

Related Report / Additional Information

Meeting:	Ordinary Meeting	Date:	12 November 2020
Item:	11.1 CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE – STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION - VERRIERDALE		
Circulation			
Officer (title):	Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy	Approving GE (title):	Group Executive Liveability and Natural Assets

In response to Council Resolution OM20/127, item (c),

That Council:

- (a) *note the discussions held in confidential session in relation to the strategic land acquisition in Verrierdale*
- (b) *delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations, execute all documentation and finalise the acquisition of the identified strategic land parcel and*
- (c) ***authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.***

Minute Action:

Council has acquired a property at Heron Rd, Verrierdale as per the above resolution.

Property Address	Real Property description	Lot Size (hectares)	Contract Price
Heron Rd VERRIERDALE QLD 4562	Lot 468 CG1479	94	\$970,000

The acquisition of this lot assists in delivering a number of the strategic Transformational Actions associated with the *Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017* including:

Transformational Action 6 - Connecting nature and people

Connecting our valued habitat areas to support our native flora and fauna and providing the community with opportunities to participate in conservation and to experience the natural environment.

The acquisition expands the Sunshine Coast conservation estate by 94 hectares, protects commonwealth, state and locally significant vegetation communities and habitat for listed fauna species, maintains ecological connectivity with State and Council owned and managed environment reserves, and provides opportunities for potential future community use and enjoyment.

Transformational Action 8 - Maintaining the blue by protecting the green

Delivering healthy waterways and beaches that continue to support our lifestyle and livelihoods through integrated catchment management.

The main Doonan Creek channel meanders through both the adjoining Doonan Creek Environment Reserve and this acquired land, eventually flowing into the adjacent Noosa National Park. This acquisition protects more than a two kilometre reach of Doonan Creek in the Maroochy Noosa wallum corridor.

Transformational action 14 - Expanding the green space

Securing and activating space for future generations through an accelerated strategic land program to improve conservation, flood mitigation and, sport and recreation opportunities.

This land parcel will now be incorporated into the Doonan Creek Environment Reserve network and become Council's most substantial environment reserve network in excess of 450 hectares in area, and supports the delivery of integrated conservation, recreation and education outcomes through the implementation of the Doonan Creek Environment Reserve Management Plan.

Further information in relation to this acquisition includes:

Environmental values

Lot 468 is entirely covered in high quality native remnant vegetation, and surrounded by national park and Council environment reserves on three boundaries. Its north-east boundary is an unmade road reserve, which separates the bushland from the Peregrian Springs residential development immediately to the east.

This acquisition:

- consolidates the broader core habitat area and environment reserve network while maintaining ecological connectivity
- contributes to the protection and ecological functionality of the Maroochy-Noosa wallum corridor (strategic biodiversity corridor) and
- protects Matters of Local, State and National Environmental Significance including:
 - Local priority regional ecosystems including vulnerable and poorly conserved 12.3.1a (rainforest) and 12.9-10.4 (eucalypt) and vulnerable 12.3.5 (melaleuca) and 12.3.6 (melaleuca);
 - State *Endangered* regional ecosystem 12.3.1a (rainforest) and *Of Concern* regional ecosystem 12.2.12 (heath/wallum);
 - State essential habitat for vulnerable and endangered species including but not limited to the *Vulnerable* eastern ground parrot and *Endangered* Sunshine Coast myrtle
- Commonwealth critically endangered subtropical lowland rainforest and listed species including the *vulnerable* wallum sedgefrog.

Management

- Doonan Creek Environment Reserve is categorised as a Bushland Reserve (high conservation values and may support public access and various sustainable nature based activities) under the network planning of the Environment and Liveability Strategy. This land parcel will be incorporated and managed as part of this reserve.
- This property provides a crucial buffer between the Doonan Creek Environment Reserve and the Peregrian Springs residential development, enabling more effective management of the broader reserve's values.
- The property is in very good to excellent condition, so management requirements are considered minimal and would include managing the interface with Peregrian Springs for encroachment and fire mitigation.

