

Call for action

regarding

Oxley Creek Common

This call for action to be taken by the Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council arises from a Community Workshop held on the Common on 15 May 2005 and is presented by the Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc).

8 June 2005

1. Background

Original submission

In February/March 2004 the Oxley Common Community Groups Association (OCCCGA) presented a “Submission for Stage 2 of the Development of Oxley Creek Common” to the Department of Public Works (Qld).

That submission outlined the major thrust of considered community opinion regarding the issues and aspirations surrounding the use of Oxley Creek Common. In brief, that opinion proposed a major focus on developing the common so as to enable:

- Biodiversity conservation integrated into farming that acknowledges the need for open spaces and wildlife habitat in cities.
- A hub for community interaction and the exchange of ideas that promotes and facilitates innovation in business and local employment creation.
- Infrastructure development of the Common that supports sustainable urban development and a community hub.
- Partnerships of the public, private and community spheres to manage the site.
- A community supported city farm that demonstrates sustainable agriculture with organic production
- Education in sustainable land management for schools and other forms of life long learning.

Since the submission

Since the presentation of that submission there has been considerable interaction among the various interested community groups, State Government officers and representatives of the Brisbane City Council.

Despite various positive developments in that period of time there was, and still is, considerable concern expressed by community members regarding the lack of progress toward the stated purposes of the Common.

Need expressed for action

The Friends of Oxley Common Community Groups Association (OCCCGA) in late 2004 decided to conduct a Community Workshop on 15/5/2005 so that the issues and aspirations surrounding the Common could be reviewed and a renewed plan could be composed.

It was anticipated that the outcomes of the workshop would enable attention to be focused on key immediate issues that stand in the way of meaningful progress toward the stated purposes of the Common.

Further, it was identified at an OCCCGA run Public Meeting on 23/11/2004 also that the community groups with an interest in the Common may need to form into an incorporated agency body for the purpose of supporting the ongoing development of the Common. A proposal for the establishment of the Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc.) was prepared and presented for a response from participants launched at the workshop by Brisbane City Council's Moorooka representative, Cr Steve Griffiths. Inaugural memberships were accepted.

2. **The Community Workshop of 15 May 2005.**

Participation

The Community Workshop attracted sixty members of the local community, one member of Federal Parliament, three Members of State Parliament and two Councilors from the Brisbane City Council.

Structure, content and presenters

The attached details of the workshop (Attachment A) show the inclusive process that was used and the world-class calibre of the specialist presenters. The process enabled all participants to engage in meaningful ways to develop plans for the resolution of issues and the achievement of aspirations for the Common.

Outcomes

The Two main outcomes of the workshop provide the focus for this call for action: related to:

- Agreement on ongoing strategies for financial sustainability for the Common between the The need for the relevant State and Local Government authorities to agree on the ownership of the Common and the **ongoing financial sustainability of the Common.**
- Decision-making Partnership that includes representation from government (representative and administrative), Non-government sector, community and relevant private sector interests to be piloted over a two year period. Establish an implementation process for a **decision making Partnership Agency for the Oxley Creek Common** that includes representation from government, community and relevant private sector agencies and that is piloted for a two year period.
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These two outcomes are the focus of this call for action.

Additional outcomes from the workshopThe workshop also resulted in the formulation of draft plans for the progression of on-the-ground activity regarding:

- **Biodiversity** (maintaining and developing restoring the biodiversity of the Common)
- **Education** (school, university, community and technical education – structured and incidental/ formal and informal??)
- **Community interaction** (engaging and building the community)
- **Infrastructure and urban development** (best use of high ground and development of sustainable infrastructure)
- **Community involved agriculture** (holistic ecological management and widespread community engagement as producers and consumers of agricultural product on the Common with a minimal footprint)

Details of the plans developed at the workshop in these five areas are being worked upon at the momentcurrently under further development and are seen to be important pieces of information to be consideredconsiderations for following the implementation of the two chief focus proposals indicated above.

The Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc) was officially launched at the workshop by Cr Steve Griffiths and inaugural memberships were accepted.

3. Taking Action

This “Call for Action” focuses on two areas of immediate need.

Financial sustainability of the Common

It is recommended that:

- The State Government and the Brisbane City Council, as a matter of high priority, decide on the legal ownership of the Common property
- That such ownership includes accountability for the allocation of financial resources to enable the economic sustainability of the Common at a level designed to match agreed basic needs and annual growth within a broader community vision for sustainability in SE Queensland.

Decision making Partnership Agency for the Common

It is recommended that:

- An Oxley Creek Common Partnership Agency Board be established to take a decision making role in the overall leadership and management of the Common

- The BoardAgency be established this year (2005) and be piloted for a period of two years
- The BoardAgency include representation from:
- Queensland State Government representative and departments with an interest in the Common
- Brisbane City Council
- Local groups with a specific interest in the Common (schools, clubs, community organizations))
- Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc)
- Private sector organizations with an interest in the Common
- Scientific and technical experts with an specialist interest in the Common
 - Representatives from the Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc) work with relevant government agencies to establish parameters for the scope and operation of the Partnership Agency.

Enabling the action to proceed

So that this “Call for action” can be clarified and discussed in-depth it is suggested that key decision makers from local and state government and the Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc) meet in Julyne 2005.

4. Contact

The main contacts and spokespeople for the Friends of Oxley Creek Common (Inc) are:

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