



GREEN PATHWAYS GOLD PLACES

2032 GREEN GRID

'Brisbane: Making our Mark' Submission

March 2026

A joint advocacy effort between the
following Institutes:



Australian
Institute of
Architects



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS



PIA Planning
Institute
Australia



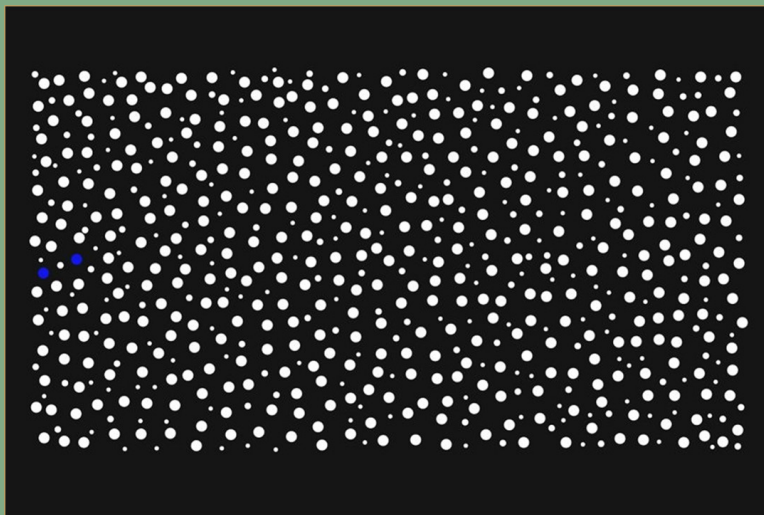
Design Institute of Australia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a united entity representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA), the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), and the Design Institute of Australia (DIA), we acknowledge and respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia as the traditional custodians of our lands, waters, and seas.

We recognise their profound ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom ensure the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Together, we commit to learning from and working alongside First Nations people to shape a future that respects and integrates their enduring legacy and connection to Country.



Image

Paul Herzich, Kurna/Ngarrindjeri, Registered Landscape Architect.

The work features 650 white dots, which illustrate the 65,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and two blue dots, which highlight the 200 or so years of non-indigenous cultures, representing white and blue stars above the country.

Cover Image

Fish Lane by ARIA (Richards and Spence and RPS)

ADVOCACY UPDATE

This submission responds to Brisbane City Council as part of the 'Brisbane: Making our Mark' campaign and the inclusion of the Green Pathways Gold Places – Green Grid as a project open for public support. Since the Green Grid workshop summary was released in August 2025, focused effort has been directed toward progressing the initiative from a shared vision to a deliverable, city-shaping proposition.

This work has engaged a wide spectrum of stakeholders — from strategic decision-makers to delivery partners and subject-matter experts — to test alignment with existing priorities and explore feasible pathways to implementation. The consistent intent has been to position the Green Grid as an initiative capable of moving into coordinated action, delivering tangible benefits in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games while establishing a legacy that endures well beyond 2032.

The Green Grid proposes a connected inner-ring network of open spaces, green corridors, streetscapes, footpaths and cycleways, directly aligned with the operational and legacy requirements of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Green Grid identifies six critical green connections that link venues and support accessible, safe, and efficient movement.

By embedding venue connectivity, disability inclusion and carbon reduction commitments into enduring green infrastructure, the Green Grid ensures Games-related investment delivers lasting benefits for the city well beyond 2032.

WHAT WE HAVE HEARD

Stakeholder feedback has been consistently positive, with strong alignment around the Green Grid's value as a unifying framework for Brisbane's future. There is broad recognition that successful delivery will rely on early momentum, coordinated planning and cross-agency collaboration to enable staged implementation over time. The Green Grid is widely supported as an integrated response to improving active transport, strengthening urban canopy and delivering high-quality public spaces, underpinned by the need for early investment and coordination.

Stakeholders recognise its value as an integrated approach to:

- Active transport,
- Urban canopy,
- High-quality public space, and
- Acknowledging the importance of early investment and cross-agency coordination to enable delivery.



'BRISBANE: MAKING OUR MARK'

In this context, the 'Brisbane: Making our Mark' campaign represents a critical catalyst for progress. The Green Grid's inclusion as a project eligible for public voting provides an important opportunity to demonstrate community support and elevate the initiative as a priority for the city. It offers a pathway from advocacy to mandate –, supporting Council leadership and helping unlock the coordination, commitment and investment required to bring the Green Grid to life.

“ Hosting the Games is about much more than 4 weeks of spectacular sport. It's about building a legacy that begins well before 2032 and lasts long after. We want to ensure the benefits reach every part of Brisbane—our residents, communities and local businesses. ”

Brisbane City Council

THE TOP 6 PROPOSED '2032 GREEN GRID' PROJECTS

01 FORTITUDE VALLEY TO BOWEN BRIDGE ROAD.

This project focuses on improving streetscapes and creating green pathways to activate the currently unsuitable Brunswick Street between Fortitude Valley and the Herston Hospital Precinct. Enhancing these connections will also create more opportunities to link with the RNA and Victoria Park / Barrambin.

02 ROMA STREET PARKLANDS TO VICTORIA PARK / BARRAMBIN.

Identified as the highest priority, this project aims to create a seamless green connection, effectively linking the main stadium to the Brisbane CBD. This link would provide a vital connection between the city and major population centres: RBH, QUT, Schools, Kelvin Grove Urban Village. It has the opportunity to totally rewrite the transport preference to active travel for this area.

03 SOUTH BRISBANE TO NEWSTEAD.

The South Brisbane to Newstead green link is a crucial east-to-west connection that would unlock the full potential of Brisbane's urban grid. By linking all proposed north-to-south green links and existing corridors, it would create a cohesive network of sustainable travel options.

04 WOOLLOONGABBA TO SOUTHBANK.

In addition to improving the connection between these areas, this link will enhance Woolloongabba as a desirable destination and place to live post-Games. It will also provide a critical connection to middle ring suburbs such as Coorparoo and Carindale, fostering greater accessibility and community integration.

05 CITY GARDENS TO ROMA STREET PARKLAND.

This project envisions a green corridor linking the City Gardens, which already has strong connections to Kangaroo Point and Southbank, to Roma Street Parkland. The current car removal due to construction of the CRR Station has shown the potential of having a pedestrian priority down Albert St can be a reality.

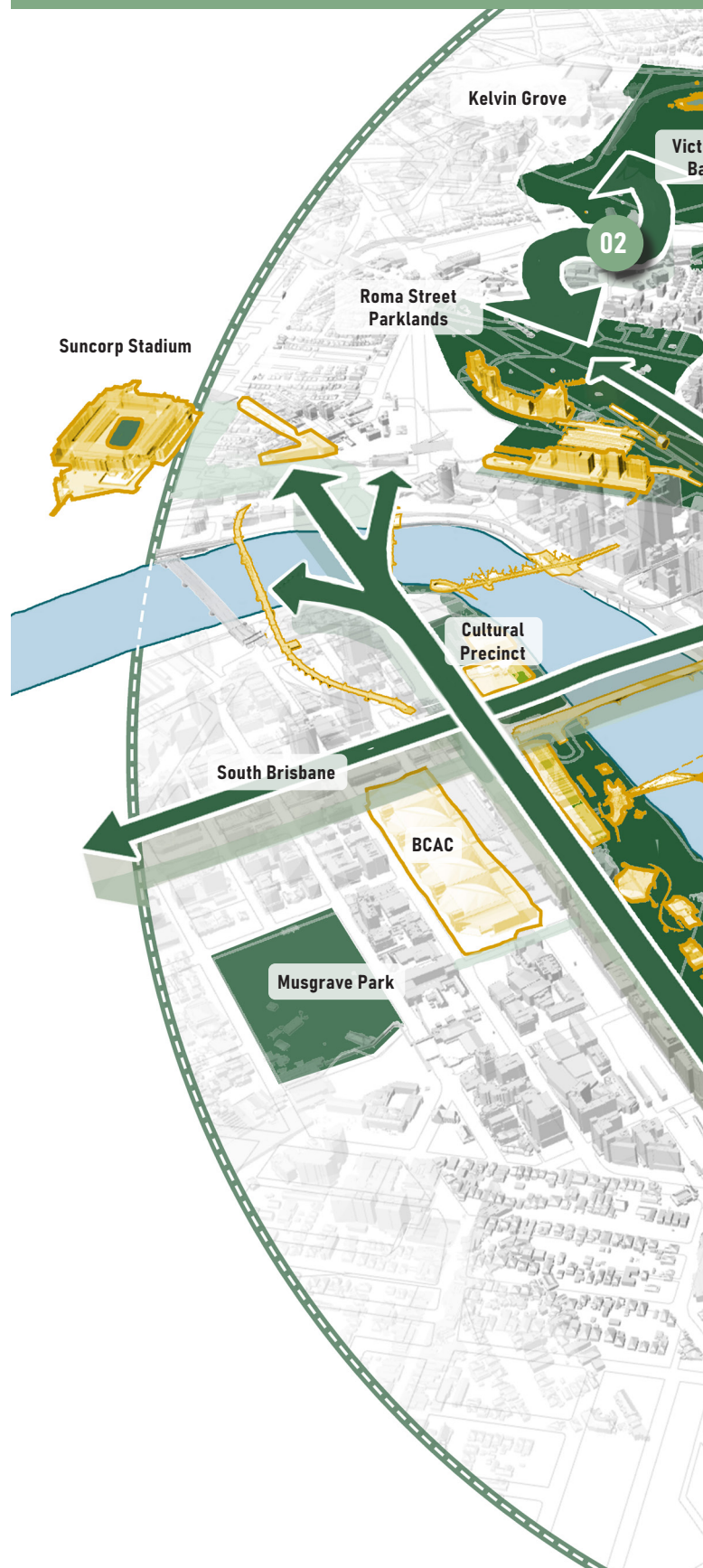
06 JAMES STREET TO THE RNA.

This project focuses on establishing a green connection between James Street and the RNA precinct. These improvements are necessary to support the liveability of the area with the expected increase of population from construction of the Athlete's Village and post Games provision of multi-residential living.

GREEN GRID PROJECT SUMMARY

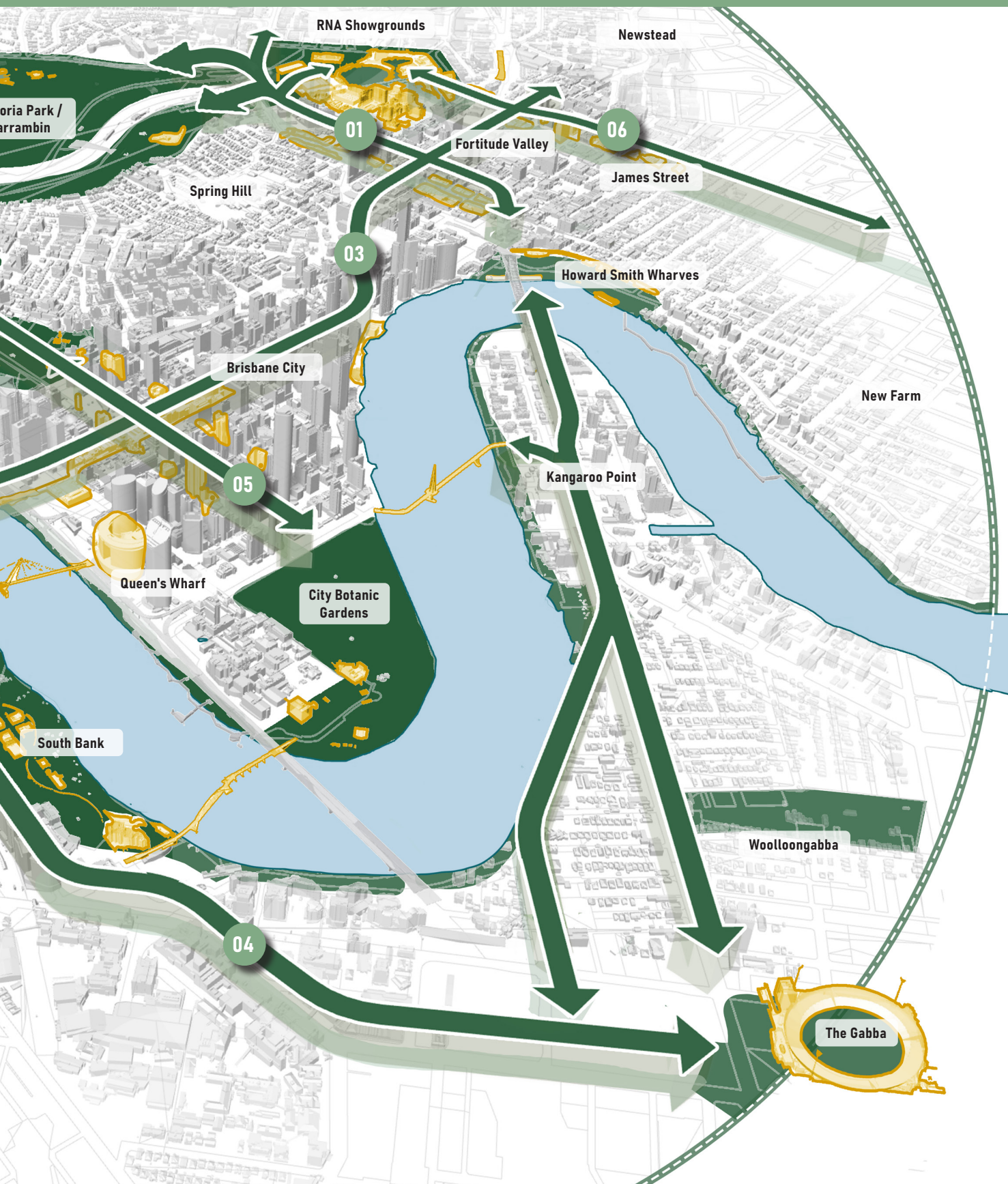
The Green Pathways Gold Places: Green Grid workshop established a shared vision for a connected inner-city Green Grid for Brisbane.

The workshop brought together built environment practitioners to explore a network of green corridors, streets, open spaces, footpaths and cycleways, and identified six strategic green links connecting key destinations and Brisbane 2032 venues with places of everyday activity, celebration and gathering.



Together, these links provide a clear spatial framework for a greener, more accessible and people-focused city, and a strong foundation for a lasting Games legacy.

Since the workshop summary was issued, **attention has shifted from vision to feasibility**. As practitioners within our various associations, many involved are already working on projects that intersect with parts of the proposed Green Grid, raising a practical question: **how can a city-scale ambition be delivered through a series of smaller, coordinated actions?** Rather than a single large infrastructure project, the Green Grid is increasingly understood as an incremental network, realised through individual projects, upgrades and interventions aligned to a shared framework. This approach helps capture real delivery opportunities and ensures the Green Grid can be progressively implemented while maintaining coherence and intent.



IDENTIFIED GREEN LINK ANALYSIS AND PRIORITISATION

A consistent message across all stakeholder engagements has been that the 11 kilometres of proposed green links, while represented as six priority corridors, should not be treated as a single large infrastructure project. Instead, the Green Grid is best understood as a collection of smaller, targeted projects. This requires a coordinated plan and design framework to ensure consistency, connectivity and quality, while allowing delivery to occur incrementally through multiple pathways. This approach is critical to feasibility, enabling implementation by private development, individual shop owners and residents, service providers, and through targeted Federal, State and Local Government funding programs.

To support this, the advocacy group developed a 'Green Grid Evaluation Tool' — a structured way to assess where a green link performs well, where it needs improvement, and how interventions could be prioritised. While delivery would be distributed, it is essential that this process is led by a single stakeholder and guided by a clear framework or guideline document to ensure consistency of approach, design quality and public realm outcomes across the network.

For testing purposes, the evaluation tool was applied to a case study green link between Woolloongabba and the Story Bridge. The tool targeted built environment professionals, drawing on their direct experience of the site and professional judgement.

The evaluation assessed observations across a series of themes, including functionality, connectivity, landscape amenity, place and impact, culture, delivery and funding and governance. The evaluation was split into two sections: current condition and potential for intervention, helping to reduce bias while distinguishing between performance today and future opportunity.

Responses were assessed through a weighted criteria, the results provided a clear picture of relative street performance. This enabled identification of sections requiring the greatest intervention, as well as those with the highest opportunity for early action — including areas where improvements could be delivered quicker or at lower cost, versus locations likely to require greater investment.

	THEME	WEIGHTING	RATIONALE
Street Performance (100%)	Functional	30%	Safety, accessibility and wayfinding are non-negotiable and legally required. Streets must be usable and safe before anything else.
	Connectivity	20%	Good walking, cycling and public transport links reduce car dependence and enable people to move safely and easily.
	Landscape Amenity	20%	Shade, trees and microclimate make streets comfortable in Brisbane's heat and support long-term resilience.
	Place and Impact	20%	Character, activation and pride support vibrancy, local business and how people feel about being there.
	Culture*	10%	First Nations storytelling, heritage and destination value deepen identity once basic function and safety are addressed.
Opportunity for Intervention (100%)	Delivery and Funding	50%	Good ideas won't happen without space, realistic costs and the ability to stage works.
	Governance	50%	Clear ownership, responsibilities and approvals are needed so projects can actually proceed.

(*) NOTE: This is not to say that culture is not important, but it would require a functional streetscape in order to support culture.

Weighted Scores		01	02	03
Street Performance				
Streetscape Intervention with PT		0.3	0.5	0.5
Safe Cycling Routes	25%	0.3	0.5	1.0
Walkability		0.5	0.5	1.3
Stormwater Management		0.5	0.5	1.0
Tree Canopy	25%	0.8	0.5	1.0
Biodiversity		0.5	0.5	1.0
Built Form Character		0.6	0.2	0.8
Place pride and Activation	20%	0.6	0.4	1.0
Street Frontages		0.6	0.2	0.8
Cultural and First Nations Story-telling		0.1	0.1	0.1
Destination appeal	10%	0.2	0.1	0.5
Heritage Walks and/or Trails		0.1	0.1	0.5
Way-finding and Signage		0.6	0.4	0.6
Universal Access	20%	0.2	0.2	0.6
CPTED		0.4	0.4	1.0
Street Performance Score		6.2	5.1	11.7
RANKING		2	3	1
Median Space - Repurpose		1.0	1.0	2.0
Leverage Existing Infrastructure		0.0	0.0	5.0
Topography		0.0	0.0	5.0
BCC Deliverability		1.0	3.0	5.0
Private Sector		4.0	4.0	5.0
Community Involvement		2.0	5.0	4.0
Opportunity for Intervention Score		8.0	13.0	26.0
RANKING		6	4	1

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMITTED PROJECTS

There is also a significant opportunity to align the Green Grid with sections of green link that are already being planned or designed for delivery. For example, pedestrian connections between Fortitude Valley and Victoria Park, currently within the remit of GIICA, could be formally tied into the Green Grid framework.

Early indications suggest that up to 15–20 per cent of the Green Grid may already be implicitly budgeted for through committed projects. Ensuring these works are aligned through a consistent Green Grid design guideline would help lock in network continuity, maximise value for money, and avoid missed opportunities as projects progress independently enabling developers to contribute meaningfully to the Green Grid and the broader Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic legacy.

BROADER INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond section-specific interventions, there are several opportunities to strengthen the Green Grid through alignment with major city-shaping projects.

Section 01 has the potential to integrate with the future Brisbane Live precinct and the adjoining Cross River Rail station, reinforcing its role as a key movement and arrival corridor.

Section 02 could be closely aligned with the future Woolloongabba Precinct post-2032, particularly as the existing Gabba site is removed, creating opportunities to reshape connections and public realm outcomes.

Sections 02 and 04 also present a clear opportunity to integrate with Pineapple Park, helping to connect and enhance existing green infrastructure and improve continuity across the network.

More broadly, the significant quantum of new apartments being delivered along parts of the corridor presents an opportunity for private developers to revitalise the verge spaces they interface with. This can directly enhance development outcomes while enabling developers to contribute meaningfully to the Green Grid and the broader Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic legacy.

The results indicate the following:

Best to Poorest Performing Street

(Best)

1 2 3 4 5 6 (Poorest)

Highest to Lowest Opportunity for Intervention (Easier to Harder to Implement)

(Highest)

1 2 3 4 5 6 (Lowest)

This approach demonstrates how the Green Grid can move from a strategic concept to a prioritised, staged and achievable program of works, supporting incremental delivery while maintaining a coherent, city-wide vision.

04	05	06
0.5	0.3	0.3
0.5	0.5	0.8
0.5	0.5	0.5
0.5	0.8	0.5
0.5	0.8	0.3
0.5	0.5	0.3
0.2	0.2	0.2
0.2	0.2	0.2
0.2	0.2	0.2
0.1	0.1	0.1
0.1	0.1	0.1
0.1	0.1	0.1
0.2	0.2	0.2
0.2	0.2	0.2
0.6	0.4	0.6
4.9	5.0	4.4
5	4	6
3.0	3.0	3.0
3.0	4.0	4.0
4.0	3.0	4.0
4.0	0.0	1.0
3.0	1.0	4.0
1.0	1.0	1.0
30	12.0	17.0
2	5	3

SECTION 05 - KANGAROO POINT PARK TO KANGAROO POINT BRIDGE

This section under-performs and presents more delivery challenges. Its proximity to the elevated access of the Kangaroo Point Bridge is critical, providing a key connection to local neighbourhoods and to southern and eastern Brisbane.

Improvements here may need to be staged and closely integrated with existing infrastructure.

SECTION 03 - RIVER TERRACE

River Terrace is the best-performing section of the green link and also the easiest to enhance. As an iconic Brisbane CBD location and an important tourism destination and place of celebration, any intervention must be carefully considered.

Modest, low-cost improvements could reinforce its existing strengths while respecting its civic and cultural role.

SECTION 01 - VULTURE STREET TO RIVER TERRACE

This section is performing relatively well compared to other parts of the corridor, indicating a sound baseline in terms of function and amenity. However, it presents the lowest opportunity for intervention, suggesting that improvements are likely to be complex, constrained or capital-intensive. Interventions here may require significant coordination, infrastructure change or land use negotiation.

As a result, this section is best approached as a longer-term project, potentially aligned with major upgrades or redevelopment opportunities rather than early, quick-win initiatives.

SECTION 06 - KANGAROO POINT BRIDGE TO STORY BRIDGE CONNECTION

This is the poorest-performing section of the corridor, highlighting a clear need for improvement. There is potential to integrate additional shade and amenity into the Story Bridge itself, provided critical heritage values are maintained.

Importantly, improvement works here could be delivered in parallel with the much-needed and well-publicised revitalisation of the Story Bridge, allowing for coordinated investment and high-impact outcomes at a strategic location.

SECTION 04 - PINEAPPLE HOTEL TO KANGAROO POINT PARK

This is one of the poorest-performing sections but offers a high opportunity for intervention. With a mix of smaller retailers, medium to high-density residential and short-term accommodation, this section presents strong potential for targeted upgrades.

Opportunities include investigating under-grounding of services, reducing pavement widths and increasing capacity for large shade trees.

SECTION 02 - VULTURE STREET TO PINEAPPLE HOTEL

This section shows moderate performance with a reasonable opportunity for improvement. Incremental, well-targeted upgrades could progressively lift street quality without the need for major intervention.

REFER CASE STUDY 04 (PAGES 12-13)

CASE STUDY 01 - VULTURE STREET, WOOLLOONGABBA

A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF GREEN ACUPUNCTURE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TREES INTO AN EXISTING FOOTPATH

The Vulture Street Urban Greening initiative provides a clear, local example of how targeted, well-coordinated interventions can deliver substantial public realm benefits without complexity or large-scale infrastructure works. It demonstrates how smaller, street-based projects — delivered through partnership — can contribute directly to the broader Green Grid vision.

A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Led by Aria Property Group in partnership with Brisbane City Council, the Vulture Street initiative shows how private developers can work collaboratively with local government to improve the public realm beyond their immediate site boundaries. Together, they transformed what was previously a hot and hostile streetscape by extending tree planting into the wider street network, creating shared value for the city, the community and adjacent development.

GREEN ACUPUNCTURE

The approach was deliberately simple. Rather than redesigning the street, the project identified gaps in the existing tree canopy and worked around established underground services to locate new planting opportunities. By filling these gaps and connecting

into existing trees, the initiative created an almost continuous green canopy, illustrating how small, targeted interventions can have a cumulative and network-wide impact.

A TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOME

The results have been significant. Tree canopy coverage increased from approximately 3 per cent to around 30 per cent, effectively creating a new urban forest along Vulture Street. This has fundamentally cooled the micro-climate, reducing radiant ground heat and delivering sun-safe conditions where “felt” temperatures can be up to 18°C lower. The outcome prioritises human comfort and supports year-round walking and cycling, reinforcing the role of urban greening as essential city infrastructure rather than an optional add-on.



“

Turning a once-harsh, sun-baked walk into a comfortable, sun-safe urban forest is a massive win for pedestrian comfort, Biodiversity and urban cooling in Brisbane.”

Matt Durning
ASPECT Studios

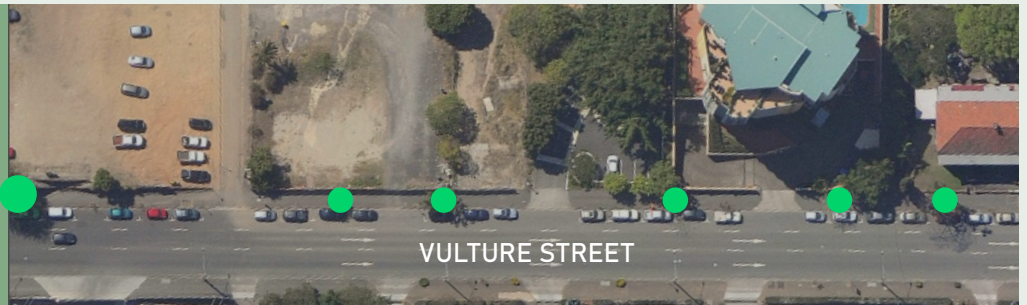
”

KEY STATS

- Approx. 28% canopy cover within 5 years
- Approx. 30% canopy cover within 7 years
- Budget circa 150K
- Successful private & public partnership

2015

- 6 Total Trees
- 3.2% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



2017 (Planted)

- 225 m2 canopy
- 9% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



2020 (+5yrs)

- 31 Total Trees
- 32% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



CASE STUDY 02 - NEXUS WAY, SOUTHPORT

A NEW GREEN SPINE BUILT FOR THE GOLD COAST'S 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES ATHLETES VILLAGE

Nexus Way demonstrates how new streets can be designed from the outset to deliver rapid shade, strong place identity and long-term resilience. As part of a major city-shaping event and subsequent urban renewal, it shows how Green Grid principles can be embedded early to support both immediate use and lasting legacy outcomes.

NEW BUILD FOCUSING ON RAPID SHADE

Delivered on a former trotting track, Nexus Way was established as the primary pedestrian spine and meeting place for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. It has since evolved into the high street for Lumina, an emerging employment district, connecting a large public park with the local light rail station. From the outset, the street was designed to prioritise shade and pedestrian comfort, recognising its role as a high-use movement and gathering space.

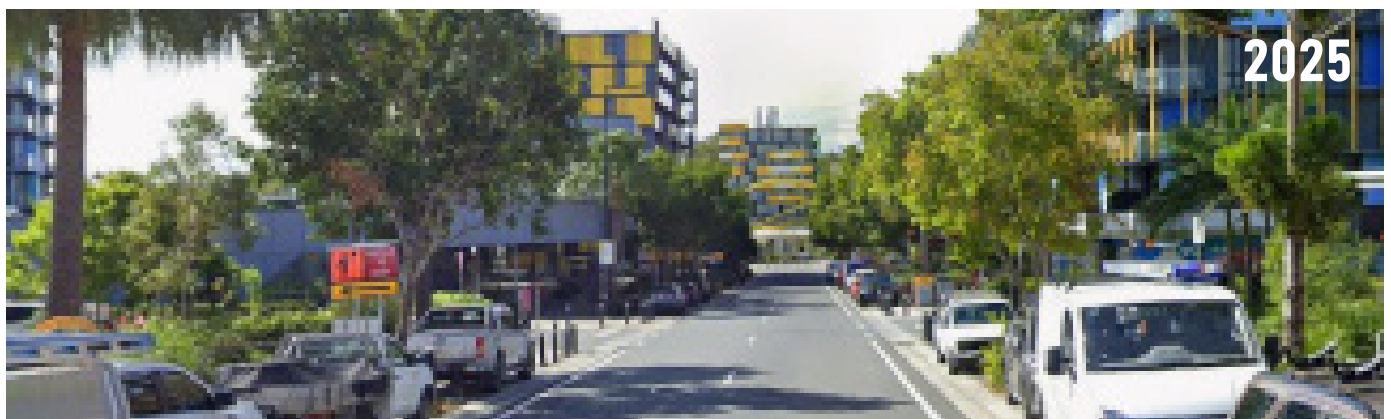
CANOPY GROWTH NEEDS A HEALTHY ROOT ZONE

High pedestrian volumes required extensive hard-stand across the street. To support healthy tree growth in this context, structural soil cells were installed around each tree root ball. These systems support the footpath

above while allowing roots to grow unimpeded below, reducing soil compaction and enabling the canopy to establish quickly and sustainably. This approach illustrates how technical solutions can overcome common constraints in dense urban environments.

BIODIVERSITY = RESILIENCE

Local plant species were selected to reflect regional character and ensure long-term canopy performance under local conditions. A diverse mix of plant types has helped attract roosting, feeding and shelter opportunities into the streetscape, strengthening ecological resilience while delivering shade, comfort and identity. The result is a street that functions as both critical pedestrian infrastructure and living urban habitat.



"The transformation has been incredible with the mixed species canopy now delivering the kind of dappled coastal shade that makes our outdoor lifestyle so enviable."

Damian Thompson
Lat Studios

KEY STATS

- Approx. 20% canopy cover within 5 years
- Approx. 30% canopy cover within 7 years

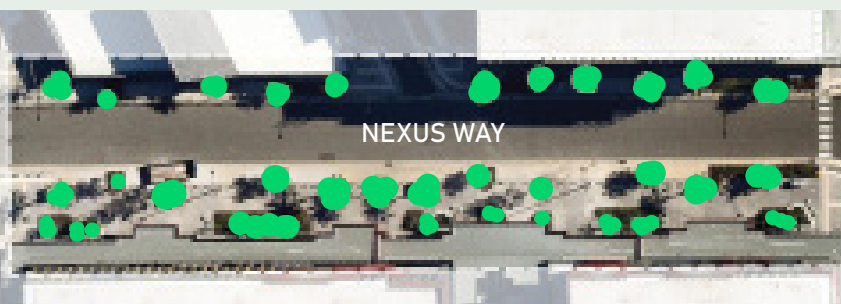
2013

- PRE-EXISTING CONDITION
- 0% canopy cover



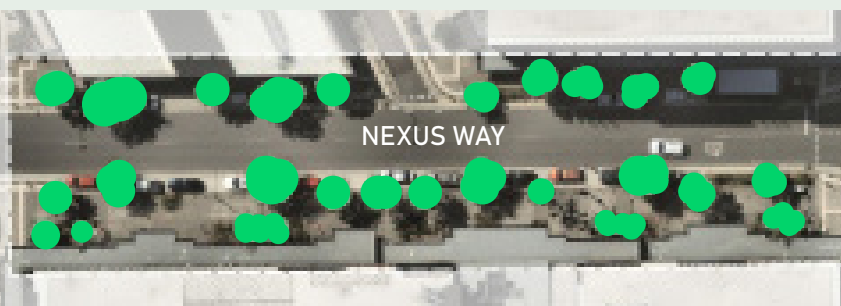
2018 (Planted)

- ~225 m² canopy
- ~9% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



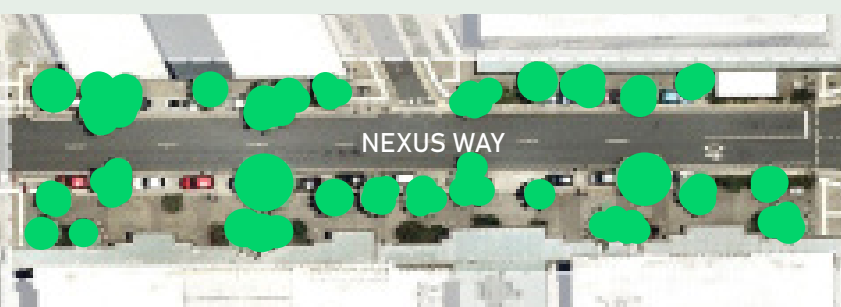
2023 (+5yrs)

- ~435m² canopy
- ~20% canopy cover (over footpath)



2025 (+7yrs)

- ~650m² canopy
- ~30% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



CASE STUDY 03 - QUAY STREET, ROCKHAMPTON

GREEN GRID PRINCIPLES ARE NOT UNIQUE TO BRISBANE, BUT ARE ADAPTABLE AND DELIVERABLE ACROSS QUEENSLAND

The revitalisation of Quay Street demonstrates how an existing main street can be adaptively transformed to support movement, comfort and identity while respecting local character. Located along the Fitzroy River, the project shows how targeted public realm upgrades can strengthen everyday use, support local businesses and enhance the relationship between street, river and city.

ADAPTIVE / REVITALISATION

Rather than introducing a new street or undertaking wholesale reconstruction, the Quay Street project focused on adaptive revitalisation. Existing street alignments were retained, with upgrades layered into the public realm to improve functionality and amenity.

FIG TREES

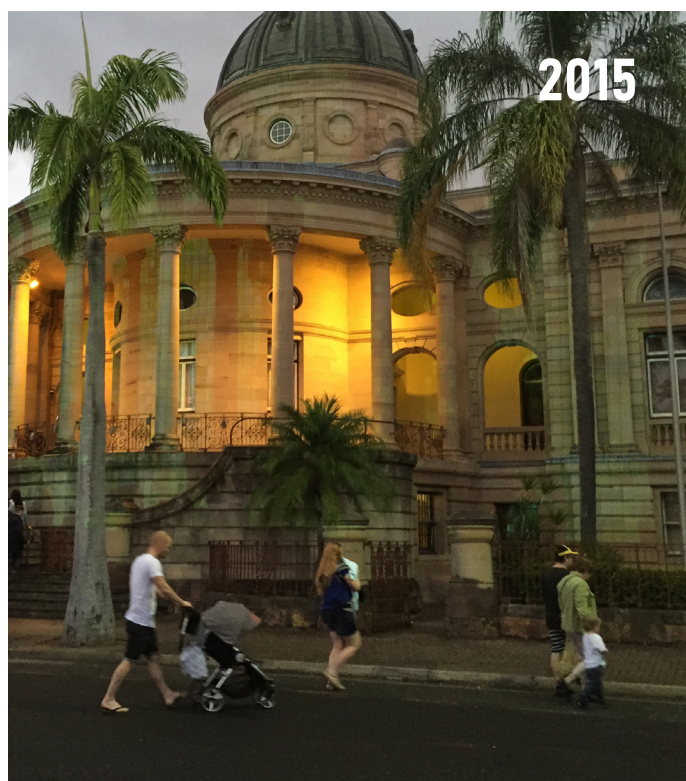
Mature fig trees are a defining feature of Quay Street and were central to the design response. Their broad canopies provide generous shade suited to Rockhampton's climate, significantly improving pedestrian comfort. Protecting and enhancing these trees reinforced local identity while delivering immediate cooling benefits without waiting for new canopy to mature.

SHARED ZONES

Shared zones were introduced to rebalance movement priorities and slow vehicle speeds. By reducing the dominance of traffic and allowing pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles to coexist, the street now functions as a safer and more flexible public space. This approach supports local activity, events and everyday use, while maintaining access for servicing and emergency vehicles.

INTEGRATING WITH HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Quay Street's historic buildings were carefully integrated into the streetscape design. Materials, finishes and alignments were selected to complement heritage façades rather than compete with them. This reinforced the street's civic character and strengthened connections between buildings and public space.





By prioritising shade, shared movement and respect for Rockhampton's history, the street has been revitalised in a way that feels both contemporary and distinctly local."

Glen Power
Urbis



KEY STAT

3.59 degree decrease in the mean land surface temperature between 2019 (the completion of the project) and 2022.

2015

- 8,800sqm of canopy cover
- 27% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



2020 (+5yrs)

- 14,800sqm of canopy cover
- 50% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



2025 (+10yrs)

- 18,000sqm of canopy cover
- 68% canopy shade cover (over footpath)



CASE STUDY 04 - LEOPARD STREET, KANGAROO POINT

A GREEN SPINE PROPOSAL THAT LINKS THE ICONIC KANGAROO POINT CLIFFS PARK (RIVER TERRACE PARK) WITH THE GABBA ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT

The Leopard Street Master Plan demonstrates how a privately commissioned project can contribute meaningfully to a wider street and landscape vision. It shows how individual development sites can act as catalysts for improving corridor-wide performance while aligning with public realm and Green Grid objectives.

PRIVATE-SECTOR LED, CORRIDOR-WIDE THINKING

Commissioned by the private sector, the Leopard Street Master Plan explores how a proposed development can extend its influence beyond its immediate frontage. Rather than treating the street as a residual space, the project positions Leopard Street as an important urban link, contributing to a broader, coordinated landscape vision for the corridor.

A RE-IMAGINED STREETScape

The master Plan re-imagines Leopard Street as a safe, shaded and engaging urban corridor. It introduces dedicated cycling routes, increased street tree planting, integrated seating opportunities and creative lighting

strategies. These elements are carefully designed to respond to existing site conditions, balancing movement, comfort and activation within a constrained street environment.

A CHANGE IN STREET PERFORMANCE

Extending along Leopard Street, the proposed design establishes a more comfortable and legible pedestrian environment. The cumulative effect of improved shade, safety and amenity delivers a clear uplift in overall street performance, demonstrating how targeted, design-led interventions can significantly enhance everyday use and support the broader Green Grid network.



The proposal delivers an enhanced pedestrian and cycling experience, shaded by native tree species to achieve a lush, comfortable street environment.

Vicki Barclay
Subtropic Design

If the Leopard Street Master Plan were implemented, the Green Grid Evaluation suggests that street performance along this section would almost double.

This uplift reflects a fundamental improvement in how the street functions and feels, driven by increased shade, safer and more legible movement for pedestrians and cyclists, and a stronger sense of place. Improvements to tree canopy, seating, lighting and cycling infrastructure would collectively enhance comfort, safety and everyday usability, transforming Leopard Street from a movement corridor into a high-quality public space.

Importantly, this level of improvement would be achieved through targeted, design-led interventions, reinforcing how smaller, well-coordinated projects can deliver out-sized benefits within the broader Green Grid network.

Weighted Scores		EXISTING CONDITION	MASTER PLANNED OUTCOME
Street Performance			
Streetscape Intervention with PT		0.3	0.5
Safe Cycling Routes	25%	0.3	1.0
Walkability		0.5	1.3
Stormwater Management		0.5	1.0
Tree Canopy	25%	0.8	1.0
Biodiversity		0.5	1.0
Built Form Character		0.6	0.8
Place pride and Activation	20%	0.6	1.0
Street Frontages		0.6	0.8
Cultural and First Nations Story-telling		0.1	0.1
Destination appeal	10%	0.2	0.5
Heritage Walks and/or Trails		0.1	0.5
Way-finding and Signage		0.6	0.6
Universal Access	20%	0.2	0.6
CPTED		0.4	1.0
Street Performance Score		6.2	11.7

KEY STATS

- Dedicated cycling lane
- 51 New Trees
- 700sqm Canopy Cover
- 250sqm Planting
- Shaded Seating



BROADER INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Building on the Green Grid framework, a range of external industry groups have contributed complementary thinking that reinforces its relevance, flexibility and reach. Among these, the Australian Institute of Architects' Emerging Architects and Graduates Network (EmAGN) in Queensland has made a particularly valuable contribution by exploring how the Green Grid principles can be translated into practical, small-scale actions that support both immediate activation and long-term city-shaping outcomes in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.

In late 2025, EmAGN convened a collaborative Olympic-focused workshop that brought together emerging architects and graduates to test ideas for modest, achievable interventions across Brisbane's public realm. The workshop focused on how temporary, low-cost and adaptable projects could create meaningful legacy outcomes without relying on large capital infrastructure. This work generated strong engagement and a rich body of ideas, particularly around activating underutilised spaces, rethinking everyday streets and footpaths, and using creativity to unlock social value.

A second workshop held in early 2026 built on this momentum, shifting the focus from ideation to refinement. Participants worked to consolidate ideas into a structured catalogue of interventions that support pedestrian movement, improved connectivity and greener, more welcoming public spaces. Particular attention was given to river edges, existing infrastructure corridors and leftover urban spaces, re-imagining them as places for gathering, activity, rest and local identity during the Games period and beyond.

Collectively, this work aligned strongly with the Green Grid, extending its intent beyond permanent streetscape and connectivity upgrades to include flexible, people-focused initiatives that can be delivered incrementally. It also demonstrated how temporary and transitional projects can test ideas, build community support and inform longer-term investment. Importantly, the EmAGN process highlighted the value of engaging emerging practitioners, showing how fresh perspectives, experimentation and collaboration can play a meaningful role in shaping a more inclusive, creative and enduring legacy for Brisbane 2032.



SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN GRID

Engagement with a broad range of aligned interest groups has demonstrated strong and consistent support for the GPGP Green Grid and its underlying objectives. Organisations including the Committee for Brisbane (C4B), Queensland Walks, Greenlife, Urban Futures, Stormwater Queensland, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, Climate Council and Greater Brisbane each approach the city from different perspectives, yet are united in their recognition of the Green Grid as a critical initiative for Brisbane's future.

Across these discussions, a common theme has emerged: a green, connected and people-focused public realm is essential to Brisbane's liveability, health, resilience and economic vitality as the city grows, densifies and responds to a changing climate. The Green Grid is widely seen as a unifying framework that brings together movement, nature, health, climate adaptation and place identity into a single, city-shaping initiative.



Dr Robyn Littlewood - CEO
Health and Wellbeing Queensland



Anna Campbell - Executive Officer
Queensland Walks



Jen Williams - CEO
Committee for Brisbane



Travis Jordan - Lead Organiser
Greater Brisbane



Tom Rivard
Urban Futures / Playing the City



Darren Beattie - General Manager QLD
Engineers Australia



Colin Fruk - CEO
Greenlife Industry QLD

STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES AND INSIGHTS

Engagement with aligned interest groups has consistently reinforced the value of the Green Pathways Gold Places – Green Grid as a city-shaping initiative that delivers across health, liveability, climate resilience and economic outcomes. While each organisation approaches the city from a different perspective, there is strong consensus around the need for a green, connected and people-focused public realm as Brisbane grows and responds to a warming climate.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND

From a health and wellbeing perspective, Dr Robyn Littlewood, CEO of Health and Wellbeing Queensland, highlighted both the immediate and long-term benefits of the Green Grid. She described the opportunity for a 2032 Green Grid, anchored by an urban Olympic Forest, as a “powerful and iconic addition” to the Brisbane 2032 Games, while noting that “innovative urban design such as this offers enduring health, social and economic benefits for our state.” She emphasised that expanding access to high-quality green space and safe, connected routes for walking, rolling and cycling would support more active daily lives, delivering lifelong health benefits and reducing pressure on Queensland’s healthcare system.

“**Expanding access to high-quality greenspace and safe connections for people to walk, roll, stroll or cycle would support Queenslanders to be more active in their daily lives.**”

Dr Robyn Littlewood
CEO - Health and Wellbeing Queensland

QUEENSLAND WALKS

From an active transport and walking perspective, strong support was expressed for the way the Green Grid elevates streets as places for everyday life. Anna Campbell from Queensland Walks highlighted that Brisbane residents place high value on leafy, green streets, and that the Green Grid clearly demonstrates how shaded, walkable environments can support local business, easy transport and healthy, connected communities. Framing streets as places to both meet and move was seen as critical to encouraging walking and public transport use, and to improving everyday movement outcomes for Queenslanders.

“**Brisbane residents value our leafy green streets, and the Green Grid shows how shaded, walkable streets support local business, easy transport and healthy, connected communities.**”

Anna Campbell
Executive Officer - Queensland Walks

COMMITTEE FOR BRISBANE (C4B)

Jen Williams from the Committee for Brisbane reinforced the central role of connection in shaping the city’s identity, noting that Brisbane’s relaxed, outdoor lifestyle is inseparable from its natural environment. She emphasised that as the city evolves, it is not enough to create quality places in isolation — they must be connected through “green, shaded, accessible networks” that provide comfort, ease of movement and reflect Brisbane’s distinctive character.

“**As the city grows and changes, it is vital that Brisbane not only creates places and spaces that reflect this identity, we must also ensure connections across and through these spaces create comfort and ease of access through green, shaded, accessible networks.**”

Jen Williams
Committee for Brisbane (C4B)

Collectively, these perspectives demonstrate strong alignment across health, industry, advocacy and urban futures organisations. While their focus areas differ, they are united in their support for the Green Grid as a foundational initiative capable of delivering lasting benefits for Brisbane's communities, environment and economy well beyond 2032.

GREATER BRISBANE

Speaking from the perspective of Greater Brisbane, Travis Jordan focused on both first impressions and everyday experience. He noted that "the first thing thousands of people visiting us for the Games see can't be four lanes of traffic and asphalt," arguing instead for a city that reflects its unique setting "where the wetlands meet the rainforest." He described a greener city as one that is "more inviting, welcoming and cooler — in every sense of the word," and stressed that as density increases, Brisbane must reclaim streets from congestion and car dominance.

"The Green Grid will inspire communities across Brisbane to re-imagine their high streets and suburban shops, turning our entire city into a subtropical paradise."

Travis Jordan
Lead Organiser - Greater Brisbane

URBAN FUTURES

Tom Rivard from Urban Futures and the Playing the City Activation System framed the Green Grid through the lens of how cities function. They described cities as social, cultural and economic engines, with activated civic spaces as their "vital organs" and accessible, comfortable movement networks as their "circulation systems." From this perspective, the Green Grid was recognised as essential urban infrastructure that enables connection, participation and vitality.

"Cities are social, cultural and economic engines. Activated civic spaces are their vital organs. An accessible, amenable and comfortable movement network is their circulation system."

Tom Rivard
Urban Futures / Playing the City

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

Darren Beattie from Engineers Australia highlighted the opportunity for Brisbane 2032 to demonstrate a city designed for people — welcoming, healthy and comfortable. He emphasised that "more trees, more shade and better green connections" are essential in a subtropical city, and that the true value of the Green Grid lies in its legacy. As he noted, the trees planted for 2032 will "outlast the Games," delivering cooler suburbs, healthier neighbourhoods, stronger biodiversity and more enjoyable public spaces for decades to come.

"The trees planted for 2032 will outlast the Games— creating cooler suburbs, healthier neighbourhoods, better biodiversity and more enjoyable public spaces for decades to come."

Darren Beattie
Darren Beattie - General Manager QLD
Engineers Australia

SUMMARY AND PATH FORWARD

The Green Grid evaluation and case studies show that a connected, high-quality green network across Brisbane's inner ring is both practical and achievable – but only if action begins early. Through the Green Grid Evaluation Tool, this work has moved beyond aspiration to identify where streets are under-performing, where intervention will have the greatest impact, and how investment can be directed for maximum public benefit. In doing so, the Green Grid is reframed not as a single major project, but as a coordinated program of targeted, incremental improvements capable of delivery over time.

From developer-led greening on Vulture Street, to event-driven legacy outcomes at Nexus Way, regional revitalisation on Quay Street, and design-led uplift on Leopard Street, each example shows that Queensland projects have already delivered many of the outcomes the Green Grid seeks to achieve. Collectively, they demonstrate that improved shade, comfort, safety and connectivity are not aspirational ideals, but tangible outcomes that can be realised through clear intent, good design, partnership and leadership.

Timing matters. Tree canopy growth, streetscape renewal and behavioural change all require time to embed and mature. If the Green Grid is to support Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in a meaningful way, and more importantly, endure as a legacy beyond the Games, implementation must begin now. Early action allows benefits to compound and ensures the Green Grid is integrated into the city's ongoing evolution, rather than delivered as a late overlay.

“ By connecting parks, streets and waterways with more trees and green spaces, the Green Grid will make Brisbane cooler, healthier and more beautiful for everyone who lives here. It will also create real economic opportunity for Queensland — supporting the small businesses owners, local jobs and the families behind them.

We are excited to showcase Brisbane as a truly green host city in Brisbane 2032, leaving a living legacy of trees, shade and nature for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Colin Fruk

Greenlife Industry CEO

NEXT STEPS

The Green Grid has emerged as a strongly supported initiative through Brisbane City Council's Brisbane: Making Our Mark campaign, attracting broad interest from industry groups, businesses and residents. This level of support reinforces the Green Grid as a shared legacy opportunity for Brisbane, with clear community appetite to see it progress beyond concept.

Building on this momentum, the group is keen to continue working collaboratively with Brisbane City Council and other partners to advance the Green Grid from a legacy idea to practical delivery. The intent is to contribute constructively through future planning, design and implementation phases, supporting a coordinated, high-quality outcome that aligns with Council priorities and delivers lasting benefits for the city well beyond 2032.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

We are grateful to all of the organisations and individuals who have taken the time to meet with our advocacy team and engage constructively in shaping the Green Grid. The feedback, insights and encouragement we have received have been consistently positive and thoughtful, and have helped refine both the ambition and the practical pathway to delivery.

This support continues to motivate the joint advocacy group to maintain momentum and work collaboratively to see the Green Grid realised for Brisbane.

We would also like to thank **ABC Brisbane's Queensland Afternoons** with **Katherine Feeney** for inviting **Caroline Stalker (AIA)** and **Glen Power (AILA)** to speak with listeners about the Green Grid (on the 10th of February 2026).

The opportunity to share the vision with a broader audience has been invaluable in building public understanding and support for the initiative, and we appreciate the program's interest in thoughtful discussion about Brisbane's future.

In particular, we thank the following for their time, openness and ongoing engagement:

ALIGNED INTEREST GROUPS

Business South Bank
Climate Council
Engineers Australia
Greater Brisbane
Greenlife Industry QLD
Health and Wellbeing
Queensland
Queensland Walks
Stormwater Queensland
Shade Smart
Urban Futures

GP GP ADVOCACY ORGANISING GROUP

AIA - Kim Richards
AIA - Caroline Stalker
AILA - Matt Durning
AILA - Tessa Leggo
AILA - Glen Power
DIA - Dan Spat
DIA - Paul Turley
DIA - Sarah Wise
PIA - Nicole Bennetts
PIA - Martin Garred

AILA GP GP ADVOCACY GROUP

Vicki Barclay
Damian Thompson
Jamie Franklin

EmAGN OLYMPIC WORKSHOP

Yolande Vorster
Genevieve Quinn
Sarah Manderson
Jarred Gunn
Renee Bourke
Will Smith
Gabrielle Begley
Madeline Begley
Rocco Dascoli
Naomi Edson
Adam Gornitsky
Hannah Holmen
Annika Kim
Isaac Kirk
Gauri Kokane
Lara Layton
Nicole Mesquita-Mendes
Lizbeth Montesinos Diaz



Australian
Institute of
Architects



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS



Planning
Institute
Australia



Design Institute of Australia