



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Brisbane City Council

Voluntary Local Review 2023 Summary

Delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Monitoring Framework

Brisbane's journey to becoming a sustainable city



Brisbane was the first Australian city to receive Silver Certification in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Sustainable Development Goals Cities Global Initiative in 2022. Our city continues to deliver on creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable city to benefit our community today and future generations to come.

To highlight these tangible changes and strengthen our commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we are excited to present Brisbane's Voluntary Local Review (VLR).

From providing active and healthy green spaces, to addressing resilience, improving liveability and promoting diversity, Brisbane continues to work towards a more sustainable future.

I am proud to share this summary as a celebration of our city's achievements and a roadmap for Brisbane to become a globally recognised sustainable city.

Adrian Schrunner
Lord Mayor

Brisbane City Council is committed to becoming a global leader in sustainable development.

Council's commitment to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on improving residents' lives through addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, creating an open, thriving, cleaner, greener and safer future for Brisbane residents.

Council's commitment falls under the 4 themes of the VLR – Resilience; Active, Healthy and Green; Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable; Liveable and Connected – and includes key activities such as:

- green and blue infrastructure including the Green Bridges Program, Victoria Park / Barrambin and Brisbane Metro
- land purchasing through the Bushland Preservation Levy, park upgrades, waterway rehabilitation and flood engineering
- consumption reduction and recycling campaigns helping divert waste from landfill
- active transport focus including tree shading and cycling infrastructure
- cultural event support and diversification
- collaborative working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- delivering a robust economic development plan to 2031.

Resilience

Exploring how Council can continue to create significant opportunities for growth and economic resilience and diversity, including climate resilience.

Active, Healthy and Green

Exploring how Council can continue to support the drive towards a healthier and more active Brisbane, with a focus on greening the city through preservation of the natural environment.

Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable

Exploring how the people of Brisbane interact and access basic services, open space for culture and cultural participation, and representative and inclusive institutions.

Liveable and Connected

Exploring how Council is creating a city that is more liveable, supporting our residents in finding affordable and appropriate housing choices, and providing better connections through public transport.

Brisbane, a global sustainable city.

Brisbane City Council is committed to becoming a global leader in sustainable development and through the Voluntary Local Review, has identified opportunities to demonstrate its alignment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Active, Healthy and Green

Brisbane's subtropical climate lends itself to an active population enjoying healthy lifestyle opportunities. Council's commitment is to enhance the city's active status through clean and green initiatives. As Australia's most biodiverse capital city, Brisbane enjoys a diverse natural environment. Its parks, green spaces, river and waterways are key to a green city and Council's commitment is to preserve and enhance the city's natural environment.

66,787

tonnes recycled via Brisbane residents' kerbside collections in 2022. 23,948 tonnes of e-waste was collected at Council's resource recovery centres

Treasure Trove stores, where residents donated

450 tonnes

of reusable goods in 2022-23

\$70

compost rebate program to encourage residents to compost at home

26

Community Composting Hubs across the city

85%

of Brisbane residents live within 400m of public open space

\$320 million

invested in Brisbane's cycle network since 2008

5,402 free or low-cost health and fitness activity sessions provided to

61,000

participants

Home to the

Brisbane 2032

Olympic & Paralympic Games and ranked in 2023 as Australia's top sports city



Brisbane's Green Bridges Program

- Reducing congestion on ferry, bus, and road networks.
- Making commuting faster and more convenient.
- Improving accessibility and efficiency for Brisbane residents.
- Contributing to Brisbane's economic vitality through connecting people and places.

Resilience

For Brisbane, resilience is considered relative to economic health, community response and recovery from major disruptions such as natural disasters. Council invests in programs such as bushfire mitigation on Council assets and infrastructure, and will continue to identify opportunities to balance the equation of investment in resilience and preparedness to response and recovery.



Hanlon Park / Bur'uda is a best practice example of how Brisbane can deliver blue and green infrastructure in its urban environment. The park features a flood resilience measure via a sponge effect, filtering water flow into the city's stormwater systems and away from community infrastructure.

Council's commitment to Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031 helps achieve climate resilience and prepares for and adapts to the impacts of climate change.

Council is focused on increasing the city's tree coverage, which enhances shade and cooling in urban environments and supports a walkable city.

City planning is key as Council adapts Brisbane to address the challenges posed by current and future climate change and realises the opportunities from proactive planning.

Liveable and Connected

Brisbane is known for its outdoor lifestyle and economic opportunities. Access to a home and the ability to travel in and out of the city to participate in lifestyle offerings is what attracts people to Brisbane. Council aspires to providing the highest standard of connectivity across the city, connecting people with the places they love and the activities they love to experience.

The city is expected to grow, with a need to provide 210,000 additional dwellings by 2046. Ensuring all residents have access to adequate housing plays a major part in ensuring equal outcomes throughout Brisbane's communities.

Council's *Sustainable Growth Strategy* responds to the changing needs for housing into the future.

In the period of
2011-21

The number of **single detached housing** decreased from **70.9%** to **62.6%**

The number of **apartments** increased from **18.8%** to **25.6%**

The number of **semi-detached housing** increased from **9.7%** to **11.3%**



HOMELESS CONNECT

Our Homeless Connect program has helped more than

20,000 people

since commencement in 2006

Providing free services to people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness.

The **Community Housing Partnership Project** provides temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. The project utilises properties resumed or held by Council for future infrastructure works and has helped to accommodate more than 1,500 people since 2003.

The **Pathway out of Homelessness Grant Program** provides funding to not-for-profit service providers and social enterprises. The aim of the program is to bolster sector capacity, collaboration, innovation and demonstrated outcomes to achieve sustainable tenancies.

Council's **Housing Support Program** helps to fund community organisations that are responding to the needs of homeless people, or those living in social housing. The program aims to enhance support services offered to homeless and socially housed people.

Brisbane Housing Company is a leading provider of affordable housing in Brisbane, with 1,700 properties across the city.

In 2023

of the population:

52.1% are within 1km of train stations



14.4% are within 1km of busway stops



10.7% are within 1km of ferry stops



more than **74.3%** are within 500m of bus stops



Brisbane Metro artist impression

Council's transport plans and strategies, including the *Transport Plan for Brisbane – Strategic Directions*, address challenges and harness opportunities to guide further development of the transport network. Projects like the Brisbane Metro will improve mobility, reduce congestion and enable opportunities for sustainable urban development throughout the city and suburbs.

Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable

Brisbane is a multicultural and diverse city that prides itself on being a vibrant, inclusive place for everyone. Council supports hundreds of iconic creative and cultural experiences, including Brisbane Festival, Indigenous Art Program, BrisAsia Festival, Valley Fiesta and more.

More than 32% of Brisbane residents were born outside of Australia and inclusion, diversity and equity are key factors to a successful, harmonised Brisbane community.

Aboriginal cultures are the world's oldest continuing cultures and Aboriginal people are the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters known today as Brisbane.

Council is committed to working collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. For Brisbane, this means a greater focus on reconciliation, education and breaking barriers to cultural inclusion.

Council's *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* sets a vision for reconciliation in our city, spanning from 2022-2024 as well as committed actions for sustained reconciliation outcomes.



Brisbane's commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Council is committed to protecting Brisbane's unique lifestyle, managing the growing population and helping create a clean, green, more sustainable future for Brisbane residents. Our aim is to support and enable our community by creating a better future for all through our initiatives. Council joins with the aim of the UN-Habitat to *Leave No One and No Place Behind*.

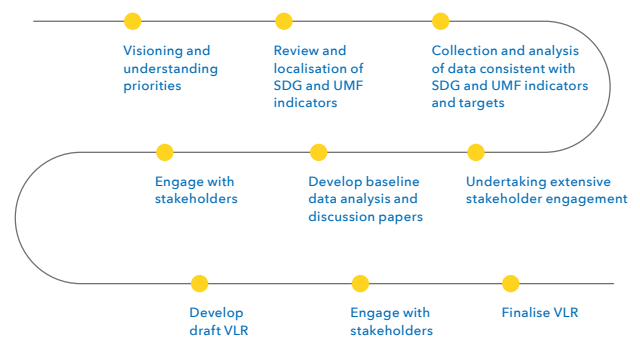
Council partners with the community to guide the city's future growth and development. Council's strong, integrated policies align to the UN SDGs (see below illustration). This enables Brisbane to substantially contribute to the 2030 Agenda and position the city as a world leader in sustainability.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Brisbane Vision 2031	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Corporate Plan 2021-22 to 2025-26	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Brisbane City Plan 2014			●			●	●			●	●		●		●		
Brisbane. Clean, Green Sustainable 2017-2031					●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Design-led City: A design strategy for Brisbane			●						●	●	●		●				
Smart, Connected Brisbane Framework									●	●	●						●
Brisbane's Economic Development Plan 2012-2031	●				●			●	●	●	●	●					●
Brisbane Long Term Infrastructure & Local Govt. Infrastructure Plan				●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	
Creative Brisbane Creative Economy			●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●					●
Long-Term Asset Management Plan 2022-2042						●	●		●	●	●	●	●				
Transport Plan for Brisbane Strategic Directions			●					●	●	●	●		●				●
A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019-2029	●	●	●		●			●		●	●				●	●	●

Council has conducted the VLR following a methodology set by the UN-Habitat SDG Cities Global Initiative.

Stakeholder engagement included:

- 63 authors
- 70+ secondary school students and university professors
- 5 business groups and industry and community experts
- 13 engagement sessions and events
- 2 online surveys.



Brisbane City Council is committed to the intent and objectives of the SDG Cities Global Initiative. Through implementing the opportunities and commitments in this VLR, Council will make Brisbane even better.

For a copy of the VLR, scan the QR code or visit brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'Sustainable Development Goals'.

