



# TOOWOOMBA REGION **FUTURES**



## **Greening Toowoomba** *Phase 2 Consultation*

Our Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out Council's vision for *'a rich tapestry of green and healthy landscapes that support thriving communities and a vibrant economy, where nature is valued, embedded and enriched at every opportunity'*. As part of the Toowoomba Region Futures program, Council is working on ways to value and protect our Region's biodiversity, ecological corridors and living assets.

During October and November 2021 we invited the community to participate in Greening Toowoomba consultation to help us provide for green infrastructure in the new Toowoomba Region Planning Scheme.

We asked you to help us find ways to respect and enhance our Region's green infrastructure. A network of living assets is just as important as planning our roads and water pipes as they help to clean our air and water, control stormwater flows and provide many lifestyle benefits.

We're building a future in which we embrace our natural environment and improve resilience to natural disasters. We are exploring ways in which connected nature corridors, green spaces and thoughtful design can be included in our new Planning Scheme.

Key findings from the Greening Toowoomba feedback are outlined over the page.

# Greening Toowoomba *Phase 2 Consultation*

## WHAT WE DID...

### Phase 1

Internal Council consultation was held during the first half of 2021 to verify professional advice and community feedback received in previous studies.



#### ONLINE SURVEY

During October and November 2021 (4-week period)

### Phase 2



#### WORKSHOPS

In-depth, online, targeted workshop with key stakeholders from the engineering, housing and environmental sectors

## WHAT YOU TOLD US IN PHASE 2...



A large proportion of the community view the opportunity to embed green infrastructure into the new planning scheme as a moderately to highly important intervention.



90% of participants indicated that they thought tree planting requirements for new development should be moderately to highly regulated.



Over 90% of respondents thought that development that might affect natural wetlands, waterways, natural areas & bushland should be moderately to highly regulated.



Retention and creation of open spaces, parks and backyards was identified as being very important to our community.

## NEXT STEPS...

The Greening Toowoomba project has helped us recognize the value and extent of our existing green infrastructure and opportunities to protect and enhance this network. The planning framework will support delivery of Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy through these actions and opportunities:

- Investigate and scope changes to the Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme
- Develop a Green Infrastructure Network Plan
- Deliver programs such as demonstration projects, corridor plans and environmental offsets
- Build partnerships for vegetation projects and environmental programs and incentives
- Share knowledge through guidelines, research, education campaigns and branding