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ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026
TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Clause	Title	Page No
A	COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF KOALAS INTO WACOL	1
B	PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC TOILET IN MARTINDALE STREET PARK, 95 STRINGYBARK DRIVE, CHERMSIDE WEST	2

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ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026
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ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Krista Adams, Alex Givney and Trina Massey.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Councillor Kim Marx (Deputy Chair) and Councillor Steve Griffiths.

A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF KOALAS INTO WACOL

1. The Senior Program Officer Bushland Acquisition, Parks and Natural Resources, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, attended the meeting to provide an overview on the re-establishment of koalas into Wacol. She provided the information below.

2. Council's first round of koala detection dog surveys were undertaken in 2017 and 2018 and found koalas occurring in all Council-managed natural areas supporting suitable habitat, except for reserves in Wacol and in Shelley Road Reserve, Kholo. These findings prompted investigations into whether these areas could support future koala conservation outcomes.

3. Following Council's acquisition of Shelley Road Reserve, habitat restoration and management works were undertaken to improve the quality and connectivity of koala habitat. Evidence of koalas naturally recolonising the area in 2019 demonstrated the reserve's capacity to support a local koala population. Habitat restoration works continue within the reserve, contributing to biodiversity outcomes and supporting the long-term recovery of koalas in the area.

4. Wacol was identified as a suitable location for a koala re-establishment project due to the presence of approximately 200 hectares of bushland containing suitable koala habitat across Pooh Corner Reserve and Wacol Bushlands Reserve. While natural recolonisation was considered less likely due to surrounding urban development and major transport infrastructure, investigations identified habitat connections through creek corridors and adjoining bushland that could support a koala population.

5. Council partnered with the University of Queensland to undertake the koala re-establishment project (the project), which was funded through Council's Koala Research Partnerships Program. Extensive site investigations and consultation with the Queensland Government were undertaken before 15 koalas, comprising 9 females and 6 males, were progressively released between 2022 and 2025. All released koalas were monitored through GPS tracking collars and regular health assessments.

6. The project was assessed as highly successful, with strong survival and breeding outcomes resulting in the population increasing from 15 founder koalas to an estimated population of

approximately 20 to 25 koalas. Monitoring showed that most founder koalas established home ranges close to their release locations, whilst others utilised habitat across the wider Wacol landscape. Movements across roads and rail infrastructure were also recorded, with no known injuries or mortalities associated with these movements during the study period.

7. Thermal drone technology was used alongside GPS tracking and health monitoring to better understand koala distribution and survival across the study area. Drone surveys assisted researchers in locating koalas that had lost tracking collars and provided additional information used to estimate the overall population size.

8. Key learnings from the project for future koala conservation and reintroduction programs included:
   - koalas are robust and adaptable
   - high-quality, appropriately managed habitat is fundamental
   - young, locally rescued koalas can be suitable candidates for assisted dispersal
   - habitat connectivity is critical
   - rigorous health screening, monitoring and threat management are essential
   - strong partnerships and collaboration underpin successful conservation outcomes.

9. Council will continue to invest in habitat restoration, safe wildlife movement opportunities and community awareness and education initiatives across Wacol. This includes recent habitat restoration activities at Spine Street Park which involved more than 200 community members planting almost 2,000 native plants to improve habitat connectivity and biodiversity outcomes.

10. The Committee was shown an aerial map of the GPS tracked distribution of koalas across Wacol.

11. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Senior Program Officer Bushland Acquisition for her informative update.

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.

B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC TOILET IN MARTINDALE STREET PARK, 95 STRINGYBARK DRIVE, CHERMSIDE WEST
137/220/594/610

13. The Group Executive, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, provided the following information.

14. A petition containing 47 signatures requesting Council construct a public toilet in Martindale Street Park, 95 Stringybark Drive, Chermside West, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 15 September 2026, by Councillor Tracy Davis, and received. Of the petitioners, 28 live in McDowall Ward, 18 live in other wards within the City of Brisbane and one lives outside the City of Brisbane.

15. Martindale Street Park is classified as a Local general recreation park within a District access/recreation corridor, and provides a playground, dog off-leash area, fitness equipment, netball hoop, drinking fountains, barbeque, shelters and picnic facilities. Local parks are

generally intended to service the recreation needs of the surrounding neighbourhood, with infrastructure provision reflecting this role within the broader park network.

16. Under Council's park planning framework, public toilets are not usually provided within local parks. The nearby park, John Goss Reserve, located at 51 Kenna Street, Chermside West, is classified as a District general recreation and District general outdoor sport park, and includes a community cricket club, cricket fields, dedicated car parking, large playground, a large dog off-leash area, fitness equipment, multiple barbeques, shelters and picnic facilities. This is an example of the type of park in which Council considers the provision of toilet facilities appropriate.

17. Martindale Street Park also has significant physical and environmental constraints that limit opportunities for provision of additional infrastructure. Notably, the park is mapped within a Creek/waterway flood planning area under Council's *Brisbane City Plan 2014* Flood overlay.

18. Based on a review of Council's park planning framework, the local-level classification of Martindale Street Park and the significant planning and environmental constraints affecting the site, Council has no plans to provide a public toilet facility in this park.

Consultation

19. Councillor Tracy Davis, Councillor for McDowall Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

20. The submission responds to the petitioners' concerns.

21. The Group Executive recommended as follows and the Committee agreed, with Councillor Trina Massey abstaining.

22. **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A, hereunder, **BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

Attachment A
Draft Response

Petition Reference: 137/220/594/610

Thank you for your petition requesting Council construct a public toilet in Martindale Street Park, 95 Stringybark Drive, Chermside West.

Martindale Street Park is classified as a Local general recreation park within a District access/recreation corridor, and provides a playground, dog off-leash area, fitness equipment, netball hoop, drinking fountains, barbeque, shelters and picnic facilities. Local parks are generally intended to service the recreation needs of the surrounding neighbourhood, with infrastructure provision reflecting this role within the broader park network.

Under Council's park planning framework, public toilets are not usually provided within local parks. The nearby park, John Goss Reserve, located at 51 Kenna Street, Chermside West, is

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Martindale Street Park also has significant physical and environmental constraints that limit opportunities for provision of additional infrastructure. Notably, the park is mapped within a Creek/waterway flood planning area under Council's *Brisbane City Plan 2014* Flood overlay.

Based on a review of Council's park planning framework, the local-level classification of Martindale Street Park and the significant planning and environmental constraints affecting the site, Council has no plans to provide a public toilet facility in this park.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Bhakti Bon, A/Program Officer, Parks Policy and Planning, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Services, on 3403 9039.

Thank you for raising this matter.

End.