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Green-thumbed inmates show a deft hand at cultivating stock from seedlings

City's plants from prison

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PRODUCTIVE prison inmates at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre have made a major contribution to the beautification of the city.

Yesterday the prison delivered more than 4000 plants to Ipswich City Council and they will be used to enhance the city's existing comprehensive environmental management program.

The prisoners, some of whom were gardeners on the outside, tended the plants from seedling stage as part of their horticultural studies.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre general manager Troy Ittensohn said the inmates had embraced their work.

"These are plants that we've had at the facility and we've got the prisoners to look after them and work with the TAFE to get a horticultural certificate," he said.

"They are getting some educational qualifications so on release they can use that on the outside and become useful members of the community.

"It is about making their time on the inside active and productive time. This donation also helps the local people of Ipswich."

Ipswich City councillor Heather Morrow said the plants would be put to good use.

"It is something that council is really going to be able to utilise,"

she said.

"We've got over 5000ha of conservation and environment areas across the city so we are always looking for revegetation of those areas, so this is wonderful.

"I'd really like to thank Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre for donating these plants to us.

"Ipswich residents love the great outdoors and are passionate about protecting our local green spaces."

Cr Morrow said the inmates had done an outstanding job tending the plants.

"They certainly know what they are doing, because those plants look very healthy to me," Cr Morrow said.



PRISON GIFT: Cr Heather Morrow with Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre general manager Troy Ittensohn (right) and finance manager Sidd Mehta