



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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## Acknowledgement of Country

Brisbane Sustainability Agency acknowledges this Country and its Traditional Custodians. We acknowledge and respect the spiritual relationship between Traditional Custodians and this Country, which has inspired language, songs, dances, lore and Dreaming stories over many thousands of years. We pay our respects to the Elders, those who have passed into the Dreaming; those here today; those of tomorrow.

May we continue to peacefully walk together in gratitude, respect and kindness in caring for this Country and one another.



## Chair's Foreword

As we reflect on the past year, Brisbane Sustainability Agency (BSA) continues to steadfastly drive Brisbane City Council's (Council's) long-term vision for a clean and sustainable Brisbane. Our commitment to enhancing sustainability and liveability within the city remains at the forefront of our work.

With the eyes of the world on Brisbane as the city prepares to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, BSA is uniquely positioned to lead significant environmental and sustainability initiatives.

In 2023-2024 BSA's strategic focus on environmental, social and economic outcomes for the Brisbane region and beyond saw the delivery of a suite of programs, projects and events that support a biodiverse, sustainable and resilient city.

BSA remains dedicated to helping residents rebuild stronger and more resilient communities. Our climate resilience initiatives and expertise were highlighted this year with the successful completion of the Flood Resilient Suburbs Program and the Rebuild and Recover Flood Resilient Communities Program.

The Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative was launched, supporting natural habitat cover and improving the biodiversity of native plants and animals within the city. Alongside BSA's impactful sustainability initiatives such as the Brisbane Carbon Challenge and the

Resilient Clubs Support Program, this year also saw the introduction of the Sustainable Action Training Program, further demonstrating BSAs skill in promoting sustainability for residents, businesses, and the community.

A highlight on the Brisbane sustainability calendar every year is the Green Heart Fair and 2024 was no exception. This year, the team delivered the 16th year of the Fair with over an estimated 18,000 visitors attending the event at Victoria Park.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the Lord Mayor, the Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, my Board colleagues, our CEO and management team, and all staff for their hard work and dedication over the past 12 months. BSA remains committed to achieving significant environmental and sustainability outcomes for Brisbane, playing a crucial role in fostering a clean and sustainable future for our city!



## CEO's Message

On behalf of BSA, we are pleased to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report. This year has been marked by significant partnerships, collaborations, and opportunities that have driven BSA forward.

BSA remains committed to Council's vision of transforming the 20-kilometer Oxley Creek corridor into a premier nature, lifestyle, and leisure destination. The ongoing development of the Archerfield Wetlands Parkland within this corridor is a testament to our dedication, with its anticipated opening to the public in late 2024.

In May 2024, we celebrated the 16th year of Council's Green Heart Fair, this event continues to be Brisbane's most popular sustainability event. BSA also hosted the opening event for the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge on behalf of Council, uniting over 3,000 residents eager to walk, ride, and scoot over the new landmark for our city.

This year marked the successful conclusion of three impactful programs. The Resilient Clubs Support Program assisted 262 clubs in reducing environmental impact and costs. The Flood Resilient Suburbs Program enhanced flood resilience for 455 homes, apartments, and businesses; and the Rebuild and Recover Flood Resilient Communities Program, retrofitted 52 facilities for future flood preparedness.

Our commitment to innovation and growth was highlighted by the launch of two exciting programs: the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative, aiming to revegetate wetland and waterway corridors; and the Sustainable Action Training program, providing tailored sustainability education to empower individuals, and organisations to drive positive change.

BSA was awarded silver certification as a Carbon Literate Organisation, a remarkable accomplishment from the internationally renowned Carbon Literacy Project.

We thank Council and all of our partners for their steadfast support and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in delivering signature environmental, sustainability, and resilience initiatives for Brisbane.

As we reflect on our achievements, we acknowledge the dedication of our employees and partners whose contributions have been instrumental in our success. Together, we will sustain the momentum, delivering natural environment, sustainability, and climate resilience initiatives that ensures Brisbane thrives sustainably in the years ahead.





# Brisbane Sustainability Agency

## Who we are

Brisbane Sustainability Agency (BSA) is a wholly owned subsidiary company of Brisbane City Council (Council). Through an impressive array of sustainability events, environmental programs and projects, BSA is focussed on delivering legacy outcomes for Brisbane. We are committed to contributing to Brisbane's environmental, social and economic well-being and are dedicated to our guiding goals and purpose.

## Our purpose

BSA addresses industry, community and government challenges with on-the-ground outcomes for a biodiverse, sustainable and resilient future.

Three priorities guide our day-to-day work and long-term aspirations.

### Natural Environment

We are committed to creating legacy environmental outcomes that restore degraded ecosystems and create healthy greenspaces and waterways for future generations.

### Sustainability in Action

We are committed to delivering initiatives that demonstrate and enable the benefits of a low emissions and circular society for residents, businesses and the community.

### Climate Resilience

We are committed to contributing to a climate resilient community who can prepare for, live through and recover quickly from extreme weather events with minimal disruption.



Brisbane Sustainability Agency team members at the Green Heart Fair.

## Strategic objectives

We are committed to fulfilling our vision through our strategic objectives. These objectives guide and focus BSA on environmental, social and economic outcomes for the broader community.

### Environmental

- Build deeper community connection and appreciation of nature.
- Conserve and regenerate nature to improve ecosystem services, local biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Inspire responsible resource management and the reduction of pollution and waste.

### Social

- Connect the benefits of environmental and economic prosperity to promote human health and wellbeing.
- Create, enhance and promote places for the community to enjoy nature.
- Deliver events and programs that create community learning and participation opportunities for a safe, sustainable and healthy future.

### Economic

- Attract interest and investment to deliver exemplar projects and services.
- Demonstrate the economic savings and opportunities through environmentally sustainable business and living.
- Channel economic investment to environmental outcomes that align with our priorities.





## A sustainable agency for a sustainable city

Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do. Brisbane is dedicated to being a world leader in sustainable development. As the largest local government authority in Australia and Australia's fastest-growing capital city, Brisbane is uniquely positioned to drive significant environmental initiatives, particularly as we approach the climate-positive Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

BSA plays a pivotal role in supporting Council's ongoing efforts in creating a sustainable and liveable region, leveraging unique opportunities that will ensure Brisbane thrives well into the future.

BSA is helping to improve the biodiversity of our urban ecosystem through the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative and supports Council's ambition to create a world-class green, lifestyle and leisure destination through the Oxley Creek Transformation project. We are committed to enhancing sustainability across the region, from supporting community organisations in the

Resilient Clubs Support Program, households with the Green Heart Fair and Brisbane Carbon Challenge and delivering the Sustainable Action Training Program, empowering individuals and businesses to transform science-based knowledge into practical action.

We are enhancing climate adaptation and resilience to extreme weather events through the Flood Resilient Suburbs Program and the Rebuild and Recover - Flood Resilient Communities Program, collectively supporting nearly 500 participants.

To proactively minimise our operational climate impact, BSA takes steps to reduce emissions where possible. Our internal Green Team actively drives sustainability within our office, conducting waste audits, implementing waste reduction strategies, and creating staff engagement activities to encourage positive behaviour change. BSA is a silver Carbon Literate Organisation, highlighting our commitment to staff capacity building and supporting a low-carbon future.

### 2023-2024 Key Achievements

The continued delivery of key projects and programs to achieve sustainability outcomes for Brisbane residents, community groups and businesses, including:

- Oxley Creek Transformation Project
- Flood Resilient Suburbs Program
- Rebuild and Recover Flood Resilient Communities Program
- Resilient Clubs Support Program
- Brisbane Carbon Challenge
- Sustainable Brisbane Hub
- Green Heart Events Program, with nine community events across Brisbane
- WasteSmart Brisbane Awards
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Launched the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative
- Launched the Sustainable Action Training program
- Launched the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative



# Natural Environment

## Oxley Creek Transformation Project

Council has committed \$100 million over 20 years to transform Oxley Creek, from its mouth at the Brisbane River to Larapinta, with the ambition to create a world-class lifestyle and leisure nature destination.

The *Oxley Creek Transformation Master Plan* outlines strategies and priority projects to enhance and rehabilitate our most urbanised waterway. An eclectic collection of grassy paddocks, quiet playgrounds, unkept green spaces, pocket parks, open wetlands and a string of former industrial sites along Oxley Creek will be transformed into a vast multi-use parkland, environmental asset and tourist destination.

### Master Plan Goals

- Environment:**  
Champion environmental protection, enhancement and resilience, inspire environmental conservation and demonstrate leadership in sustainability.
- Social/Community:**  
Capture social and community benefits by activating existing spaces and creating new places for people to gather, relax, play and connect with others and nature.
- Economic:**  
Inspire sustainable economic uplift, establish partnerships and attract business interest and investment to fund activation and ongoing environmental revitalisation to boost the local economy.

Visitors enjoying Glider Forest Trails.





## Key Achievements

### Strategic Corridor Restoration

- Development, consultation and finalisation of the Oxley Creek Urban Forest - Riparian Strategy.
- Engaged with 33 properties via the Business and Industry Engagement Program with a focus on improving creek water quality.
- Undertook monthly recreational water quality monitoring at three sites along Oxley Creek to continue to monitor what effect environmental improvement initiatives have on creek water health over time.
- Conducted Social Value Survey 2023, receiving 525 responses and an identified increase in satisfaction levels from the 2022 survey.
- Ongoing collaboration with Logan City Council and the South East Queensland Council of Mayor's Resilient Rivers Initiative on the Oxley Creek Erosion Study.
- Collaborated with Oxley Creek Catchment Association and the Yuggera Ugarapul People on three submissions for the Federal Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Grant Program.
- Ongoing partnership with BirdLife Southern Queensland and Birds Queensland at Archerfield Wetlands Parkland to measure bird numbers and diversity at Archerfield Wetlands.

### Glider Forest Trails

- Trails completed and ready for public access.

### Archerfield Wetlands District Park

- Completed 90% of construction.

### Archerfield Wetlands Parkland

- Installed 100,000 plants across the District Park, Discovery Trail and Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative projects.

### Archerfield Wetlands Discovery Trail

- Hosted three Bird Walk events in partnership with Professor Hugh Possingham, with a combined attendance of over 100 people.
- Developed a bird watching brochure to support interest in Archerfield Wetlands.
- Hosted children's Agents of Discovery activity.



## Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative

The Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative's vision is to improve the biodiversity of native flora and fauna within the city.

The Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative is supporting Council's *Brisbane. Clean, Green, and Sustainable* target of increasing natural habitat cover on mainland Brisbane to 40% by 2031, where 75% of the natural habitat will be connected and healthy.

The focus of the Initiative is the revegetation of strategic ecological wetland and waterway corridors across the city with native trees, shrubs and groundcovers. This new planting will increase movement corridors and habitat for land-based animals, improve water quality in our rivers and creeks, provide an increase in aquatic animal habitats and increase shade to cool our suburbs.

### Key Achievements

- Launched initiative October 2023.
- Installed 32,500 plants within Archerfield Wetlands Parkland.
- Engaged with community members via two community planting days.
- Commenced and successfully completed the Council green-waste-to-mulch circular economy trial.

Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative planting day.



Green Your Streets community planting event at Wishart.

## Green Your Streets

In partnership with Council, BSA delivered a series of events across Brisbane.

This included a 'Green your Streets' event in Wishart, which invited local residents to plant trees on community street verges to cool street temperature and celebrate local parks. BSA also delivered an event celebrating World Environment Day at Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre.

### Key Achievements

- Planted over 350 trees in Wishart streets, attracting over 100 community members.
- On World Environment Day, event attendees heard from Brisbane authors about reconnecting with nature and resilience through severe weather events.



## Resilient Clubs Support Program

The Resilient Clubs Support Program was established in 2020 and is provided as free service to over 260 clubs and community organisations across Brisbane to reduce their environmental impact.

Clubs are supported with expert audits, actions plans, coaching and retrofit works to improve water and energy efficiency, reduce utility bills, which improve operations and financial sustainability.

### Key Achievements

- Onboarded 40 kindergartens into the program.
- Completed water and energy efficiency audits at 40 clubs.
- Delivered coaching support for clubs including webinars, workshops and one-on-one coaching.
- Completed water and energy efficiency retrofit works at 60 clubs.
- Installed solar systems at 14 clubs with a total capacity of over 300 kilowatts.
- Completed water and energy efficiency action plans for 150 clubs.
- Over the course of the whole program since 2020, water and energy efficiency retrofits have resulted in estimated annual financial savings of over \$660,000 for clubs.

*Sustainable Behaviour Change panel event, hosted at CommuniFY.*



*Performances by Bluey and Bingo at the Green Heart Fair.*

## Green Heart Fair

BSA proudly delivered Brisbane's favourite sustainability festival, the Green Heart Fair now in its 16th year. The event showcased over 140 of Brisbane's leading sustainability experts who shared practical tips and tricks to help residents live a more ecofriendly life.

Visitors were treated to sustainability displays, workshops, eco-friendly products, free native plants, artisan markets, live entertainment, food trucks and more at the free, family and dog-friendly events.

### Key Achievements

- Welcomed over 18,000 attendees.
- Gave away 3,000 native plants.
- Partnered with 8 sponsors including Officeworks, Bupa, Urban Utilities, 7 News, BYD, Cleanaway, Brandition and Optus.
- Diverted over 960 litres of organic waste from landfill.
- Used nearly 700 reusable and edible coffee cups.
- Reached over 4.7 million people through advertising.



# Green Bridges Opening Event

BSA was engaged to deliver the opening event of the Breakfast Creek/Yowoggera Green Bridge on behalf of Brisbane City Council

Formally opened by The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Adrian Schrinner, thousands of Brisbane residents gathered to be the first to walk or ride across the bridge.

## Key Achievements

- Over 3,000 Brisbane residents attended.
- Showcased local businesses and community organisations aligned to active transport.



Team members handing out free native plants.



Families also receive eco-kids activity packs.

## Green Heart Pop Ups

As part of the Green Heart Event Program, BSA delivered a series of Pop-Up events throughout the year, extending the reach of the Green Heart Program.

This program included free native plant giveaways, Green Heart Ranger activities and promotion of other Council initiatives, including the Brisbane Carbon Challenge and Flood Resilient Suburbs Program.

## Key Achievements

- Delivered three Pop Ups at Brookside Shopping Centre, Indooroopilly Shopping Centre and Greenslopes Mall.
- Gave away over 1,900 Native Plants to Brisbane residents.



Families walking over the new Breakfast Creek Green Bridge.



# Brisbane Carbon Challenge

The Brisbane Carbon Challenge is an innovative community engagement and education program that helps Brisbane residents understand their carbon footprint and offers support to learn steps to reduce emissions while also, importantly, saving on bills.

The program offers Brisbane residents an online carbon emissions calculator, insightful stories of real Brisbane households who have reduced their emissions by up to 89% and helpful tips and resources to support residents to take action to reduce their emissions from home energy use, transport and waste. Households can use the platform to build a personalised action-plan that helps residents take steps to reduce their emissions and bills no matter what lifestyle, budget or dwelling.

## Key Achievements

- Launched an enhanced and extended version of the platform, including new functionality which enables households to build and track their own personalised low-carbon action plan to reduce impact across home energy use, transport and waste.
- Activated the program at community events and talks, promoting tips for low-carbon living, through monthly enewsletters and social media posts.
- More than 3,000 households have taken the Brisbane Carbon Challenge to date to calculate and reduce their emissions.

Brisbane Carbon Challenge stall at the Green Heart Fair.



Queensland Children's Hospital won the WasteSMART Councillor's Choice award.

# WasteSMART Brisbane Awards

Since 2017, BSA has proudly delivered the WasteSMART Brisbane Awards (formerly, Cleaner Suburbs Awards) on behalf of Council.

These Awards celebrate the achievements of those in the Brisbane community who undertake 'waste smart' activities and practices to create a clean and green Brisbane.

## Key Achievements

- Received 290 nominations.
- Received 4,103 votes in the People's Choice Award.
- Sponsors included Container for Change Queensland, Cleanaway and the University of Queensland.



## Sustainable Action Training Program

This year, BSA launched the Sustainable Action Training Program. The Program offers clients a flexible range of education experiences designed specifically to build science-based knowledge of sustainability. Training is focused on transforming this knowledge into action with a practical, solutions-focused approach. Participants gain an understanding of climate science and how to create and participate in personal and professional solutions for a sustainable future.

BSA staff are certified to deliver a variety of services, including one-hour presentations, three-hour collaborative workshops and eight-hour certified courses. Content is deliberately customisable to suit a range of audiences including government agencies, corporate entities and students.

### Key Achievements

- Launched initiative October 2023.
- Installed 32,500 plants within Archerfield Wetlands Parkland.
- Engaged with community members via two community planting days.
- Commenced and successfully completed the Council green-waste-to-mulch circular economy trial.

*BSA team members completing their Carbon Literacy training.*



*Families cleaning up Brisbane for Clean Up Australia Day.*

## Clean Up Australia Day

In partnership with Council, BSA delivered the annual Clean Up Australia Day for Brisbane to inspire and empower communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment. Thousands of Brisbane residents, school communities and businesses rolled up their sleeves to get out and clean up our precious city.

### Key Achievements

- Registered 430 sites across Brisbane.
- Estimated 28,000 Brisbane volunteers participated.
- Estimated 57,000 volunteer hours supported cleanup efforts.
- Partnered with event sponsors, including Cleanaway and Veolia.

## Online engagement and education

BSA connects and communicates with residents and businesses to foster environmentally conscious behaviour across the city.

Through multiple online channels, we provide DIY tips, guidance, and news through platforms like the Sustainable Business Hub and Low-Carbon Living resources, educating and empowering individuals and businesses to take tangible steps on their sustainability journey.

Leveraging our social media platform to reach beyond our community strengthens our ability to educate the community about sustainable practices, continuing to drive positive change in Brisbane.



## Flood Resilient Suburbs Program

The Flood Resilient Suburbs Program started with the homes program in 2018 and, in response to the 2022 floods, soon after incorporated programs for apartment complexes and businesses.

People and their homes, apartment complexes and businesses have been supported to become more resilient and better able to prepare for, respond to and recover quickly from flood events. Expert flood resilience assessment and recommendation reports have been provided and in the case of home, retrofit works have been delivered.

### Key Achievements

- Delivered flood resilience assessment and recommendation reports for 77 apartment complexes.
- Delivered flood resilience assessment and recommendation reports for 71 businesses.
- Flood resilience retrofit works delivered for 35 homes.

## Rebuild and Recover, Flood Resilient Communities Program

In response to the February 2022 weather event, through the Rebuild and Recover Flood Resilient Communities Program (Rebuild and Recover) BSA completed 109 flood resilience assessments at flood-affected Council leased facilities. During 2023-2024 the program delivered design and retrofit flood resilience works for 52 community facilities across Brisbane that were heavily affected by the 2022 floods.

Through this retrofit work, a range of community organisations and clubs have been supported with practical measures to become more resilient and better able to prepare for, respond to and recover from flood events.

### Key Achievements

- Delivered flood resilience retrofit works for 52 community facilities across Brisbane.
- \$2.6million invested into community resilience through a diverse range of practical flood resilience measures such as water resilient flooring, walls, cabinetry and joinery, drainage improvements and raising of essential services.

The flood resilient model home showcased at the Indooroopilly Green Heart Pop-up.





## The Year Ahead

In the coming year, BSA is excited to continue working with our partners to deliver a diverse range of programs, projects and events that improve sustainability and enhance the quality of life for residents, visitors, and businesses.

Our excitement builds as we look to celebrate the opening of the Archerfield Wetlands District Park later this year, a significant milestone in the transformative Oxley Creek Transformation project. The Archerfield Wetlands Parkland is set to become a unique destination within the Oxley Creek corridor, offering a space for all Brisbane residents and visitors to enjoy.

In collaboration with Council and Greening Australia, our joint efforts in the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative will continue as we work towards our goal to plant up to one-million plants by 2032. This ambitious project will revitalise urban wildlife habitats and restore critical wetlands and riverbanks throughout the Brisbane Local Government Area.

The calendar is filled with a variety of community engagement events, with a dynamic lineup of events designed to educate, entertain, and inspire residents and visitors about sustainable living. Across Brisbane, we'll host Green Heart pop-up events ahead of the highly anticipated Green Heart Fair at Victoria Park in May 2025, these initiatives underscore our dedication to fostering a cleaner, more sustainable

This November, we look forward to delivering the WasteSmart Awards, highlighting the exceptional initiatives and accomplishments of those in the Brisbane community who undertake 'waste smart' activities.

We remain dedicated to supporting Brisbane residents and organisations through engagement and education tools. Through the Brisbane Carbon Challenge, we'll continue to support residents in reducing their carbon emissions, and with the Sustainable Action Training Program, we have an exciting calendar of training sessions to deliver.

As we reflect on our achievements of the past year and look ahead to future endeavours, we are filled with excitement and optimism. We continue to work with our partners to lay the foundation for a biodiverse, sustainable, and resilient future. With on-the-ground outcomes becoming a reality, we are inspired by our progress and motivated by the opportunities ahead.

BSA extends sincere gratitude to Council, our valued partners, and the community for their steadfast support. Together, we are shaping a biodiverse, resilient and sustainable Brisbane and beyond.



## For more information

Visit [sustainablebrisbane.com.au](https://sustainablebrisbane.com.au) to learn more about Brisbane Sustainability Agency and stay updated on our initiatives. Join us in shaping a sustainable future for Brisbane and beyond!

