

2 June 2017

Submission lodged via email: [strategic.planning@brisbane.qld.gov.au](mailto:strategic.planning@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Strategic Planning  
City Planning & Economic Development  
Brisbane City Council  
GPO Box 1434  
Brisbane Qld 4001



Environment  
Institute of  
Australia and  
New Zealand  
SOUTH EAST QLD DIVISION

**RE: Citywide amendment – biodiversity**

Dear Project Team,

Thank you for providing an opportunity for the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) to make a submission about the proposed Citywide Amendment – Biodiversity of the Brisbane CityPlan 2014.

EIANZ is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary association of environmental practitioners. Our membership is represented by a diverse range of technical disciplines including scientists (including ecological consultants), policy makers, engineers, lawyers and economists.

EIANZ has developed and implemented the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme (CEnvP) ([www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org)), to assess and certify competent experienced environmental practitioners working in government, industry and the community. This includes specialist competencies such as Ecology, Impact Assessment, Contaminated Lands and Climate Change. The EIANZ is an advocate for research, policy, environmental assessment and monitoring investigations and reports being certified by suitably qualified and experienced persons for completeness and scientific rigour. One of the ways of recognising a suitably qualified practitioner is through their membership of, and certification by, an organisation that holds practitioners accountable to a code of ethics and professional conduct, such as the EIANZ.

The EIANZ congratulates Brisbane City Council for pursuing amendments to the Biodiversity Overlay of the CityPlan that seeks:

- establish a diverse, consolidated and connected biodiversity network;
- protect the city's most important habitat and remnant bushland;
- identify Brisbane's main ecological corridors;
- and incorporate significant koala habitat areas; and
- help achieve Council's 40% natural habitat cover target.

This submission refers to Schedule SC6.3 (Biodiversity areas planning scheme policy) and specifically 2.1.1.(1). The EIANZ thanks Council for including a requirement that persons preparing an ecological assessment report are to have:

*“The person preparing the ecological assessment report, undertaking the fieldwork or undertaking elements of the fieldwork is to have relevant tertiary qualifications in ecology, conservation biology or environmental planning, such as membership in the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). They should also have at least 5 years of experience in ecological surveys, assessment and reporting.”*

To become a full member of the Institute, a person must have:

- Completed a degree, higher degree or graduate diploma and have at least two years' experience in an area of environmental practice, or
- At least five years' experience in an area of environmental practice.

The candidate must also commit to ongoing professional development and adhere to a Code of Ethics. We respectfully suggest that a person with “membership in the EIANZ” (which can include Student and Associate members who do not have sufficient experience to become full members) does not provide Council with a sufficient level of confidence that the person is able to complete an ecological assessment to the standard required under SC6.3.

The EIANZ recognised the issue of membership and level of experience/skill and initiated the CEnvP scheme to further identify and certify those environmental practitioners who had achieved a high level of skill (5 years or more) in their area of practice. Currently, 654 practitioners across Australia and New Zealand have become a CEnvP.

Furthermore, those practitioners who have attained 10 years or more practice in one of several specialist categories are eligible to become CEnvP Specialists. One of those categories recognises highly skilled Ecologists and to date 23 CEnvP Ecology Specialists have been certified. Further information regarding the application requirements can be found at [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org).

We recommend that SC6.3, section 2.1.1.(1) be amended to include the requirement that every ecological assessment report submitted to Council must have been prepared by a CEnvP (5 year's experienced practitioner) and be approved by a CEnvP Ecology Specialist (10 years' experience in the field of ecology). We consider that this combination provides the highest level of certainty to Council in the assessment of ecological values within the City.

The EIANZ thanks you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Biodiversity overlay and would be pleased to engage further with Council with regards to the CEnvP program and the Ecology Specialist category.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Mark Breitfuss  
President EIANZ-SEQ