

**Ella Bay: A Self-sufficient Lifestyle Community
Expression of Interest for an Ecology Research Agenda**

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The agreement between John Holland/Witt Property Group Joint Venture and The University of Queensland regarding the establishment of joint initiatives for research and training on the development of a sustainable town at Ella Bay provides a unique opportunity for ecological research to be undertaken on the impact and effects of the proposed development. The fact that the agreement has been made so early in the project's development allows such research to be conducted in a rigorous way that will illuminate the before and after situation with any development, and will inform ongoing planning and building of the Ella Bay Master Planned Community (MPC) during the next ten to fifteen years, and to assist the developer in meeting its aim of building a socially sustainable lifestyle community.

Greg Baxter is an ecologist with more than 16 years experience in field-based research. He has authored more than 30 papers in the peer-reviewed literature and attracted more than \$600,000 on research funding. He has addressed a wide range of ecological problems, including the management of wallabies, counting low-density koala populations, improving methods to eradicate feral goats, assessing the condition of land through the soil seed bank, predicting bird damage to electrical insulators and optimising the control of wild dogs in south-western Queensland.