

## Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative – Guidance Note

This document is a guide to assist Applicants with their Expression Of Interest (EOI) under the Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative (the Initiative), including details of existing Queensland Government programs and resources they can draw on, specifically those mentioned in the Applicant Guidelines:

- QDesign
- Healthy Places Healthy People
- Active Transport (Queensland Walking Strategy and the Queensland Cycling Strategy) and Movement and Place

Applicants should also consider their own internal resources, existing programs, plans and strategies they have in place related to Green Urban Infrastructure, urban heat, active transport and urban design.

Examples below are provided to assist with practical demonstrations of Green Urban Infrastructure, however Applicants are encouraged to also consider what potential projects might be suitable for their community and are not bound by these examples.

### QDesign

The Office of the Queensland Government Architect (OQGA) purpose is to support well-designed, healthy, and sustainable environments to shape Queensland’s urban legacy.

OQGA published **QDesign** in 2018 as the Queensland Government’s first urban design policy document, establishing 9 priority principles to guide the design, development and delivery of major infrastructure and urban design projects across Queensland to create liveable, functional, sustainable places.

QDesign supports planning policies including the State Planning Policy 2017 and Shaping SEQ - South East Queensland Regional Plan 2023. Since release of QDesign many Applicants have progressed their own urban design policies which could be considered useful references to support EOIs.

For further information on Q-Design go to the **[QDesign Manual \(hpw.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.hpw.qld.gov.au)**.

In addition to QDesign, the OQGA oversees the Minister's Award for Urban Design recognising best practice in urban design. Several of the 2024 award winners include best practice examples of Green Urban Infrastructure as part of a broader project, refer to **[Minister's Award for Urban Design | Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works](#)**. Two of these projects are:

**Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich.** The project integrates climate-responsive features like passive cooling, solar energy and recycled water, ensuring its adaptability to climate change. The project enhances natural systems with extensive green spaces and native plantings, promoting biodiversity and mitigating urban heat.





Image Nicholas Street Precinct (image credit: Sabio)

**Hanlon Park / Bur'uda Waterway Rejuvenation, Brisbane.** A well-conceived park and landscape project, Hanlon Park has transformed an underappreciated drainage corridor into a vibrant green link that also delivers a new connection in Brisbane's active travel and movement network.



Image Hanlon Park / Bur'uda Waterway Rejuvenation (image credit: Christopher Frederick Jones)

## Healthy Places Healthy People

The Healthy Places Healthy People (HPP) initiative is the result of a collaborative undertaking led by Queensland Health and the OQGA.

The initiative provides a mechanism for Queensland Government agencies and local governments to consider and integrate health outcomes into their policies, practices and investment decisions for the built and natural environments.

The principles behind HPP have informed the intent and design of the Initiative and successful projects can provide a tangible demonstration of these principals in action.

### The Healthy Places, Healthy People

**Framework** is an established, evidence informed framework to guide how

Queensland’s built and natural environments can support community health outcomes. The framework brings together 9 design attributes that are proven to support better health outcomes which can assist with formulating project benefits and project evaluation for successful projects.

**Healthy Places, Healthy People framework | Queensland Health**



## Shade

High quality and effective shade provision can reduce UV exposure by 75% and contributes to reducing sunburn and skin cancer risk. Improving shade access and availability provides multiple health benefits for Queenslanders. The **Shade Tree Guidance** identifies optimal tree species to maximise UV radiation protection and shade provision through tree canopy cover refer to <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/industry-environment/environment-land-water/healthy-places-healthy-people/shade-tree-guidance>

## Canopy Cast

The **CanopyCast Pro application** gives you the ability to analyse shade and UV radiation reduction provided by trees, and manipulate tree forms, planting positions and densities to inform your planning. This tool is backed by research commissioned by Queensland Health, where UV radiation, heat and shade data was collected from various tree species to identify optimal tree types and planting considerations for shade provision.

The Canopy Cast Pro is publicly available at <https://canopycastpro.arup.com/>

## Active Transport and Movement and Place

The Department of Transport and Main Road (DTMR) has many resources available to support active transport and how to consider Movement and Place when planning projects in urban areas. The following may be of use to consider alongside existing active transport planning by Applicants.

**Movement and Place** is an Internationally recognised best practice planning approach that helps decision makers balance the movement of people and goods to, from and within a transport system, with places that are essential to social and economic activity. Go to **[Movement and place \(Department of Transport and Main Roads\) \(tmr.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)**.

**Introducing Movement and Place** provides more background information to the process and why it is important and relevant to Queensland. It explains what the Movement and Place concept is and why it is important. An accompanying **Practitioner Guidance** explains how practitioners can apply the Policy to decision making, planning, design and management of our transport network to maximise benefits.

### Queensland Walking Strategy

To deliver walking environments that are attractive, enjoyable and accessible to everyone, we must prioritise walking in our policies, planning, operations and infrastructure. When we talk about walking, we also include running and moving with the help of a mobility device (such as a wheelchair, mobility cane or a walking frame).

Walking network plans show the primary and secondary routes for walking through an area. This is an important first step for identifying how to improve the area so that walking becomes an easy choice for everyone, every day. Many local government's already have walking network plans in place.

**<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/travel-and-transport/pedestrians-and-walking/queensland-walking-strategy>**

### Queensland Cycling Strategy

When people ride more often it contributes to making our transport system more sustainable, and helps us to maintain a healthy environment and more active lifestyle.

**<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/queensland-cycling-strategy-2017-2027>**

**Principal Cycle Network Plans (Department of Transport and Main Roads) (tmr.qld.gov.au)** ensure cycling networks are planned for, well thought out and connected, right across the state. The plans reflect a 'one network' approach to cycle network planning and show core routes needed to get more people cycling. Many local government's already have local cycling network plans in place.

## Other useful resources

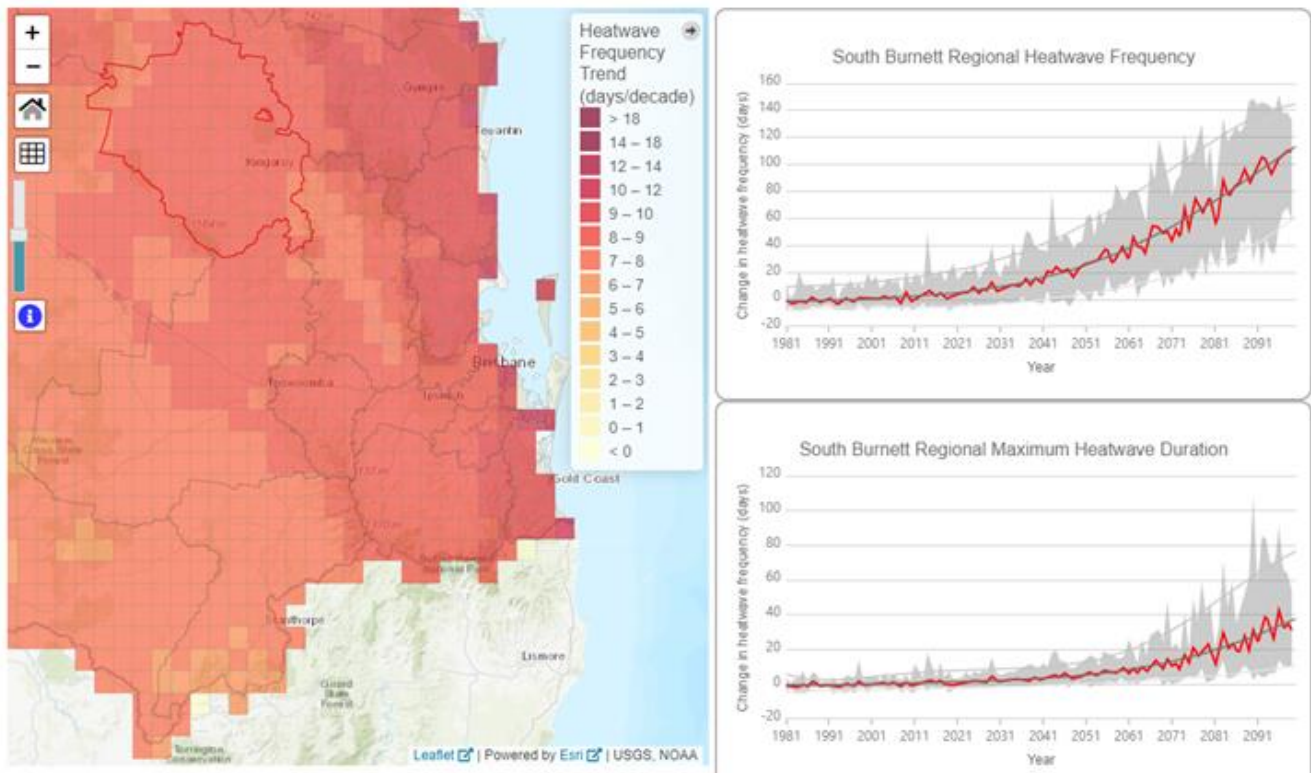
### The Long Paddock and Queensland Future Climate

Queensland Future Climate opened in August 2024 with a new format, to provides data on plausible future climates to support climate risk assessments, adaptation planning and policy development.

The **Regional Explorer Dashboard** allows access to a range of data sets (such as mean and maximum temperatures) available by Local Government Area (LGA) with projections out to 2090.

Go to **[Queensland Future Climate | LongPaddock | Queensland Government](#)**

In addition, the **Adapting Heatwaves** site provides projections on heatwave frequency and duration for LGA's, refer to **<https://longpaddock.qld.gov.au/qld-future-climate/adapting/heatwaves>** an example of the tool is below:



## Best Practice Guides and Examples

1. Designing for a Cool City: Guidelines for Passively Irrigated Landscapes (Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities)

[200427\\_V13\\_CRC-DesigningForACoolCity.pdf \(watersensitivecities.org.au\)](https://www.crcwsc.org.au/research/200427_V13_CRC-DesigningForACoolCity.pdf)

2. Walking Towards Healthier Cities Report (Queensland Health)

[https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0033/1263966/walking-towards-healthier-cities-report.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0033/1263966/walking-towards-healthier-cities-report.pdf)

3. Which Plant Where, a website to help practitioners and decision makers identify species that will be resilient to climate change across Australia [Home | Which Plant Where](#)