

Related Report / Additional Information

Meeting:	Ordinary Meeting	Date:	15 October 2020
Item:	11.1 STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION – MAROOCHY RIVER		
Circulation			
Officer:	Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy	Approving GE	Group Executive Liveability and Natural Assets

In response to Council Resolution OM20/114, item (c)

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Strategic Land Acquisitions, Maroochy River"**
- (b) delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations, execute all documentation and finalise the staged acquisition of the identified strategic land parcels, and matters incidental to give effect to this resolution, and**
- (c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site locations and contract prices for the identified strategic land parcels 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 River Road, Maroochy as per the above resolution.

Property Address	Real Property description	Lot Size (hectares)	Contract Price
River Road Maroochy River QLD 4561	Lot 4 SP305309	18.27	\$1,375,000 (Excl GST)

The land parcel is located in the core area of the Blue Heart Sunshine Coast project. The Blue Heart is an area of more than 5,000 hectares in the Maroochy River Catchment, where land and water will be managed proactively as the landscape transitions under climate change, to achieve integrated environmental, social and economic outcomes.

The acquisition of this strategic land parcel – along with three adjoining River Road properties previously acquired that were also subject to Council Resolution OM20/114 – is assisting to deliver outcomes identified in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy 2017 by:

- Supporting the delivery of strategic management and planning outcomes for the Blue Heart area.
- Consolidating and expanding the existing public lands network, including the State-owned Coolum Creek Conservation Park, Council's Coolum Creek Environment Reserve network and Unitywater's Yandina Creek Wetland.

- Providing opportunities for future community access, use and enjoyment.
- Strengthening habitat connectivity along the Maroochy-Noosa Wallum biodiversity corridor, through rehabilitation and restoration activities.
- Increasing lands available to accommodate potential vegetation, carbon and water quality offsets.
- Providing opportunities to investigate and deliver water quality improvements and nutrient reduction to improve catchment, waterway and coastal water health.
- Providing opportunities to further protect the role and function of the Maroochy floodplain as a flood preservation area.

The acquisitions also support the delivery of 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:

- assists to expand the Sunshine Coast conservation estate
- consolidates the environment reserve network
- provides opportunities for future community access, 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 Maroochy River floodplain is an important component of integrated planning for this catchment. Rehabilitation activities on the acquired properties contribute to further reductions in catchment sediment loads and nutrients.

Transformational Action 11 - A step ahead

Providing for the reinstatement of vegetation and habitats that locally offset the unavoidable vegetation clearing required for critical public infrastructure.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy sets a target to “maintain the 2016 extent of native vegetation (no net loss) by 2041”. The acquisitions provide opportunities for:

- the creation of new habitat through rehabilitation and restoration.
- offsetting future vegetation clearance for critical public infrastructure by providing suitable land.

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.

The acquisitions contribute to further enhancing the major green space in the Maroochy River catchment, delivering integrated conservation, recreation and education outcomes and provide opportunities to facilitate improved joint-management arrangements.

