, some questions allowed respondents to provide multiple responses to questions resulting in varying total number of responses received. Some questions were also optional.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Natural Environment Branch has identified a governance gap in the organisation's environmental management, where existing policies do not clearly define the roles, responsibilities, and organisational position of council concerning environmental protection, nor how these should be integrated into day-to-day project and program delivery, the Environmental Protection Policy aims to address this gap.

Drawing heavily on Queensland and Australian legislation and guidelines, the policy outlines internal working requirements and reflects the organisation's commitment to environmental protection. It aligns with the Sustainability Policy and the Natural Environment Policy, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all environmental and sustainability matters within the council's remit.

This policy formalises the organisation's stance on environmental protection and provides clarity to stakeholders, including the community. It aligns with the iFuture Theme: A Trusted and Leading Organisation.

The engagement was aimed at gathering community feedback regarding the proposed Environmental Protection Policy to assess community sentiment, collect insights into perceptions, gauge support or opposition, and identify key concerns or suggestions for improving the policy.

The consultation was conducted between 21 October 2024 and 7 November 2024, utilising the Shape Your Ipswich platform for community contributions as well as providing the option for feedback to be received via phone and email. Promotion of the engagement involved two targeted email campaigns sent to Shape Your Ipswich members with interests in various categories related to the environment.

The themes and insights identified in this report will help inform the decision to adopt the Environmental Protection Policy formally.

WHY WE ENGAGED

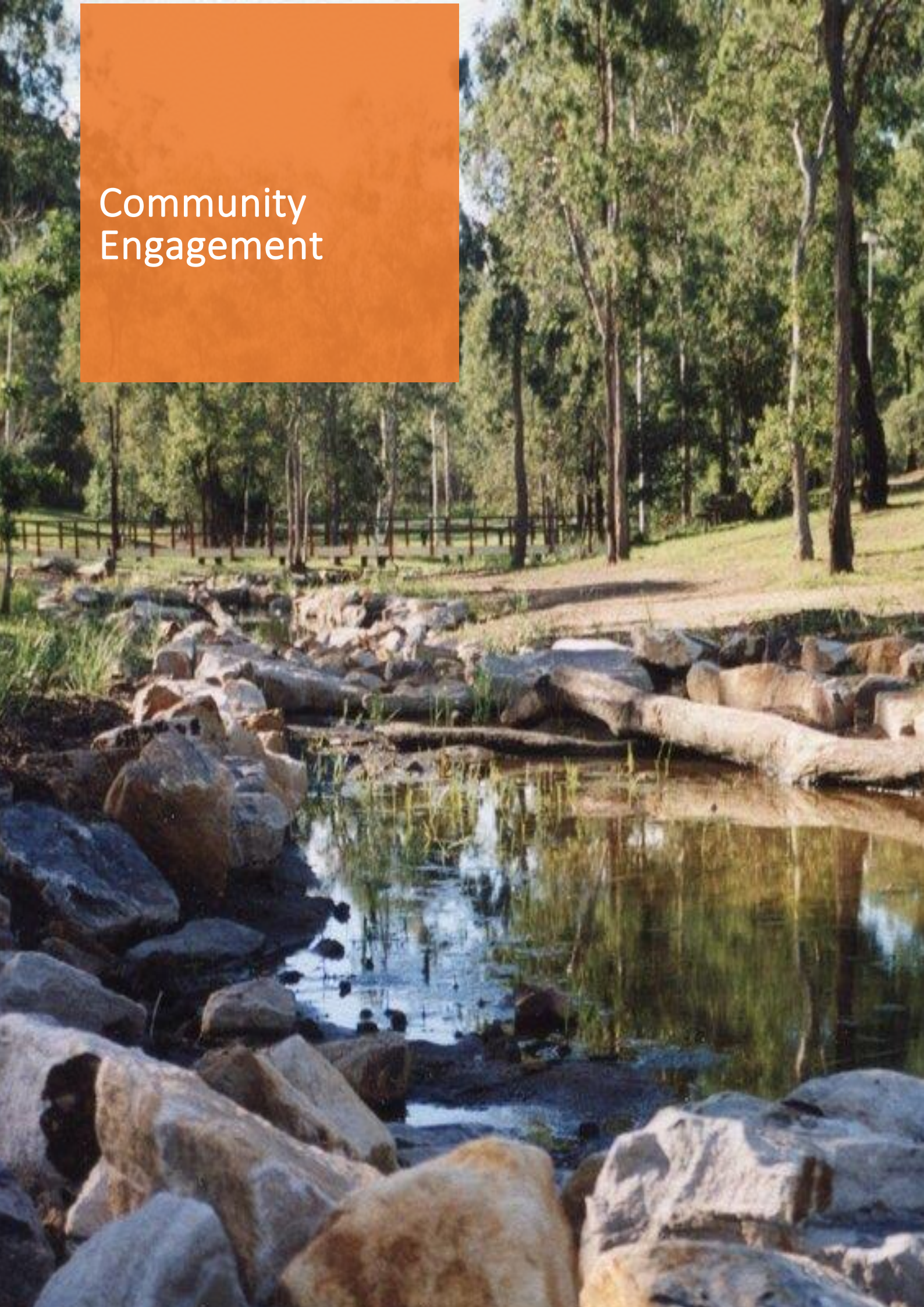
Engagement with the community was undertaken to:

• Gather feedback and assess community sentiment on the proposed Environmental Protection Policy.

• Collect meaningful insights into the community's perceptions, understand the level of support or opposition, and identify key concerns or suggestions for policy improvement.

• Demonstrate that community voices are valued in shaping the final policy by gathering diverse perspectives.

Community Engagement



HOW WE ENGAGED

The consultation was undertaken between 21 October 2024 and 7 November 2024. The community was able to contribute their feedback online via Shape Your Ipswich, phone or email. To maximise engagement for the project, the following communication channels were used to reach the community and trigger awareness.

Shape Your Ipswich

Two email campaigns were sent out during the engagement period to promote the engagement to Shape Your Ipswich members who had selected any of the following categories of interest:

- Animals
- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- City Design and Planning
- Disaster Management
- Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change
- Governance
- Indigenous
- Parks and Recreation
- Waste/Resource Recovery

The first email was sent on 21 October 2024. This campaign was sent to a total of 1,095 members, of which 578 opened the email.

The second email was sent on 4 November 2024. This campaign was sent to a total of 1,068 members, of which 499 opened the email.

Total contributors

Overall, the engagement resulted in 199 visitors to the Shape Your Ipswich page and 22 contributors during the engagement as outlined in the table below.

Engagement Channels	Contributors[1]
Shape Your Ipswich	19
Email	3
Phone	0
Total	**22**

[1] Unique respondents who contributed to the community engagement

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

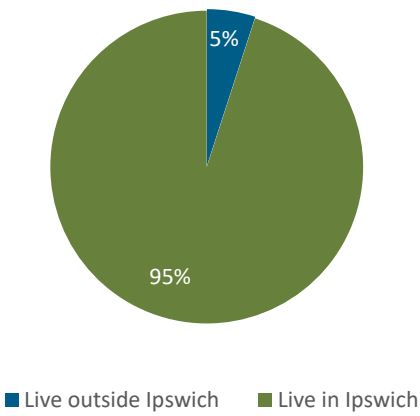
Shape Your Ipswich

Comments were captured via one engagement tool on the project page, Environmental Protection Policy (https://www.shapeyouripswich.com.au/environmental-protection-policy), hosted on Shape Your Ipswich. Survey questions can be seen in Appendix 1.

Relationship to Ipswich and the Environmental Protection Policy

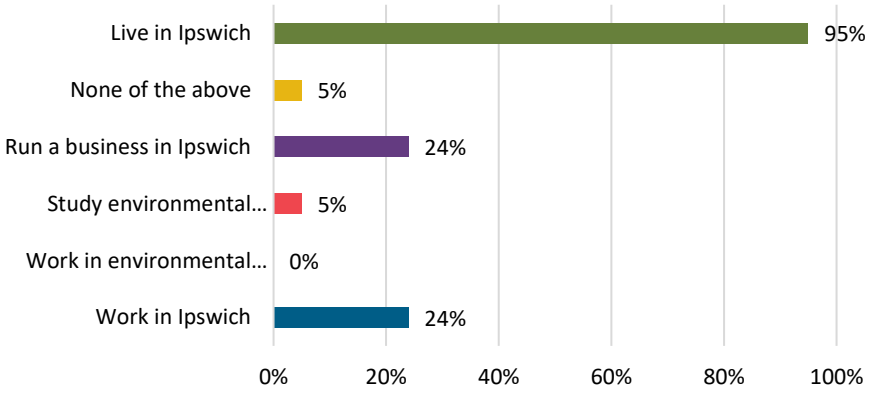
Respondents were asked via multiple choice to share information on their relationship to the City of Ipswich and their interest in the Environmental Protection Policy. 95% of survey respondents shared "In their everyday life they live in Ipswich", the remaining 5% live outside of Ipswich.

Q1: Please complete the following sentence: 'In my everyday life I...' *(Multiple choice)*



Equal proportions of respondents either work in Ipswich (24%) or run a business in Ipswich (24%). Additionally, 5% indicated that they study environmental management, compliance, or related fields. Another 5% do not live, work, or run a business in Ipswich, nor do they study or work in environmental management or compliance areas. Notably, none of the Shape Your Ipswich survey respondents reported working in environmental management or compliance fields.

Q1: Please complete the following sentence: 'In my everyday life I...'? *(Multiple choice)*



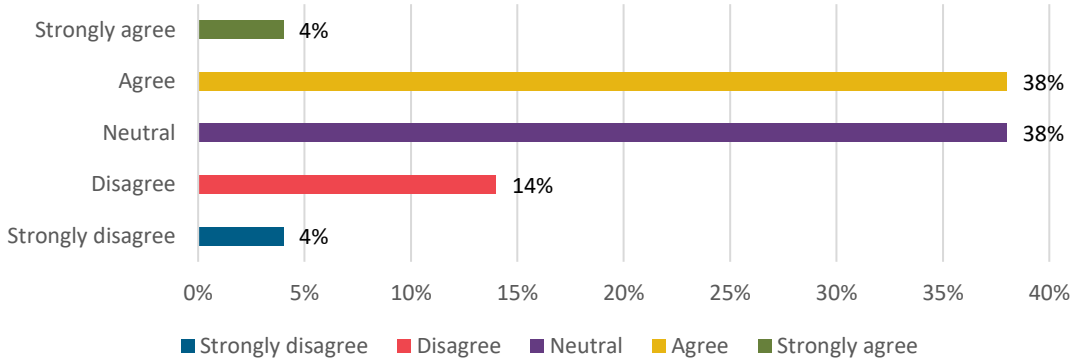
Community support for the policy

Survey respondents were asked three sub-questions within the second question. Responses were measured on a sliding scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree."

Q2.1: To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the Environmental Protection Policy?: "The policy clearly outlines council's strong commitment to Environmental Protection."

Responses indicate mixed views on if the policy clearly outlines council's strong commitment to environmental protection, with 42% strongly agreeing or agreeing, 18% strongly disagreeing or disagreeing, and 38% remaining neutral.

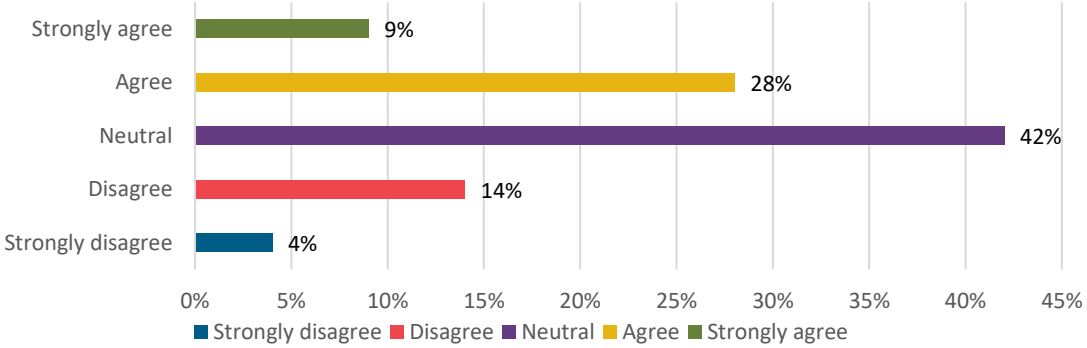
Q2.1: The policy clearly outlines council's strong commitment to Environmental Protection.



Q2.2: To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the Environmental Protection Policy?: " I believe the policy will help council manage environmental impacts of its operations, activities, products and services."

37% either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, "I believe the policy will help the council manage the environmental impacts of its operations, activities, products, and services." However, 18% strongly disagreed or disagreed with this statement, while 42% remained neutral.

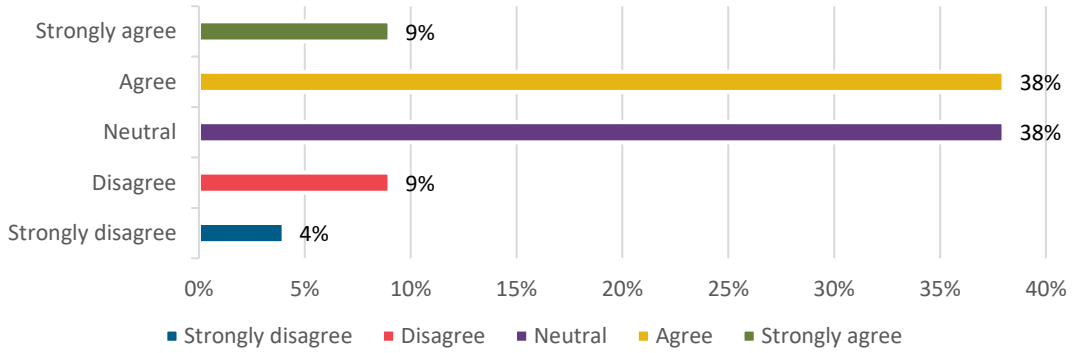
Q2.2: I believe the policy will help council manage environmental impacts of its operations, activities, products and services.



Q2.3: To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the Environmental Protection Policy?: "I support council's Environmental Protection Policy."

Community responses to the statement "I support council's Environmental Protection Policy" were as follows: 47% strongly agreed or agreed, 13% strongly disagreed or disagreed, and 38% remained neutral.

Q2.3: I support council's Environmental Protection Policy.



Q2.3: Do you have any other thoughts around the statement, purpose or principles of the Environmental Protection Policy?

A free-text option was used to collect feedback on the Environmental Protection Policy, revealing general support but also concerns about its implementation, enforcement, and specific focus areas. Most respondents (95%) identified as Ipswich residents, with 47% expressing support for the policy, 38% remaining neutral, and 13% opposing it.

Key concerns highlighted the policy's application, particularly in areas such as Ripley and Walloon-Rosewood, where environmental damage from development is prominent. Respondents called for clearer accountability and stricter enforcement measures. Many also emphasised the need for stronger actions to protect local waterways, which are perceived as polluted, and suggested improved maintenance to address issues such as flooding, pollution, and the spread of noxious weeds.

Notable Respondent Comments:

"*The council needs to work towards complying with Section 23 and Section 48 of the Biosecurity Act 2014. The council has not performed its Section 48 'main function' under the Act for several years."*

"*I would love less uncontrolled developments (stage 7 citipswich) and more protected corridors for our wildlife."*

"*I think the plan should be stronger around the waterways. While they look good, they are not necessarily healthy, and could be better."*

"*I think it is important to continue on the path of protecting the environment in all possible forms."*

Email

The community was able to directly reach out to council via council@ipswich.qld.gov.au with feedback on this project. In total, 3 contributions were received via email. The following contributions were shared.

- Strong support for balancing housing needs with environmental considerations, especially given Ipswich's projected population growth and housing requirements by 20462.
  Concerns about overly stringent environmental regulations potentially limiting housing development or creating uncertainty for investors in residentially zoned areas.
- Emphasis on ensuring the policy aligns with existing legislation, such as the Planning Act 20163, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 19994, and the Vegetation Management Act 19995.
  Recommendations to integrate the policy with the State's ShapingSEQ targets, which set urban and environmental area guidelines.
- Calls for ecological corridors and other environmental initiatives to be explicitly integrated into planning schemes rather than relying on site-specific actions.
  Suggestions for a coordinated, long-term approach to environmental protection to minimise conflicts.

Notable Respondent Comments:

"*Please bring in some serious consequences for developers who do not have a green footprint. Gone are the days when brick and tile on a concrete slab with a lawn apron is acceptable."*

"*The draft Environment Protection Policy should recognise the scope of environment protection areas is set for the planning scheme by the State's ShapingSEQ."*

"Future residential developments should take a look at Ningi... built around existing wetlands and bushland with walking tracks for the residents to fully enjoy the surrounding nature."

Phone

The community was able to directly reach out to council via 07 3810 6666 with feedback on this project. No contributions were received through this channel in relation to this project's engagement.

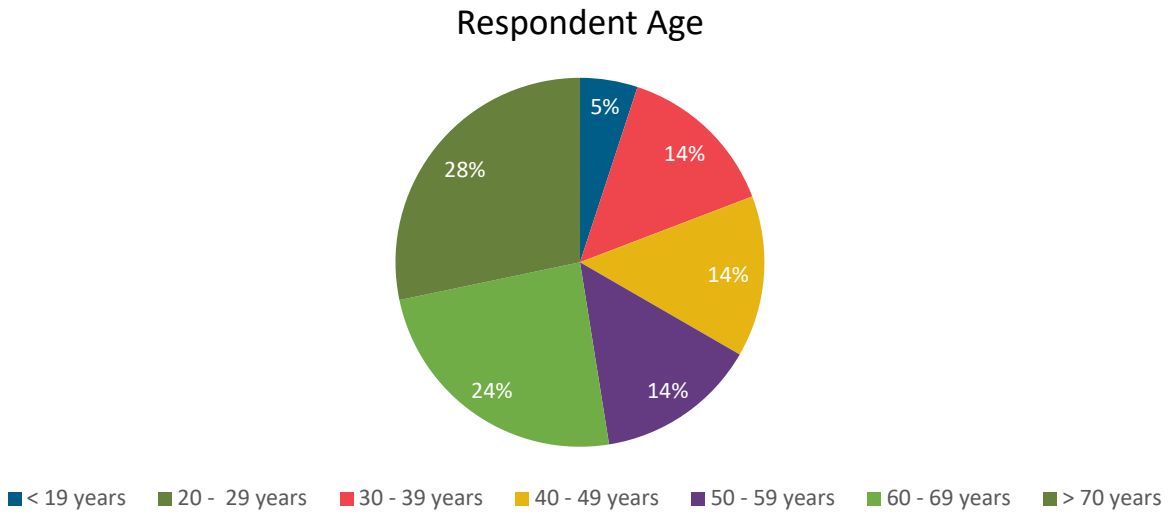
[2] Planning in Ipswich : Ipswich City Council
[3] View - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government
[4] Federal Register of Legislation - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
[5] Vegetation Management Act 1999

WHO ENGAGED

Where reasonable, demographic data was captured as part of engagement activities to understand the diversity of respondents. Please note, responses collected via email did not collect information about the respondent's ages.

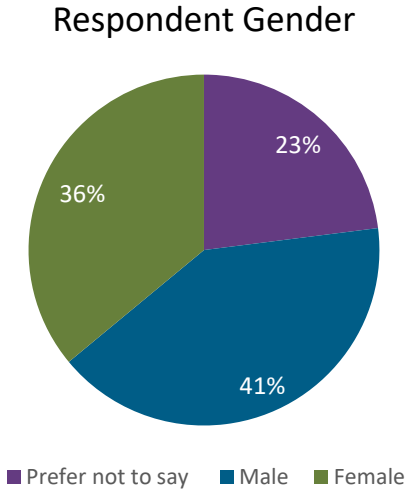
Age

Survey results showed that 14% of respondents were aged 30–39 years, 40–49 years, and 50–59 years. Only 5% of respondents were under 19 years old. The largest groups were people aged 60–69 years (24%) and over 70 years (28%). There were no responses from people aged 20–29 years.



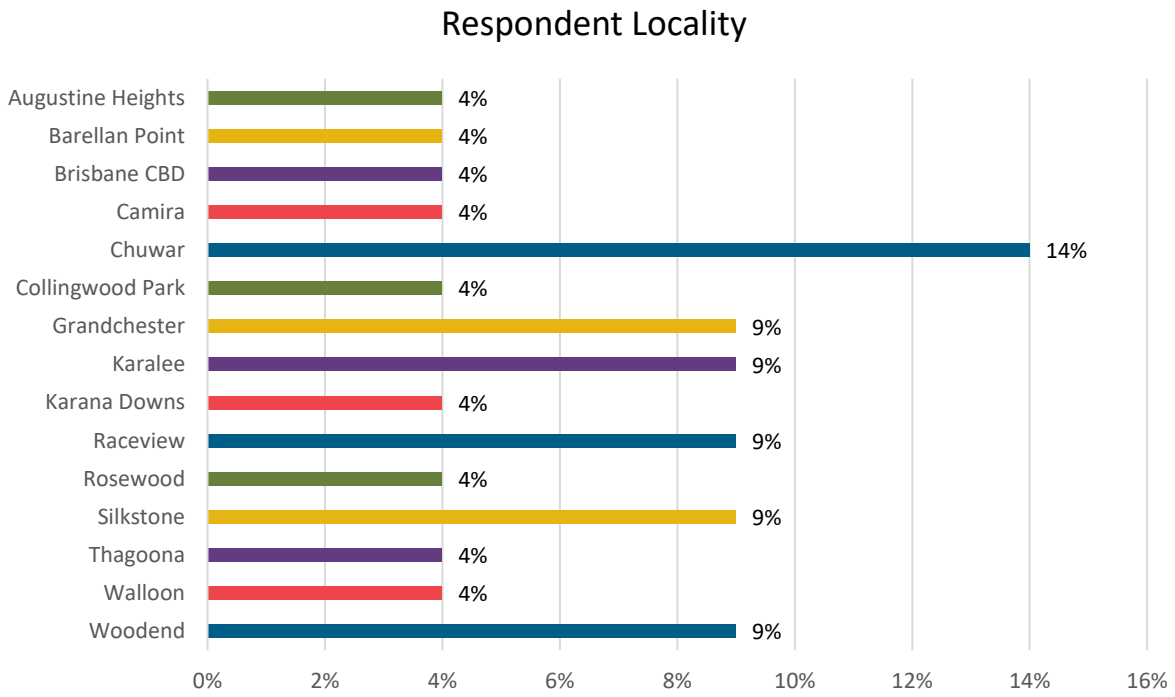
Gender

Respondents identified as 41% males , 36% females, while 23% of respondents chose not to disclose their gender.

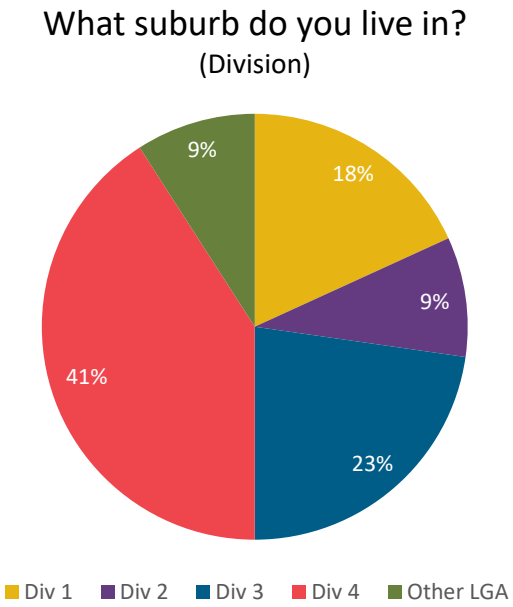


Locality

Chuwar had the highest number of survey responses with 14%. Additionally, 9% of respondents are located in Woodend. Grandchester, Karalee, Raceview and Silkstone each recorded 9%, with all remaining locations recording 4% of the responses.

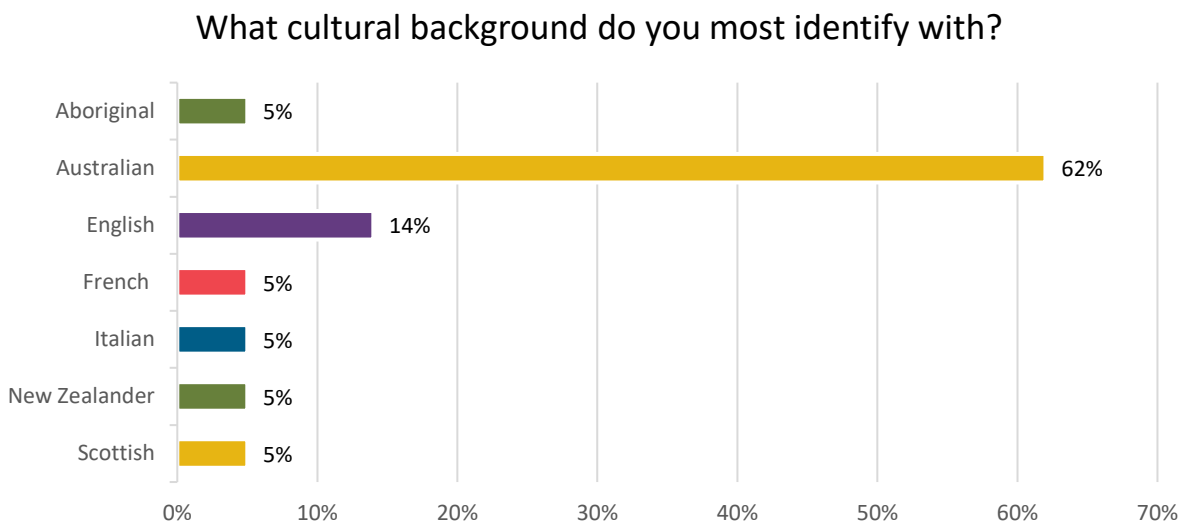


41% of survey respondents reside in Division 4. Divisions 1 and 3 each received a similar percentage of responses, with 19% and 24%, respectively, while Division 2 collected 19%. 9% of respondents are located outside the local government area (LGA).



Cultural Background

62% of survey respondents indicated that the cultural background they identify with most is Australian. 14% identified as English, while the remaining backgrounds represented were Aboriginal, French, Italian, New Zealand, and Scottish, of which each comprised 5%.



FINDINGS

Findings as outlined in this report are to be shared publicly via Shape Your Ipswich, along with relevant project updates to show how the community's feedback has shaped this project.

- **Support for the policy:**
  While there is general support for the Environmental Protection Policy (47% in favour), many respondents expressed concerns about its implementation and enforcement. There is uncertainty about whether the policy will be effectively applied or investigated, especially in areas like Ripley, where development has led to environmental harm. Calls for clearer action plans and stronger enforcement were common.

- **Balancing housing growth and environmental protection:**
  A major concern is balancing the region's housing needs with environmental protection. Ipswich is expected to grow by 246,700 people by 2046, requiring 89,800 new dwellings[6] . Respondents emphasised that the policy must align with the Planning Act 2016[7] to avoid hindering housing development, as overly stringent environmental regulations could limit housing supply and investor confidence.

- **Need for clearer integration with state legislation:**
  Respondents called for greater clarity on how the policy aligns with the Planning Act 2016[8] and other state laws. The policy should reflect the need for a balance between environmental concerns and housing delivery to prevent potential conflicts between planning and environmental protection.

- **Concerns over current developments:**
  There were concerns about the environmental impact of existing developments, particularly in Ripley, where poor drainage, small blocks, and the lack of green corridors were highlighted. In contrast, the integration of green spaces and habitat preservation in developments in other council areas was praised. The need for stronger regulations for developers to incorporate sustainable practices was highlighted.

- **Support for ecological corridors and green spaces**:
  There was strong support for the creation of ecological corridors and green spaces to preserve biodiversity, reduce urban heat, and improve air quality. Respondents also indicated the need for more coordinated long-term strategies for environmental protection, rather than site-specific actions that could cause conflicts.

[6] ShapingSEQ 2023 | Planning
[7] View - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government
[8] View - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government

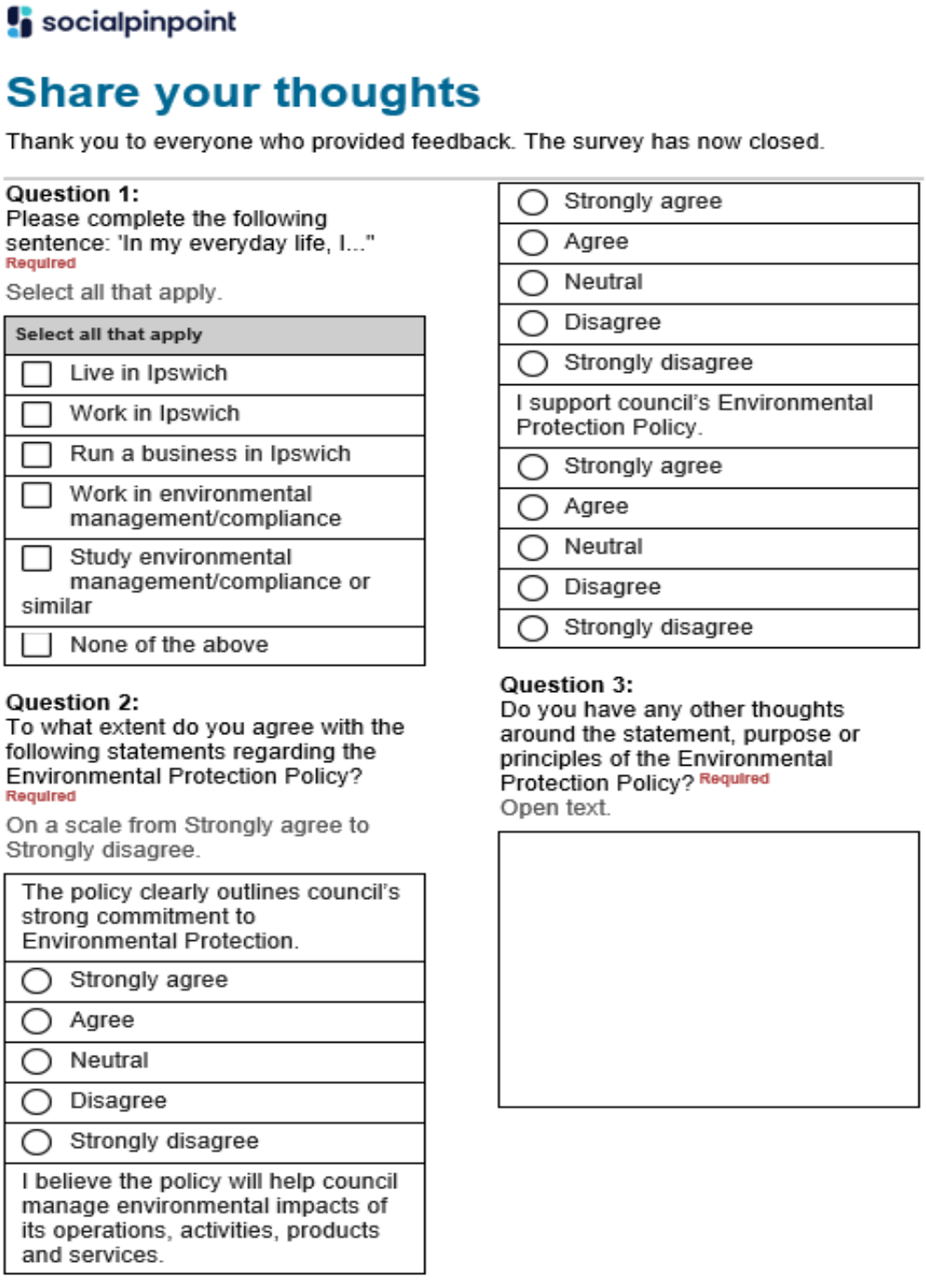
- **Waterway protection and Biosecurity Act 2014 compliance:**
  Many respondents called for better management of local waterways, with stronger actions to prevent pollution and flooding. Additionally, there were concerns over non-compliance with the Biosecurity Act 2014[9], particularly in fulfilling biosecurity obligations, suggesting that the policy should align better with these legal requirements.

- **Community engagement and local connections:**
  The majority of respondents (95%) are Ipswich residents, indicating a strong local connection to environmental issues. Many also expressed a desire for greater community engagement in the policy's development to ensure it reflects local needs and priorities.

[9] Biosecurity Act 2014

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1:
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY | COMMUNITY SURVEY



socialpinpoint

Share your thoughts

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback. The survey has now closed.

Question 1:
Please complete the following sentence: 'In my everyday life, I..."
Required

Select all that apply.

Select all that apply
☐ Live in Ipswich
☐ Work in Ipswich
☐ Run a business in Ipswich
☐ Work in environmental management/compliance
☐ Study environmental management/compliance or similar
☐ None of the above

Question 2:
To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the Environmental Protection Policy?
Required

On a scale from Strongly agree to Strongly disagree.

The policy clearly outlines council's strong commitment to Environmental Protection.
◯ Strongly agree
◯ Agree
◯ Neutral
◯ Disagree
◯ Strongly disagree
I believe the policy will help council manage environmental impacts of its operations, activities, products and services.
◯ Strongly agree
◯ Agree
◯ Neutral
◯ Disagree
◯ Strongly disagree
I support council's Environmental Protection Policy.
◯ Strongly agree
◯ Agree
◯ Neutral
◯ Disagree
◯ Strongly disagree

Question 3:
Do you have any other thoughts around the statement, purpose or principles of the Environmental Protection Policy? Required

Open text.

APPENDIX 2:
NEW PROJECT EMAIL

SHAPE YOUR IPSWICH

City of Ipswich

New project launched on Shape Your Ipswich

Hi {{username}},

A new project has launched on Shape Your Ipswich that matches your interests:

This consultation relates to Animals, Arts, Culture and Heritage, City Design and Planning, Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change, Governance, Indigenous, Parks and recreation, Waste/Resource Recovery, Disaster Management.

Environmental Protection Policy

Council's Environmental Protection Policy aims to enhance internal practices and safeguard the environment. Share your feedback for a sustainable Ipswich.

Learn more about the project www.shapeyouripswich.com.au/environmental-protection-policy

You have received this notification because you have opted to receive notifications when new projects are published that match your interests. Manage your interests and notification preferences in your user profile.

***Sent**: 21/10/2024 02:02 pm*

APPENDIX 3:
CAMPAIGN EMAIL

Share your feedback on the proposed Environmental Protection Policy.

Help Shape Our Environmental Protection Policy

Hello {{Username}},

Council is seeking your support to strengthen its efforts to protect our shared environment. As a Shape Your Ipswich member who has expressed an interest in the subject, we invite you to share your feedback on the development of our Environmental Protection Policy.



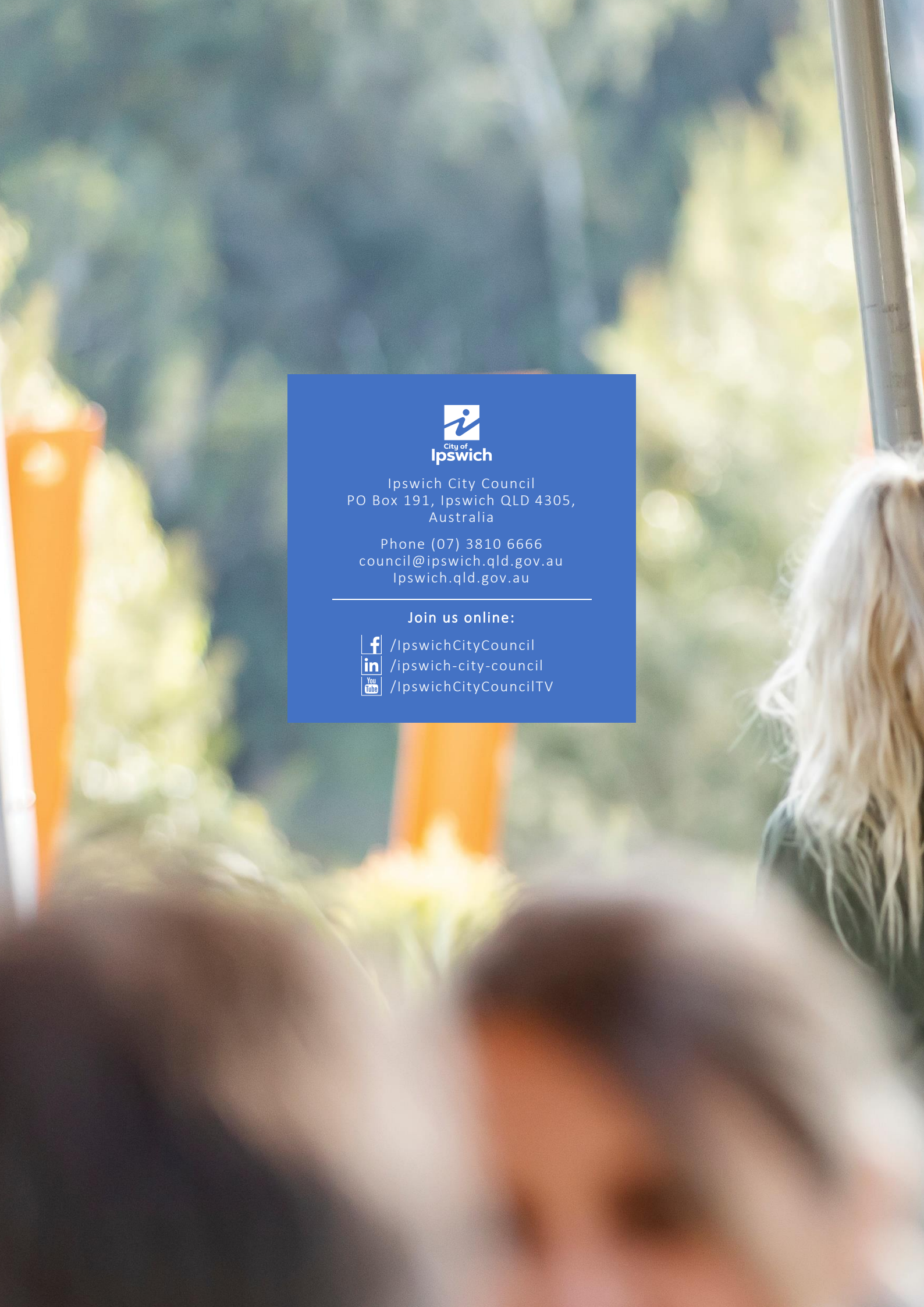
Environmental Protection Policy Have Your Say!

We invite you to take part in our survey, where you can share your thoughts and suggestions on the proposed policy. Your insights will help us shape a framework that reflects our shared commitment to sustainability.

Have your say by **7th November 2024.**

Thank you for being an active part of this journey toward a more sustainable future.
Together, we can ensure that our environmental protection efforts are meaningful and effective.

***Sent**: 04/11/2024 12:18 pm*



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