



# WANLESS RECYCLING PARK

Creating a better environment

## PROJECT UPDATE NOVEMBER 2020

Wanless Waste Management (Wanless) would like to provide an update to the Ipswich community about the Wanless Recycling and Innovation Park development application. Here, we also share news about our partnership with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to conduct real-world research projects at the site of the recycling and innovation park.

Wanless is proposing to build an innovative recycling and resource recovery facility at 304 Coopers Road and 350 Coopers Road in Ebenezer, approximately 12 km southeast of the Ipswich CBD.

This represents a significant investment in the region and an opportunity to set an entirely new benchmark in waste recycling and reuse. Wanless' vision is to transform an old vacant, derelict mining site into a productive resource recovery and recycling precinct that generates employment and training opportunities for the local community.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH QUT FOR REAL-WORLD RESEARCH

Working in partnership with QUT, Wanless has welcomed three teams to conduct research at its Ebenezer site. The collaboration with QUT follows the company's interest in QUT's Centre for a Waste-Free World, which develops and implements new waste technologies and processes.

Wanless wants to work with the Waste-Free World team to test some of their innovations. In the meantime, Wanless is partnering with QUT on research related to groundwater, surface water and vegetation. This research will contribute new knowledge and innovative ideas about how Wanless can best manage the degraded mining site. One of the first research projects off the ground is related to vegetation.



QUT students measuring out a vegetation survey site at Ebenezer.

### REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS

One of the first research projects QUT is conducting through the partnership with Wanless involves students assessing two vegetation communities at the site.

When Wanless conducted its environmental assessments, remnant and high-value regrowth vegetation communities described as 'of concern' and 'endangered' under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act (1999) were identified. QUT Associate Professor Susan Fuller is supervising an environmental science student research team to assess and analyse the two vegetation communities and the soil on which they grow. The aim is to identify potential restoration activities that will potentially link the site to biodiversity corridors in the region.

The QUT team has conducted vegetation surveys in the 'endangered' swamp paperbark forest (regional ecosystem 12.3.18 and essential habitat for the endangered plant, *Melaleuca irbyana*) and the 'of concern' woodland dominated by narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*; regional ecosystem 12.9-10.7 and essential habitat for the koala). The researchers are now comparing areas of non-remnant and remnant native vegetation with benchmark data. This will provide a baseline for future assessments and deliver Wanless recommendations about how to restore non-remnant areas. As the success of restoration activities is highly dependent on the soil, the research team have also taken soil samples and will conduct a soil analysis of each site.

**"Wanless is enabling QUT students to apply learnings from their degree to an environmental challenge faced on many legacy industrial sites. The members of the student research team are expanding their experience and Wanless will get useful data to manage the land and potential restoration activities,"**

*Dr Fuller said.*

## Development Application Progress

Wanless submitted a development application for the Wanless Recycling Park to Ipswich City Council in December 2019. Since then, Wanless has been following the processes required by Local and State Government agencies to progress the application through the assessment process.

As part of the Council's assessment, there was a public notification period about the proposed development between 14 May 2020 and 5 June 2020. Following closure of the public notification period, Council summarised the matters raised in the public submissions and Wanless prepared a response to Council's summary, providing a further response and clarification on any questions raised in the public submissions.

Wanless is also continuing to work with the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA), Department of Environment and Science (DES) and Department of Transport and Main Roads (DMTR) to provide further information and respond to any further questions the agencies have about the application to inform their assessment.

Alongside the development application process, Wanless will apply to amend the existing Environmental Authority (EA). This amendment is necessary to transition the EA that applies over the site from mining to recycling, resource recovery and waste management.

All of the above documentation is available via City of Ipswich Council ePathway Online Tool (refer to the link provided below). Ipswich City Council keep the portal updated with all application material that is submitted over the course of the assessment.



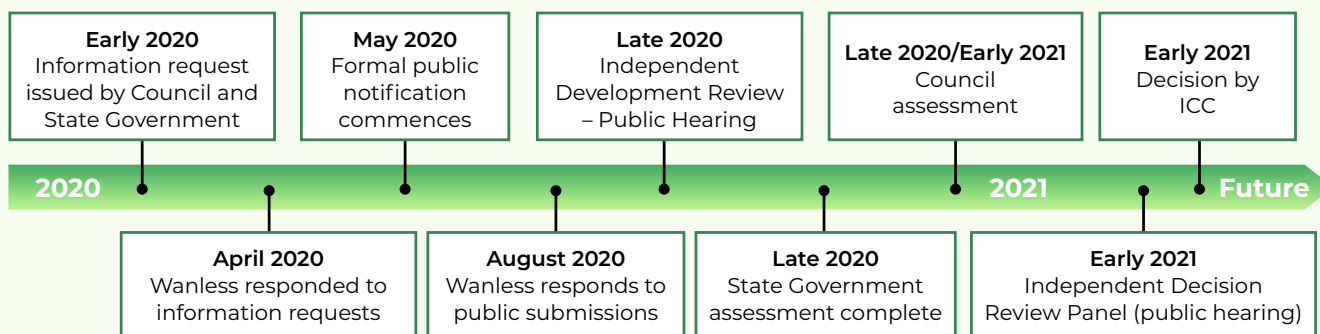
### How to View the Proposal

You can find a copy of the development application (*application number 10674/2019/CA*), information requests and responses on the City of Ipswich Council ePathway Online Tool at [ipswich.qld.gov.au/online\\_services/application\\_enquiry](https://ipswich.qld.gov.au/online_services/application_enquiry)

- If it is your first visit, accept the terms and conditions and continue to the next page.
- Select '**Application Enquiry**', then '**Development Application**' head to the '**Search by Application Number**' enter the application number **10674/2019/CA** into the appropriate boxes on the first line and press 'Search'. No other information is required.

## Development Application Process

(estimated timeframes - subject to change)



## What Happens Next?

Wanless will continue to provide additional information to State Government agencies as requested and expects the State Government referral and assessment process will conclude in late 2020. Once the referral process is completed, Council's decision-making period will commence.

The development application will also go through Ipswich City Council's Independent Decision Review Panel, which involves a third-party review of the Council's recommendations. This process includes a public hearing about the proposal, which gives local stakeholders another opportunity to learn more about the proposed development and have their say before Council makes a decision. It is expected that this public hearing will be held in early 2021.



### Find out More or Give Feedback

You can find out more about Wanless Recycling Park at our website <https://wanless.com.au/about-us/wanless-recycling-park/>

See our demonstrated record of recycling and resource recovery at the Sydney Recycling Park [www.wanless.com.au/about-us/sydney-recycling-park](https://www.wanless.com.au/about-us/sydney-recycling-park)

Wanless welcomes your comments or feedback about the Wanless Recycling Park. Please email [WRPenquiries@recyclingparks.com.au](mailto:WRPenquiries@recyclingparks.com.au)